

**Remarks by H.E. Pisan Manawapat
Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to the United States
at the Proliferation of Security Initiative (PSI) Mid-Level Political Meeting
27 January 2016
Washington, D.C.**

Session 4: Strengthening Authorities for Action (led by Australia)

Mr. Chairman,

- I am happy to represent Thailand today and I thank the United States Government for hosting this important meeting.
- On Strengthening Authorities for Action, I would like to share with the meeting some of the key progress in Thailand since the High-level Political Meeting in 2013 in Poland.
- **First, we have improved coordination among relevant agencies relating to non-proliferation matters.** A national mechanism has been set up to bring all relevant agencies together. This body is reaching out and raising awareness. They check ports and points of entry to assess preparedness and understanding about non-proliferation among working officials on the ground.
- We are drafting Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for all government agencies and hope this SOP will become operational by the end of this year.
- In this regard, I would like to thank the United States Government for supporting Thailand under the Mega Port Project and Container Security Initiative since 2004, even before we joined PSI in 2012. Under this project, major ports in Thailand have been equipped with large-scale x-ray scanner which can scan cargo containers suspected of carrying WMD-related materials.
- Furthermore, the Government of the State of Washington has since 2002 extended Partnership Programme with Thailand to share best practices for military support to civilian authorities, emergency management, disaster planning, port security, hazardous materials and WMD response initiative, to

help train concerned authorities to deal with disasters from WMD-related incidents.

- **Second**, we have since March last year amended the Customs Act which now empowers customs officials to inspect, search and confiscate suspected merchandise in transit or transshipment without requiring a warrant.
- As I speak, there is a Thai Customs official participating in International Air Cargo Interdicting Training under the Export Control and Related Border Securities Programme organized annually by the State Department.
- **Third**, Thailand has strengthened control over dual-use items. Last October, the Commerce Ministry issued an announcement requiring permissions for a list of dual-use items. This list is similar to the one being used by the European Union. We have also put in place more effective tracking and management of dual-use items in Thailand with the help the IT system.
- My delegation thanks Australia for organizing a seminar in Thailand last November to enhance understanding of Thai government agencies and the private sector about export control of dual-use items that could be used to make chemical and biological weapons.
- Over the past 5 years, Thailand's Trade and Customs officials have been participating in the annual training courses at the Security and Strategic Trade Management Academy of the Centre of International Trade and Security (CITS), University of Georgia in the United States. The Centre has also signed a Comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding with the Faculty of Engineering, Chulalongkorn University in Thailand , to set the stage for a more integrated partnership in WMD-related courses and research between the two countries and institutions. I would like to thank University of Georgia for its active support and hope that we can continue to send more officials for such training to expand the pool of well-trained officials to ensure effective implementation.
- **Fourth**, the Thai Government is moving ahead with amendments of domestic laws to pave way for Thailand to join a number of key international instruments on non-proliferation.

- At the moment, we are working on a draft Nuclear Act, now being finalized by the National Legislative Assembly. Once enacted, it will allow Thailand to accede to key instruments, such as the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, the Convention for the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials and its 2005 Amendment.
- At the same time, we are working toward accession to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation and its Protocols.
- **Finally, two quick observations :**
- **One, intelligence sharing.** It is crucial for the PSI countries, particularly those in the same region along the connected maritime route, to develop a network and channels of communication to share intelligence that is accurate, reliable and well in advance. This will help ensure successful interceptions, while reducing the risk of false alarms and resulting financial liability which may arise.
- **Second, capacity building.** Thailand stands ready to work with partners here to further build up capacity of relevant officials and related industry, through seminars and table-top exercises for example, so that they will be better equipped to tackle challenges relating to proliferation. The joint table-top exercise we organized with the United States a few year ago has been proven useful for Thai officials concerned and we are ready to continue exercises like this every few years to refresh and update on new challenges

Thank you.