



Remarks on TICA-UNFPA Partnership
by Marcela Sauzo,
Representative for UNFPA Malaysia Country Office and
Country Director for UNFPA Thailand Country Office
at THE 4TH TICA CONNECT:
FIVE DECADES OF THAILAND AND UNFPA PARTNERSHIP:
ADVANCING TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)

16 August 2018

Vithes Samosorn, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

16 August, 2018

Good afternoon, Your Excellency Khun Viradakdi Futrakul, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand; Khun Suphatra Srimaitriphithak, Director General of Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA); Madame Deirdre Boyd, Resident Coordinator Of the United Nations in Thailand and Unfpa Representative; honorable guests from ministries and academic institutions; diplomats, friends from civil society organizations, youth leaders, private sector partners, media organizations, ladies and gentlemen,

Thailand and United Nations Population Funds started their collaboration since 1972 and it is now entering to the fifth decade of partnership.

Thailand's commitment to sustainable development goes further than most. For over 60 years, the country's vision has been guided by that of a great king and his realization in the potential for sustainable development through his Sufficiency Economy Philosophy. As said by H.M. King Bhumibol Adulyadej, "*....We should then embark on the next steps, by pursuing more advanced levels of economic development.*"

These efforts clearly demonstrate Thailand's commitment, as an upper middle-income country, not only to becoming an economically developed country but also an equal and sustainable society.



UNFPA has always been committed along these five decades to support Thailand's efforts to achieve the goals contained in the plan of action of the International Conference on Population and Development. The ICPD centers the key to development around the human person. During these years our support has concentrated around sexual and reproductive health, population and development, family planning, gender equality, human rights and sustainable development. Thailand as a good example of a Global Development Partner, has demonstrated the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals including the reduced Maternal Mortality Ratio, the Mother-to-Child transmission of HIV, and the Universal Health Coverage.

All through 47 years, Thailand's rich experience in reproductive health, especially in maternal health, has become a good practice for other developing countries to use as reference in their efforts to reduce maternal mortality. With its tremendous success in reducing the maternal death, Thailand has received more than 500 requests from various countries around the world to support them to achieve their target in their health and population and development programmes. In this regard, Thailand has not only provided the technical support, but has also significantly contributed various resources to ensure that their partner-countries receive the quality support. UNFPA has been trusted to work with Thailand to provide such support to other partner countries.

In this light, I would like to express my appreciation to the Royal Thai Government for its goodwill and ardour to share its remarkable achievements in maternal health to other developing countries. Your decided commitment has led to the initiative to establish the Solution Network on Safe Motherhood through the South-South Cooperation to end the preventable causes for maternal death. This goal is one of the three transformative results UNFPA is committed to achieve by the year 2030.

Together, with Thailand's support, we must continue working towards the rights-based advocacy; the strategic media engagement; and the private sector partnerships to advance the development work not only in Thailand, but also in



other developing countries through the South-South Cooperation framework. In this manner, Thailand and other global development partners including UNFPA are to achieve the 2030 agenda for the Sustainable Development.

Moving forward, UNFPA is calling stakeholders across sectors, including all of you here today, to not cease in supporting our work by initiating new actions, innovations and walking together as partners for development.

Entering the fifth decade of the partnership with Thailand, UNFPA is eager to advance the rights and potential of all young people in Thailand through the human capital development. We all know that the potential of young people is limitless. It is crucial that the youth in Thailand have a role in shaping and determining how the Thai society would be in the next 15 years from now, in preparation for the upcoming and exponentially advanced technological world of the future. The right investments today are the best way to prepare for maintaining a competitive trend in a rapidly aging society. UNFPA stands committed and ready to support Thailand in its investment in the sexual and reproductive health for young people as the underlying factor for them to fulfill their potentials and define a life cycle approach to an aging society. We look forward that our partnership will also allow to share Thailand's good practices in this issue, with other countries facing similar challenges.

In the coming decades, UNFPA pledges to walk and work hand-in-hand with Thailand and other global development partners in this path to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, ensuring no one is left behind here in Thailand and elsewhere around the world.

Thank you for your attention, Khop Khun ka.