

**Speech by**  
**H.E. Mr. Piamsak Milintachinda**  
**Ambassador of Thailand to Hungary**  
at Thai Reception for WTC 2012, Budapest, 25 May 2009

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*Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,*

On behalf of the Government and the people of Thailand, I am delighted to extend a very warm welcome to you to the Thai reception for WTC 2012. More than that, I would like to invite you to go to Thailand.

As you all know, Thailand Underground and Tunnelling Group has made an official proposal to host World Tunnel Congress 2012 and the 38<sup>th</sup> ITA-AITES General Assembly in Bangkok, Thailand. I am sure you that your event will be a successful and a memorable one.

Thailand is the gateway of Southeast Asia, and the ideal location for a world-meeting place. Bangkok, in particular, has excellent infrastructure and facilities for large international conferences. This is because we have made great strides over the past few years, with the establishment of a brand new international airport, transport infrastructure, state of art venues, and top professional services to cater to the demands of international events of all kinds.

Thailand has already been recognized as one of the best destinations for leisure, and I want to assure all of you that the Royal Thai Government is committed to continue our effort to build on the global recognition for excellent quality of service and value for money, which Thailand's meetings industry has also earned over the past decade.

World Tunnel Congress is of course one of the most recognized events in the world of construction. It is the definitive voice of the global society. We are particularly mindful of the diversity within this community, and you can rest assured that Thailand is an opened country where all nations and differences are welcomed. I can promise you that your time in Thailand will be rewarding, enriching and memorable, and that we will indeed exceed your discerning expectations.

In welcoming you all to Thailand in 2012, I hardly need to remind you of the multitude and diversity of Thailand's attractions. With our rich history, diversity of cultures and traditions, renowned hospitality and value for money, Thailand is the never-ending source of fascination and pleasure for foreigners. And I hope all of you will take some time out to experience the real Thailand during your visit.

Furthermore, ladies and gentlemen, the year 2012 will be a yearlong celebration of His Majesty the King's 84<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary. To commemorate this occasion, the Kingdom of Thailand has prepared an inspiring range of activities nationwide. We look forward with pride to sharing this historic period of happiness together with you during the congress in 2012.

I would like to clarify for some of you who my have concerns about the situation in Thailand that now everything is back to normal. This is because the Government used the powers entrusted in a special law, and moved to restore order. Bangkok is now just as peaceful and as safe a destination as before.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for coming tonight and sincerely hope that you place your trust in Thailand. We, the people of Thailand look forward to welcoming you as our honoured guest in the year 2012.

Thank you.