

Highlights of Thailand's Contributions
High-Level Week of the 71st Session of the U.N. General Assembly
September 2016, New York
“70 Years of Active and Responsible U.N. Membership”

On September 19-23, 2016, the Prime Minister of Thailand along with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Public Health as well as senior Thai officials actively participated in various activities during the High-Level Week of the 71st Session of the U.N. General Assembly in New York. This year marks the 70th anniversary of Thailand's membership of the U.N.

Highlights of Thailand's key contributions during this visit are as follows:

Refugees Summit

- ❖ **Participated** in the **Leaders' Summit on Refugees** hosted by President Obama on September 20, 2016 as the only ASEAN country. During the Summit, Thai Prime Minister spoke about Thailand's long history of providing humanitarian assistance to displaced persons, steps to be taken in the future, and the need for closer international cooperation to tackle common challenges.



Climate Change

- ❖ **Deposited** an instrument of Thailand's **ratification of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change** to the U.N. Secretary-General on September 21, 2016. Thailand was one of the first ASEAN countries to ratify the Paris Agreement.



Global Health Security

- ❖ **Delivered** a statement as **Chair of the Group of 77 and China** – a group of 134 developing countries – to the **High-Level U.N. Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)** on September 21, 2016.



Credit: Government House of Thailand

- ❖ **Co-hosted** a **Side Event on “AMR: Tackling Threat and Wealth of Nations”** with the U.K., South Africa and Kenya at the Ford Foundation on September 20, 2016.
- ❖ **Co-hosted** a **High-Level Side Event on “AMR: Prevention, Antibiotic Stewardship and Infection, Prevention and Control”** with the U.S. and Japan on September 21, 2016.
- ❖ **Co-hosted** a **Side Event on “Acting with Ambition: Accelerating Progress toward Universal Health Coverage” by 2030”** with Chile, Indonesia, Japan,



Credit: IHP for UHC 2030

Kenya, South Africa, WHO, Rockefeller Foundation, World Bank and International Health Partnership for UHC 2030. The event was held at the Rockefeller Foundation on September 22, 2016.

Sustainable Development/Advancing ASEAN's engagements with international partners

- ❖ **Chaired** the **Group of 77 and China Ministerial Meeting** focusing on advancing international cooperation in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on September 23, 2016.



Credit: Government House of Thailand

- ❖ **Launched** a **Special Panel Discussion on “Regional Dimensions of Promoting Sustainable Development: Developing Complementarities between the 2030 U.N. Agenda for Sustainable Development and the ASEAN Community Vision 2025”** on September 24, 2016. This panel discussion was an initiative of Thailand, as ASEAN coordinator on sustainable development. Top leaders from U.N. development agencies and the ASEAN Secretariat participated in the discussion.

- ❖ **Initiated** a **Special Session of ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting on complementarities between the 2030 U.N. Agenda for Sustainable Development and the ASEAN Community Vision 2025** on September 24, 2016. During the meeting, the Thai Foreign Minister reported the outcome of discussion of the aforesaid Special Panel Discussion to his ASEAN counterparts who expressed support for this initiative.

- ❖ The meeting adopted an ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Statement on ASEAN Cooperation on Sustainable Development which underscored ASEAN's commitment to achieving the twin goals of ASEAN community-building and attaining the SDGs.

- ❖ The meeting welcomed Thailand's proposal to host a



Credit: MFA of Thailand

high-level brainstorming conference between ASEAN and the U.N. in 2017 to discuss and identify concrete priority areas and future cooperation on sustainable development.

- ❖ **Co-hosted** the **3rd ASEAN-Pacific Alliance Ministerial Meeting** with Chile to advance partnership between ASEAN and the Pacific Alliance, on September 24, 2016.

- ❖ **Co-hosted a High-Level Side Event on “Revitalizing and Consolidating Efforts towards the Implementation of Water-related SDGs and Targets”** with Tajikistan and U.N. development agencies on September 23, 2016.

International Peace and Security

Nuclear Security

- ❖ **Announced** at the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) Ministerial Meeting on September 21, 2016 that **Thailand will soon ratify the CTBT** and work with partners for its universalization.



Credit: Thai Mission to UN

Women, Peace and Security

- ❖ **Participated** in the **1st Meeting of the National Focal Points Network on Women, Peace and Security** on September 23, 2016.
- ❖ Emphasized the commitment to protect women’s rights in conflict, further women’s participation and promote a gendered perspective in the entire peace process, from early conflict prevention to post-conflict reconstruction.
- ❖ Highlighted the importance that Thailand has attached to mainstreaming the Women, Peace and Security agenda and the country’s readiness to work with partners to translate the aspirations of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security into concrete measures.

Advancing Thai-U.S. Economic Ties

- ❖ On September 22, 2016, the **Thai Prime Minister met with a group of top U.S. business leaders hosted by the Business Council for International Understanding (BCIU)** to strengthen economic ties between Thailand and the U.S.
- ❖ Leaders of U.S. companies expressed confidence in Thailand’s economic fundamentals and potentials for growth, and reaffirmed their commitments to investment in Thailand, which has become a regional hub for many U.S. companies in Southeast Asia.
- ❖ U.S. business leaders also expressed keen interest in working with the Thai Government to increase investment in Thailand under the framework of “Thailand 4.0” Economic Strategy, which aims at enhancing Thailand’s competitiveness through R&D, innovation and technology.



Credit: Business Council for International Understanding (BCIU)

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