

**Welcome Message from  
His Excellency Mr. Kasit Piromya  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand**

On 17 December 2008, at the Royal Command of His Majesty the King, His Excellency Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva became the 27<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand. On 22 December 2008, a new Thai cabinet was sworn in.

Following his Royal Appointment, the Prime Minister announced the priorities of his Government, namely, its determination to implement a grand plan of national reconciliation based on the rule of law and the democratic process; to restore peace and order, to put an end to conflicts and take Thailand forward politically and economically. He reiterated the importance Thailand placed on its relationship with its neighbors and friends – as well as the government’s commitment to restoring confidence in order to quickly make Thailand once again, a land of the free, a land of opportunity and a land of smiles, welcoming tourists, visitors, investors and business partners with open arms.

As Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, I am determined to build on my lifetime of public service to work for the interests of the Thai people. The Foreign Ministry during my watch will work harder and better to support government policies aimed at improving the livelihood of the Thai people while fostering an environment of democracy and the rule of law. Despite the political problems of the past year, the spirit of Thai democracy has emerged stronger than ever, as seen by the country’s ability to resolve problems peacefully and constitutionally.

While the democratic process has been put to the test, Thailand’s foreign policy and its commitments to international and regional undertakings have not. Thailand has since July 2008 carried the regional torch as Chairman of ASEAN. The Prime Minister has stressed the priority attached by Thailand to its role as the ASEAN Chair. As Foreign Minister, I will do my best to ensure that the ASEAN Charter, which recently entered into force, will serve to advance the region and benefit its peoples--“An ASEAN Charter for ASEAN Peoples.” To this end, I look forward to welcoming our friends from ASEAN countries as well as from East Asia, Australia, India and New Zealand to Thailand for the 14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit and related meetings throughout 2009. Thailand stands ready to work with all our friends in ASEAN to strengthen and advance the cause of ASEAN for the betterment of everyone in the region.

I welcome all of you to make full use of this website, which will be constantly updated to provide you with the latest information regarding Thailand’s foreign policy and its international undertakings. I also invite you to use it as a gateway to the websites of other Thai governmental agencies and organizations.

Kasit Piromya  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand