

Statement by
H.E. Mr. Arthayudh Srisamoot
Ambassador and Resident Representative of Thailand
to the International Atomic Energy Agency,
Head of the Thai Delegation
at the 59th Regular Session of the General Conference of the IAEA
Vienna International Centre, Vienna
14 – 18 September 2015

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. At the outset, Thailand wishes to congratulate and warmly welcome the new Member States of the International Atomic Energy Agency – Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados and Turkmenistan.
2. I also wish to congratulate His Excellency Mr. Filippo Formica of Italy upon your election as President and the other Bureau members upon their election to the Bureau of this 59th Session of the IAEA General Conference. We are confident that you will lead this Conference to a successful outcome and I assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation.
3. My sincere gratitude is extended to His Excellency Mr. Aliyar Lebbe Abdul Azeez, President of the 58th General Conference, as well as Mr. Yukiya Amano, Director-General of the IAEA, and his able team for their excellent work and tireless efforts during the past year.

Mr. President,

4. The past year has been, arguably, one of the most momentous years to date, punctuated by both high and low points. The international community was witness to both achievements of historic proportions and also less than satisfactory outcomes in the international arena. The conclusion of the much anticipated JCPOA between the E3/EU+3 and Iran was a momentous step forward. We commend the hard work and efforts of all of those involved and look forward to the success of this agreement ushering in the next phase for building and rebuilding cooperation, trust and confidence.
5. At the same time, the inability to agree on an outcome document at the 2015 NPT Review Conference reflected a pointed *loss* of confidence for the international community. It was a stark reminder that gaps still remain on many important issues, including those that have an important bearing on our work here at

this 59th Session of the General Conference. As the depository state of the Bangkok Treaty establishing the Southeast Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone, Thailand has long advocated the value of these zones as building blocks to a world free of nuclear weapons and as important confidence building mechanisms leading us there. Therefore, our disappointment at the failure of the 2015 NPT Review Conference to produce an outcome document is particularly noted because this failure translates into a setback for pursuing the long overdue dialogue on convening a conference to establish a Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone in the Middle East. In spite of this, we hope the parties involved will take immediate efforts to restart meaningful negotiations.

6. At the same time that we express our disappointment at the lack of an outcome document for the NPT Review Conference, we *are* pleased to note that the international community did finally begin a substantive dialogue on the humanitarian consequences of the impact of nuclear weapons. In our view, that dialogue further underlined the fact that although some of the opposing arguments were quite fundamental, the overriding aspirations were based in commonality. Thailand firmly believes that each and every responsible member of the international community continues to share a strong desire to attain, ultimately, the kind of nuclear future where there is *only* safe, secure and peaceful uses of atomic energy available to benefit our planet and people for future generations. We have no doubt that the humanitarian initiative will help to lead us in a concrete manner to that future.

7. The IAEA, as the lead agency on nuclear issues, will continue to have an important and meaningful role to play and to further adapt itself to member states' needs, requirements and common aspirations.

Mr. President,

8. On our part, the past year has been equally eventful for Thailand, which has continued to work to promote nuclear safety, security and safeguards at the international, regional and national levels in various forums. We have continued to commit ourselves to maintaining an active and constructive role in upholding these underlying principles of the IAEA.

9. At the international level, as preparations are underway for another Nuclear Security Summit early next year, Thailand was very pleased to serve as host of another Sherpa Meeting in Hua Hin, Thailand in February of this year. We look to the NSS to continue to contribute to the work of strengthening nuclear security globally. We ourselves will continue to advocate, within this and other related forums, the critical need to bridge capacity gaps in implementation in this regard as well as the importance of engaging all key stakeholders to help raise awareness on building up a nuclear security culture.

Mr. President,

10. At the regional level, Thailand, together with the other member countries of ASEAN have continued to move forward on strengthening nuclear safety, security and safeguards. The Network of Nuclear Regulatory Bodies in Southeast Asia or ASEANTOM concluded its third meeting just last month on 20 August 2015, hosted by Malaysia. And under the ASEANTOM work plan, Thailand also recently hosted the 2nd technical meeting on the ASEAN Environmental Radiation Monitoring Network for ASEANTOM member countries on 25-27 August 2015 in Phuket, Thailand.

