

## Ambassador Pisan's letter to the Editor of The Washington Post

On 17 September 2015, Ambassador Pisan sent a letter to the Editor of The Washington Post in response to the latter's 16 September article in the Opinion Pages. The text of his letter appears in the Washington Post on 21 September 2015 as follows:

### Thailand's path to democracy

Regarding the Sept. 16 editorial "Jailed for a bad attitude":

Most Thai people have had enough of street unrest, political paralysis and rampant corruption. Before the current government came to power, the country was polarized and suffering from deadly political violence that sent the economy into contraction. The government does not want the country to slide back to where it was before May 2014. It hopes to craft a democracy that will be sustainable and have a respect for the rule of law. Inciting lawlessness and divisiveness now won't help us resolve problems or find a consensus on the best way to move forward.

The no vote on the draft constitution by the National Reform Council was a response by the majority of members to views expressed by major political parties and elements of civil society that opposed a draft they thought was not democratic enough.

While democracy is a work in progress in Thailand, the government is pushing a significant number of reforms that previous governments did not attend to, including legislative and executive actions to combat trafficking of people and wildlife as well as illegal fishing.

Thailand is also committed to constructive partnerships with the United States and United Nations for sustainable development, reducing inequality, building peace and fighting climate change. Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha's participation in the upcoming U.N. meetings will demonstrate that commitment.

Pisan Manawapat, Washington

The writer is Thailand's ambassador to the United States.