

*(as delivered)*

**21<sup>st</sup> AEMM Co-Chairs' Press Conference**  
**Remarks by Mr. Monthian Buntan, Thai Representative of the Committee on**  
**Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and Member of the National**  
**Legislative Assembly of Thailand.**  
Grand Hall, Plaza Athénée Bangkok Hotel  
Friday (14 October 2016 at 17.15 hrs.)

H.E. Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand,  
H.E. Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic, as  
the representative of the European Union  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished guests,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for this 21<sup>st</sup> ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting for coming up with unprecedented practice of accessible meeting. When I say 'accessible meeting' I mean the meeting that seeks to make the environment to enhance participation through making the documents available both through accessible formats, medium and mode of communication.

For the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, availability of accessible both means and format of communications is very crucial for persons with disabilities to fully and effectively participate in all aspects of society and therefore to enhance their full and effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms. I believe both ASEAN and the EU have common goals of achieving inclusive society as indicated in the Sustainable Development Goals. Personally, I think, sustainability is also to commemorate our beloved King whose entire life had been devoted to such goal.

Among all aspects of sustainable development, the term 'inclusion' really speaks out very clearly. In order to ensure the inclusion in all aspects of the society, accessibility is a very important issue. Among all aspects of accessibility, this 21<sup>st</sup> ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting is a landmark of what accessibility could be offered. I hope that this practice will serve as a model to promote accessibility for all in other aspects, including education, health, tourism, and even in the process of disaster risk reduction.

I hope and dream to see such important Meeting like this more accessible, so as to ensure more participation and to empower all members of the society to live in peace and harmony in the inclusive and accessible environment.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the host, my Royal Thai Government, and the Member of the EU, representatives present here which I happen to be honored to serve as a country rapporteur for the initial report to the Committee on the Rights of Person with Disabilities. I think there are a lots of thing that we would learn from the EU but I also think that ASEAN is also very a promising region. What happens in this Meeting is also very good landmark of something that will benefit all peoples.

I wish you all the best, Thank you very much for being here and for showing your solidary with us, Thai people, who are now in the mourning period. But we will go through this together.

Thank you very much and peace and power be with you.

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