

**Statement by H.E. Ms. Tasanawadee Miancharoen**  
**Ambassador of Thailand to Bhutan**  
**Head of Thai Delegation**  
**At the 11<sup>th</sup> Round Table Meeting for Bhutan**  
**Thimphu, 1 -2 September 2011**

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Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished Participants,

It is an honour and a pleasure for my delegation to be invited to participate at this 11<sup>th</sup> Round Table Meeting for Bhutan. In the last two days we have considered many important issues relating to the development of the Royal Kingdom of Bhutan, and explored what we, as development partners and responsible members of the international community, could continue to do and to further ensure that our commitments will benefit the people of Bhutan.

We have closely followed the presentation and comments on Bhutan's economic, social and political development. The positive developments represent the true testimonies of Bhutan's continued commitment to promote sustainable growth as well as prosperity and well-being of their people.

Thailand considers Bhutan one of our closest friends, because our peoples share many similarities in our cultural heritage, and we have developed an excellent level of understanding and cooperation at every level. As Bhutan has passed the midpoint in the implementation of its significant the Tenth Five Year Plan and halfway of the first democratically elected government, Thailand remains committed to rendering our full support to Bhutan, within our own capacity, as a long term partner for development.

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished Participants,

Thailand has been working closely with Bhutan in terms of technical cooperation for many years, through TICA, Thailand International Development Cooperation, an office under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand. It provides technical cooperation mostly in terms of scholarships for trainings and higher education for fellow developing countries and LDCs. The cooperation from TICA is usually provided according to the needs of recipient countries; as we believe that one always know one's country best. In the case of Bhutan, cooperation activities have been undertaken within the scope of Comprehensive Framework Agreement for Cooperation between the Kingdom of Bhutan and the Kingdom of Thailand, which was firstly signed in 2004.

Last year, August 2010, the Royal Civil Service Commission of Bhutan (RCSC) and TICA have reviewed this cooperation plan together and tailored it to suit the actual development status of Bhutan. We concluded the second phase of comprehensive 3-year Technical Cooperation on Human Resource Development Programme between our two countries. Under this Agreement, Thailand offers 270 scholarships and training courses from 2010 – 2012 for Bhutanese in various areas; namely agriculture, education, public health, public administration, engineering, technology, environment, social development, drug prevention and treatment as well as entrepreneurship development.

Our strategy is “understand, reach out and develop”. We want to learn together with our development partners, from past failures and successes, walk together to reach the final goal of sustainability. Since 2007, we established the “Friend from Thailand” programme. It enables volunteers from Thailand to come, work alongside with and provide on-site training to the Bhutanese for 2 years. They have worked in sectors requested by various authorities in Bhutan, for example, public health, IT design, product development and business planning. So far this programme has been greatly appreciated by the Bhutanese authorities. In this way, the volunteers, Bhutan officials, and local people actually get their hands on the work and then they share the success. Some of them are even requested to extend their stay.

Actually tomorrow, I am going to handover two more volunteers on furniture design and computer hardware to work in the Rangjung Vocational Training Institute, Transhigang, under the Ministry of Labour and Human Resources.

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished Participants,

Thailand is an advocate of sustainable development as we adopted the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy introduced by His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand. We firmly believe the importance of cooperation based on self-initiated projects with high sense of ownership. The wisdom of His Majesty the 4<sup>th</sup> King of Bhutan, passing down to the 5<sup>th</sup> King of Bhutan reflected in the renowned Gross National Happiness, balancing economic and social dimension and to live in harmony with nature is thus warmly welcomed by the Thai people.

With such wisdom as her guiding light, together with the leadership qualities, far-sighted vision and determination of His Majesty the King of Bhutan, and with the great determination of the government and the peoples of Bhutan, we in Thailand are certain that Bhutan will succeed in her aspirations. The discussions and suggestions arisen in the past two days should serve as informative inputs for Bhutan to digest and make the most out of them is a way that best fits the country.

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished Participants,

May I conclude by reassuring all of you here that Thailand remains committed to be development partner of Bhutan. We are pleased to continue our bilateral cooperation with the Kingdom of Bhutan as well as to cooperate with other development partners in providing further training and capacity building for Bhutan.

Thank you.