

Thailand's intervention in CSD 18: Mining, 6 May 2010:

1. Thank you Mr. Chairman.
2. My delegation would like to associate ourselves with the statement made by the Republic of Indonesia on behalf of G77 and China yesterday.
3. Mining is important to our national development, especially in term of economic growth. Mining in Thailand can be traced back for centuries. Over these years, we have had some lessons learned and used them to adjust our practice and decision and policy making processes. We have placed great concern on environmental and geo-resource sustainability and promoted the participation of people and local community to ensure that mining will not or will least affect their ways of life.
4. Mr Chair, In this context, Thailand is pleased to share with the meeting our actions related to sustainable development as follows:
 - 1) The Royal Thai Government has issued the National Strategy on Mineral Resource Management aiming at managing the use of mineral resources, conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources and environment in a balancing manner. The National Strategy comprises
 1. survey, research and development of mineral resources;
 2. mineral types prioritization, for instance, rare-earth metals that are important to the promotion of Clean Technology;
 3. value creation;
 4. promotion of the investment on mineral resources and
 5. promotion of Green and Clean Mining.

The latest National Policy and Guidelines on Mineral Resources Management for 2011-2021 has also been drafted out in accordance with the National Strategy already mentioned.

Mr. Chairman,

- 2) The Royal Thai Government has integrated public participation in decision-making process of mining project development. In addition, the Government has also empowered the local authority in this area, thus, an approval on mining application by local government is compulsory before a mining license can be issued. The Government has promoted Good Governance in mining

sector and ensured transparency and the involvement of all stakeholders in developing a mining project. The Government has also promoted transparency in revenue flows by allocated up to 60 percent of the royalty collected from mining activity to the local and provincial governments of the mined areas to ensure that these revenues will serve the interests of people in the community most.

- 3) The Government allows artisanal mining and has issued a guidelines under the Mineral Act of Thailand. In this regards, the government encourage artisanal miners to form a legalized group, for example in term of cooperative. In addition, the Government has also supported capacity building activities for local miners.
- 4) In term of environmental sustainability, the Thai Government has launched the “Green Mining Policy” since February 2009. The Policy aims to encourage mining entrepreneurs to go “Green” on mining. In doing so, mining entrepreneurs have to take environmental community and social responsibility into account and operate their mining with a sustainable management system. In addition, the entrepreneurs have to place great concern on health and safety as well as ensure green and clean areas. Their projects must be transparent and apply the principles of 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle) in the use of mineral resources.

And finally Mr. Chair,

- 5) Mineral Resources and its related mining activity are part of the geodiversity that can be sustainably utilized through the concept of geotourism. The outlook of geotourism over the past decade is growing drastically. It provides an important tool for the sustainable management of the geoconservation sites or geosites and the UNESCO’s Geopark initiative. Thailand is of the view that the promotion of geotourism activity can be an alternative for local community in managing with mine sites, both active and abandoned, in a sustainable manner. In this regard, Thailand would like to stress that the development cooperation to enhance capacity for developing countries is necessary for the success of geotourism/geopark programme.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.