

I thank the panelist for a very informative presentations and wish to share Thai experiences in two points.

First, on agricultural growth and development as a mean to poverty reduction and achievement of MDGs. Thailand's growth strategy has always been pro-poor. From 1960 to 1985 poverty reduction was made possible by both rapid agricultural and non-agricultural growth.

Second point is on improved infrastructure as mentioned by one of the panelists, Mr. David Tommy. The Thai Government has also invested heavily in infrastructure during the 1980s and 1990s. The rapid growth of agriculture was made possible through the government's support in agricultural infrastructure such as rural road network and irrigation dams. Thus, more investment in infrastructure in Africa is a must if we are serious about development of Africa.

I also wish to take this opportunity to briefly share with the commission the contribution from Thailand in regard to sustainable development in Africa.

During the first two weeks of the year 2006, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand welcomed the UNDP-Kenya delegation in the visit to the Royal Initiative Reasearch Centre in Nakhonsawan and Petchburi. The delegation also visited the Royal Initiative development projects and was briefed on the main activities of the projects and its relevance to Kenyan cases. The main points were of the importance of living in moderation and application of green technology. Central to the Royal Initiative research centre are various demonstration plantations where participating farmers can learn from the experienced researchers ns on how to increase their agriculture productivity through environmentally sound means.

The researchers of the centre also stressed the significance.of land management as initiated by His Majesty. This type of management was already touched upon by my colleague here in this room yesterday afternoon.

To maintain ecological soundness, the participating farmers are encouraged to depend less on chemical fertilizers and insecticides, and learn to use natural methods and to grow insect-repellent plants. Tanzania is another country we have shared our technical expertise . A group of rain experts was sent to Tanzania to transfer some rain-related knowledge to help fight the chronic drought there.

Drawing inspiration from His Majesty's development model, the Government of Thailand stands ready to join hands with others either in form of South-South cooperation or triangular cooperation where donor countries can bring in resources. To bring prosperity and hope to people of Africa.

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