

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

First of all, I would like to thank the panelists for their presentation.

Mr. Chairman,

Thailand's energy consumption has been growing at a phenomenal pace since 1980. In 2004, the country's energy consumption was about six times higher than two decades previously. Thailand accounted for just about 1 % of the world's energy consumption in 2004, but this was up from only 0.2 % in 1980- a growth rate that environmentalists have deemed unsustainable.

In order to cope with this unsustainable development pattern in the area of energy, the Royal Thai Government has set the ambitious target to increase the share of new and renewable energy from 0.5 % of the commercial primary energy in 2002 to 8% by the year 2011. The regulation on the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RSP) for new power plants is under preparation. The new power plant would be compulsory required 3-5 % of their generation capacity to be generated by renewable energy such as solar, wind or biomass.

Moreover, Thailand has taken the only good benefit of oil pricing crisis to promote renewable energy. We have put the tremendous

efforts on research and development of renewable energy as an alternative source of energy, especially on bio-fuel. It has been prescribed as one of the urgent and topmost tasks of the government, particularly in response to kind recommendation set forth in His Majesty the King's Speech graciously given to the audience of the well-wishers on the auspicious occasion of His Majesty the King's Birthday on December 4, 2005.

The Ministry of Energy has also recently launched a national E10 gasohol programme to promote blending of 10% ethanol in gasoline with the aim to increase the rate of ethanol consumption to 3 million liters per day in the year 2011. The community bio-diesel refinery programme has also been promoted as a sustainable source of energy for the rural community and agricultural sector. In order to promote the bio-fuel, we realize that not only appropriate technologies and expertise are required, but the abundance of agricultural products such as sugar cane and oil palm as raw material is also the major prerequisite.

In addition, Thailand is endowed with plenty of sunlight. We, therefore, make use of our endowment to increase access of energy for the people who live in the remote rural area. Solar energy is increasing in importance for Thailand with the government planning to increase the solar power generation capacity to 30 MW by 2006. The Solar System Programme has been established to provide

sufficient and reliable electricity to individual home and community service buildings, such as local school and hospital. This programme has been successfully implemented for the past few years. More than 5,000 households and several hundreds of community service buildings are under the programme. This program has been evidenced to improve the quality of life for the people.

However, there are a number of challenges that are lying before us, including very high upfront and maintenance cost of technologies used in the area of renewable energy. In addition, the capability of the local society to utilize those technologies may be limited.

Therefore, low cost and user-friendly technologies are crucially needed. Serious support in relevant research and development as well as capacity building program is also essential. We would like to urge the parties involved to increase attention on building environment for appropriate technology transfer, particularly under the framework of Bali Strategic Plan. Lastly, we fully concur with the other previous speakers and the panelists that partnerships at local, national, regional and global levels, as well as, south-south and trilateral cooperation would be the effective means of implementation to increase energy services through increased use of renewable energy.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