11. Thailand is also very pleased to extend cooperation and training opportunities at the regional level to neighboring countries such as Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam and Myanmar. Thailand is the first country in ASEAN to serve personal monitoring by means of Optically Stimulated Luminescence Dosimeters (OSLD). Radiation workers in nearby countries can register with the Department of Medical Sciences in order to make use of the OSLD personal monitoring service, which will help equip them with better and proper radiation protection. In addition, the Department of Medical Sciences is now also ready to provide calibration services to neighboring countries such as Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar within IAEA framework.

12. Education and clinical training of medical physicists in Thailand is also progressing in all fields of radiology such as diagnostic radiology, radiation oncology and nuclear medicine. Thailand offers continued support and clinical training of medical physicists to Vietnam, Myanmar and Laos. We have also served as a training center for radiation oncology for IAEA Fellows from Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Pakistan and during 2015–2017, will host two fellows from Laos. In the area of diagnostic radiology, training is being offered for strengthening radiation protection in diagnostic radiology and promoting audit and safe use of diagnostic medical radiation. This particular training is being arranged for Laos, Lebanon and Sri Lanka.

13. Chulalongkorn University has also been working hard in the past year to expand and modernise both its curriculum and facilities to accommodate the increase in applicants from the Southeast Asia region to nuclear education programmes. Chulalongkorn University hopes to cooperate with partners from abroad as well as the IAEA on this expansion as well as on exploring further the development of joint degree opportunities and cooperative research with other educational institutes and laboratories as well as future training opportunities with the IAEA.

Mr. President,

14. At the national level, Thailand has also been working very hard this

year on strengthening nuclear safety, security and safeguards. First and foremost, we are pleased to announce that our amended Draft Nuclear Energy Act has just recently received in-principle approval by the Cabinet, and will now be submitted to Parliament which will soon allow us to proceed with the ratification of the relevant remaining international conventions.

15. With regard to technical cooperation, the Office of Atoms for Peace (OAP), The Thailand Institute of Nuclear Technology (TINT) as well as the Ministry of Public Health are undertaking several projects with the IAEA and other international partners and will continue to explore future areas of cooperation.

16. In the past year, the OAP has been particularly active. In cooperation with the EU CBRN project, the OAP established a nuclear forensics laboratory which has already conducted a number of national workshops to train officials from the Police, Customs and others agencies. The OAP is now interested in inviting experts in nuclear forensics from the IAEA and EU to conduct a regional training course for ASEAN member countries next year.

17. Also this year, the OAP, together with the TINT and the European Commission have embarked on a joint project to enhance the capacity and effectiveness of regulatory bodies and the development of a national waste management strategy for the years 2015-2017. We are also pleased to inform that through the EU CBRN Border Monitoring Project, Thailand has received much needed radiation detection instruments for Thai frontline agencies. We express our appreciation for this cooperation and also express our thanks to the IAEA for training in this regard.

Mr. President,

18. The Thai government itself has this year, provided for a budget of 500 million Baht (approximately 13 million Euros) to the OAP for the construction of a nuclear and radiation support center. Under a three-year timeline, this center is envisaged to support the mandate of the OAP in regulating the safety and security of nuclear material. The Center will consist of laboratories for standards metrology, nuclear forensics, biodosimetry, nuclear and radiation monitoring and safeguards work. For the near future, the OAP is already looking into expanding the capacity of this Center to service the region and will hope to explore cooperation with the IAEA in this regard.

19. Another possible area of cooperation with the IAEA is the establishment of a collaborating center on mass rearing and sterile insect technique in an area-wide integrated area. The Thailand Institute of Nuclear Technology in particular, is looking into cooperating with the IAEA on this. As for the OAP, there is also an interest in exploring cooperation with the IAEA in the areas of health science, nuclear education, and nutrition as well as more specifically on soil fertility, nutrient

enhancement, water management and soil erosion control.

Mr. President,

20. In closing, allow me to reiterate Thailand's full support and confidence in the work of the Agency. We value our cooperation with the IAEA and aim to continue to do our part in promoting nuclear safety, security and safeguards at home, in our region and beyond. In the face of current setbacks and challenges and the unavoidable trans-boundary impact of nuclear accidents and threats, cooperation between the IAEA and other international organisations, as well as Member States, and amongst Member States themselves, remains vitally important. You can count on our continued cooperation and support at this and future sessions of the General Conference.

I thank you, Mr. President.
