

Thai Prime Minister attends APEC Summit in Hanoi

On 17-19 November 2006, Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont attended APEC Summit in Hanoi. He took this opportunity to assured foreign investors that the government will continue to protect foreign investment, to restore democracy and popular participation to Thailand's political process.

In his first major international address, Prime Minister of Thailand told participants at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) CEO Summit, held in Hanoi, that his government will not change any foreign investment policies and that international investments will be fully protected.

The government will continue to implement the mega-project development initiated by the previous government, he said. Bidding on the new transportation links will take place in March next year, and will further contribute to development of the country's economic growth.

Pointing out that Thailand prided itself on being a top world investment destination, Gen. Surayud said "We believe in partnership with the international business community. There will be no change in our investment policy. Foreign investment will continue to enjoy full protection."

The Prime Minister of Thailand assured that a general election will be held in Thailand in late 2007. The government will implement four major principles namely transparency, justice, efficiency and using resources efficiently or "sufficiency economy," which would not come at the expense of modern capitalism.

The Prime Minister also attended APEC Economic Leaders' Retreat II. The meeting exchanged views on new challenging threats that prevent growth and development within the region such as pandemic, terrorism, natural disaster and energy security. The meeting agreed that all APEC members must foster closer cooperation to tackle these issues.
