



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THAILAND
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

351 EAST 52ND STREET NEW YORK, NY 10022
TEL (212) 754-2230 • FAX (212) 688-3029

Statement by

H.E. Mr. Issara Somchai

**Minister of Social Development and Human Security
of the Kingdom of Thailand**

at the 55th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

**United Nations Headquarters
New York, 28 February 2011**

Please check against delivery



Mr. Chairperson,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Thai Delegation, it is my great honour to address the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The delegation of Thailand would like to align itself with the statement of the Group of 77 and China as well as the statement delivered by Indonesia on behalf of ASEAN.

H.E. Ms. Irena Bomschal

First and foremost, my delegation would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the United Nations on the historic establishment of UN Women. It represents a strong statement of intent to accelerate the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm Thailand's commitment to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Thailand reaffirms its commitment to achieve Sustainable Development Goals with respect to promoting women's advancement and realizing gender equality. This year's theme is indeed central to these important commitments and goals, and supports our ultimate aim of realizing a gender-equal society.

Mr. Chairperson,

The opportunity to consistently benefited our children that education is one of the crucial factors that contribute to a prosperous society and well-being. In this regard, the Thai Government has spared no effort to ensure universal access to education for all in accordance with the goals of our Constitution and the National Education Act. With respect to ensuring equal access to education for women and girls in particular, we have already achieved the MDG in eliminating gender disparity in education.

In the specific area of science and technology, Thailand has taken fairly important steps to (1) eliminate traditional perceptions which have held back women's achievements in science and technology and (2) to encourage participation of women in science and technology both in the education system and through training exercises and other projects.

To name a few:

- The Ministry of Education, with support from UNESCO, has tried to eliminate gender bias. In addition, various seminars and training sessions targeting education officials have also been conducted to raise awareness on gender equality.

- The Ministry of Science and Technology, in cooperation with 14 foreign partner universities, recently launched the *Technology Science Project*. This project was an opportunity to transfer and share experiences as well as to provide cooperation on science and technology matters.

Approximately 60 percent of the total number of participants in the project were women and girls.

- On a yearly basis, the *Science and Technology Assembly for Development* is held to promote participation of all sectors, especially women, in the area of science and technology. It is also an important forum that provides a platform to the national institutes and technology.

- Through the Office of the National Research Council encourages women students to pursue higher education in science and technology by granting awards to those who distinguish themselves by conducting exemplary research on these subjects.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Thai Government is well aware that its commitment to promoting equal access for women and girls to science and technology must be realized both in an urban and rural area. The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology set up ICT community learning centers totaling 879 centers all over the country, ensuring that women's participation in the operational functions of the centers was one of the conditions for establishing the centers.

At the regional level, Thailand has also exerted great efforts as one of the major nodes of the Empowerment for ASEAN Home Based Workers Development Project, which focuses on the promotion of female home-based workers through the use of ICT.

Mr. Chairperson,

Thailand appreciates the fact that promoting access and participation of women in the field of science and technology is crucial. However, Thailand also understands that it is merely one part of what must be an integrated and comprehensive strategy to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women. We consistently advocate the access and participation of women in the field of science and technology has a direct, positive and mutually reinforcing impact on promoting women's equal access to full employment and decent work. In this regard, we have also spared no effort to promote equality, with Thailand's Labour Protection Act regulating equal pay for equal work, specifying basic rules on women's rights, employment and protection against discrimination such as sexual harassment. In addition, the Thai government has launched specific programmes for child enterprise schooling, child care centers at places of employment, breast feeding promotion and family friendly environment in small and medium-sized enterprises run and operated by women.

Mr. Chairperson,

My delegation is pleased to share with you all our experiences and we have been equally pleased to listen to the statements and interventions of all participating delegations here at this session of the CSW. Still, we are aware that a number of challenges and obstacles certainly remain that are unique to our countries and those that persist at the national level. We must continue to discuss and to share our experiences and to find opportunities for further cooperation and coordination. For today, my delegation can only reaffirm our strong and consistent commitment to continue to work with our partners for all sectors, both at the national and international levels toward our ultimate goal of a gender equal society. In closing, I do wish to express our confidence, once again, in the CSW and the newly established UN Women and hope that we will continue together to make impressive strides toward our common goal of gender equality and empowerment of women.

I thank you.