

**Statement**

**H.E. Arkhom Termittayapaisith, Minister of Transport, Thailand**

**At the Global Conference on Sustainable Transport**

**Ashgabat, Turkmenistan**

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**Mr. President,**

**Your Excellencies – Ministers,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is my great honour to be here with you all at the Global Sustainable Transport Conference today. On behalf of the Head of Delegations from the Kingdom of Thailand, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Government of Turkmenistan for a very warm hospitality in such a beautiful city of Ashgabat that I have ever seen. The high quality and efficient arrangement shows how ready Turkmenistan is in hosting this important global event.

Sustainable transport is of supreme importance to developing countries as it is a core component of sustainable development. The sustainable transport serves several major goals and targets of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals framework to improve accessibility and connectivity that help bring developing countries into the global supply chain and eradicate poverty so as to achieve our common goal of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**Mr. President, / Ladies and Gentlemen,**

To join the global effort of sustainable development, the Ministry of Transport of Thailand has therefore formulated our 20-year strategic plan for

transport development covering four ultimate goals of transport efficiency, green and safe transport, inclusive transport, and innovative transport.

First, transport efficiency focuses on the effectiveness for transport both connectivity within city, intercity, and trans-border, with the concept of transport modal shifting from road to rail transport as Thailand has been heavily intensive in road with 87.5% of all modes of transport causing a higher logistic cost, less competitiveness, and create traffic congestion. Therefore, the present Government has committed a long term infrastructure investment plan for railways development so as to bring down dependency ratio at least 10 percent. There are three interconnected rail system that the Government put a huge investment for the next 20 years as follows.

For a better connectivity within city, the Government plans to complete the long-time master plan by investing altogether 10 metro lines in Bangkok Metropolitan and vicinity. The Government hopes to finish the master plan by 2030 making the first network covering 550 kilometres and at the same time prepare for the second phase of urban mass transit system for the next ten years.

For the intercity rail system, the double track meter gauge is being implemented that will double the capacity of existing single rail system throughout the country.

For trans-border connectivity, the medium to high speed trains have been planned to implement to connect between major cities, tourist destinations, and large scale centres of production together with neighbouring countries.

Secondly, on green and safe transport; environment is a big concern in Thailand. The Government of Thailand by Prime Minister has ratified the Paris 2015 Agreement (COP21) at UN Climate Change Conference. We are therefore committed to significantly reduce the use of fossil fuel and emissions of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere with the submitted of Intended Nationally

Determined Contribution to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent from the projected business-as-usual (BAU) level by 2030, which is 5.6% in of all other modes. We are also introducing new CNG as well as electric buses. The electrified trains would be replacing existing diesel fleets. With completion of railways construction and new buses connecting each other, we hope this will reduce use of private cars. More motorways linking Bangkok with major big cities are under construction so as to enhance mobility of the people.

△ For road safety, the Government aims to reduce the death and injury rate by 50% in 2020 to achieve the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals target as well as the Decade of Road Traffic. Many projects have been implemented, for example, "Increase Children Safety – School Zones" project to install safety sign boards, flashing signals, and road markings, to promote safety regulations, and to campaign road safety concerns for recently 717 safety-school zones. The special bike lane is also being constructed to facilitate safer road for bikers all over the country.

Third, on the issue of inclusive transport, it is aimed to create equality in accessibility on transport system for every people. Nowadays Thai society is creeping toward aging society. The Ministry of Transport puts the policy on public transport to concern on universal accessibility for not only the elderly but also the disabled by implementing universal design for all modes of transport infrastructures and vehicles.

Lastly, technology and innovative Transport is emphasized on use of new technology to create smarter transport system. For example, the Ministry has planned to launch a Common Ticket project which people can use same ticket for all modes of public transport. This will be an important step for development of the society toward the digital society. With the same concept, common pass for road vehicles has already been used on expressways and motorways. Smart highway system is another example for using innovations

for road traffic. CCTV, variable message sign (VMS) board have already been installed along major highways and motorways to assist road users by giving information on road and traffic conditions.

On the quantitative term, the 20-year strategic plan is committed to a set of key performance index (KPIs) as follows.

- To decrease the logistic cost from 7.4% GDP to 6.9% GDP,
- To increase the proportion of goods transportation on rail from 1.4% to 4.0%,
- To reduce death on MOT's road and highway network by 50%, and
- To decrease CO<sub>2</sub> emission in transport sector by 7% from the projected business-as-usual level.

**Mr. President, / Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The Government of Thailand has underlined the cooperation among the ASEAN members on the "Towards a Shared Prosperity" concept with mutual trustworthiness, respect, and shared prosperity. Although we have created standardised infrastructure within the country, we also need to improve the software for trans-border connectivity such as common custom regulations to facilitate the freight transport smoothly.

Lastly, I am convinced that this conference will inspire collaboration and dialogue among various stakeholders and I wish for the success of this conference and look forward to an in-depth outcome of discussions at expert level with strong purpose to move all of us towards the realization of sustainable transportation.

Thank you.