

Statement
by
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on
“Policy Options and Actions for Expediting Progress in Sustainable Transport”

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Thank you Mr. Chairman,

Thailand would like to align ourselves with the statement made by the group of G77 and China. We also wish to thank all the panelists for their valuable contributions.

Transport sector is one of the most important sectors contributing to the poverty eradication and development of people in developing countries.

Transport is instrumental to connectivity within and among countries, promoting access to market, trade, investment, tourism, and improving quality of life of people by facilitating access to education and health services. Moreover, **transport is integral part of regional integration, community building and narrowing the development gap**. Therefore, Thailand and other members of ASEAN attach great importance to ASEAN Connectivity and will implement **the ASEAN Master Plan on Connectivity** adopted by our leaders last year.

Similar to many developing countries, Thailand is facing some common unsustainable transport issues such as traffic congestion, road safety, as well as noise and air pollution in urban areas. In addition, basic transport infrastructure and services are still inadequate in some rural areas. At the CSD-18 review session in May 2010, we had shared some of our national efforts and experiences in addressing those unsustainable transport issues, including

- Implementation of the Mass Transit Master Plan to build public transportation network in Bangkok Metropolitan and surrounding areas;
- Promotion of environmentally sound vehicles and the use of alternative energy such as natural gas;
- Development of the bus system technology and common ticketing system for Bangkok Metropolis;
- Development of truck routes and management system for intermodal transport, including a royal project on ring road development to alleviate traffic congestion caused by large trucks and provide shorter and farther transportation routes from major industrial areas in rural cities; and
- The study on potentials and opportunities for Clean Development Mechanism under the Kyoto Protocol in the transport sector.

However, much is still needed to be done to improve sustainable transport systems, especially in terms of energy saving and the reduction of pollution to address health and environmental impacts from transport. **Transport issues need to be addressed within a broader environmental context** to develop strategies for low-carbon transport that include a shift to energy-efficient and low carbon modes to enhance energy security, and mitigate the climate change related impacts.

With that in mind, we would like to reiterate the strategies and policy measures, contained in the **Bangkok Declaration on Sustainable Transport Goals for the years 2010-2020** as stated yesterday in the report of the Fifth Regional EST Forum in Asia, in particular an avoidance of unnecessary motorized transport, a shift to more sustainable transport modes, and an improvement of transport practices and technologies.

An integrated approach to environmentally sustainable transport should be adopted to achieve transport development and efficiency together with the improvement of human health through the reduction of urban air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, fatalities and injuries from road accidents, harmful noise levels, and traffic congestion.

In closing, we would like to emphasize that international investment for design, research and development, as well as diffusion and transfer of knowledge and technology, especially through collaborative actions and partnerships from international community are required to further accelerate the development and achievement of environmentally sustainable transport system in developing countries.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.
