

## Statement at 176<sup>th</sup> Executive Board Meeting of UNESCO, Paris 2007

**Mr.Chairman,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a great honour to address to this international gathering on behalf on my country, the Kingdom of Thailand. It is my privilege and pleasure to join the 176<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Board. May I sincerely express my appreciation to the Board, I could say, it is one of the leading bodies at the heart of the multilateral system.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to convey to the Director-General that Thailand totally endorses the five programme objectives of the Medium-Term Strategy in 34 C/4 since all of these programme objectives are interrelated and reflect the on-going efforts for poverty alleviation and sustainable development.

The initiatives of the Kingdom of Thailand focus on meeting the needs of people of this generation by ensuring that everyone has enough to live on, as well as safeguarding the future so that current and future generations will also have enough to live for.

In assuring this ideal situations of safe guarding the future, Thailand has a unique approach of applying the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy which was initiated by His Majesty the King Bhumiphol Adulyadej. The Sufficiency Economy Theory, undoubtedly has drawn worldwide attention. This philosophy urges people to adopt a sustainable way of life in harmony with existing domestic resources, respectful of local wisdom and ethical values, yet forward thinking and responsive to changes in the globalizing world. In recognition of this visionary thinking for humankind, the UNDP's first ever Human Development Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to His Majesty the King in May 2006.

Mr. Chairman,

Pertaining to achieving the overall objectives of the Medium-Term Strategy, Thailand gives a special emphasis on Attaining quality of Education for All, and Addressing Emerging Ethical Challenges.

Thailand is in the process of accelerating Education Reform emphasizing Lifelong Learning for All of our citizens, expanding the compulsory education from six years to nine years in hope that every member of our society will receive at least twelve years of basic education free of charge.

However, access to education would not be meaningful without quality. For this matter, the quality assurance system which was introduced about six years ago is becoming instrumental for quality improvement at all levels.

In addition to basic education, we emphasize the production of manpower at vocational education level as well as the needed manpower particularly in science and technology. Moreover, Thailand also promotes research and development so as to strengthen innovation and support the Thai society to become a knowledge-based Society.



Mr. Chairman,

Thailand greatly appreciates UNESCO's role in monitoring progress on Education for All at the global level. Since UNESCO Bangkok Office acts as the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, we have undoubtedly benefited from participating in EFA Mid-Decade Assessment. In the process, we are able to identify some of the remaining challenges in achieving the EFA goals by 2015.





Mr. Chairman,

In promoting the World Peace, Thailand has recognized and implemented the 4 Learning Pillars of UNESCO. Particularly in this complex society, it has never been so crucial to uphold peace and harmony. In this perspective, I therefore, reemphasize “Learning to Live Together”.

The Ministry of Education, at present includes the concrete policy and measure on “Ethical-Led Learning Reform”. The Action Plan is comprehensive, covering the review of curriculum, teaching-learning activities and intensive training of the change agents to obtain a critical mass of teachers and administrators to expand the implementation in this school year to the form of school based management.

Mr. Chairman,

Thailand has recognized the establishment of One United Nations at the country level, with one leader, one programme, one budget and, where appropriate, one office as one of strategic approach to achieve close collaboration. Thailand wishes to congratulate the eight pilot countries in advance for their achievement. My delegation and I wish to confirm our support and will keep close cooperation in the future.

Mr. Chairman,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In my conclusion, may I extend the deep commitment of the Royal Thai Government to the noble mission of UNESCO for the uplift of human progress in the fields of universal access to education, respect for cultural diversity, peace development and advance of science and technology. I am confident that in cultivating and facilitating a spirit of mutual assistance, we all will move to the achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

Thank you.