

The Royal Thai Government's Achievements
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It came as no surprise that this Government would be met with initial scepticism from various countries. To restore faith in the Government, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs embarked on numerous tasks to help solve economic and social problems, as well as those relating to Thailand's compliance with international standards, which were of great interest to the international community. These tasks have been widely successful, as demonstrated by Thailand's achievements in civil aviation standards and the crackdown on IUU (illegal, unreported, and unregulated) fishing, to name but a few.

With regard to the future of Thailand's fishing industry, the Government wishes to emphasise that the policies put forward in recent years to curb unsustainable fishing habits are by no means political. Rather, they are part of the Government's efforts to foster long-term sustainability, lawful practices and balanced utilisation of marine resources. What Thailand has achieved so far is the culmination of joint efforts by all stakeholders, especially those who work in the industry. Hence, the yellow card issued by the European Union served as a warning that we must redouble our commitment to improve Thailand's fishing sector in line with international standards, not just to lift the yellow card but also to create a sustainable fishing industry for the good of future generations, as well as working towards becoming an IUU-free country.

This is why we are confident that reforms implemented by the Government to promote sustainable fishing practices will continue regardless of who is in charge, as every Government must seek to protect the country's interests based on the concept of sustainability. Furthermore, Thailand also wishes to share and to expand its achievements onto the ASEAN stage. Towards this goal, Thailand-EU cooperation in the future will not only be bilateral, but will also involve other ASEAN member states in order to build sustainability in the blue economy for the entire region, and to demonstrate Thailand's constructive role, both in ASEAN and the world.

These success stories, coupled with Thailand's continuous commitment, are proof that the government is determined to pursue policies that are both grounded in Thailand's national interests and people-centred. This has not gone unnoticed by the international community and our friends around the world. The Prime Minister has been honourably received in all of his more than 20 official visits, and Thailand has exchanged high-level visits with numerous partners to foster mutual benefits.

Thailand also plays a leading role on the international stage, especially in areas such as sustainable development, connectivity, and regional security. Thus, it could be concluded that Thailand, at present, has attained a respectable reputation among the international community. As Thailand assumes the Chairmanship of ASEAN this year, under the theme “Advancing Partnership for Sustainability,” the country is well placed to deliver outcomes that would position ASEAN as a supporter of development and comprehensive sustainability in the Asia-Pacific.

With this strength, we stand ready to face contemporary challenges. The current international landscape, shaped by the multipolar power structure dominated by the United States and China, has had profound influence on policy decisions, especially when considering prospective cooperation and competition. Notwithstanding the fact that the situation has compelled many countries to take sides, Thailand remains committed to its long-standing stance to preserve amicable relations with all countries and to pursue balanced strategic engagement, especially with regard to the major powers.

To this end, the Government has maintained friendly relations with all partners, and enhanced cooperation with countries such as the United States, Russia, China, India, Australia and Japan, as well as the EU. Moreover, Thailand aims to utilise the opportunity as ASEAN Chair to promote regional stability, despite challenges stemming from competition among the major powers, while also seeking to establish links between the major powers for future cooperation, peace, stability and sustainability, both in Asia and beyond.

In recent months, there has been much discussion surrounding the upcoming general elections in Thailand. Thailand is fully aware that the only acceptable form of elections is one that is free, fair and inclusive. To this end, the independent Election Commission will be the main authority in facilitating and ensuring a smooth election process, both in the run-up to elections and during the elections. Most importantly, the outcome of the elections will determine Thailand’s future. Past grievances must be overcome so that Thailand can emerge as a stable country, which can play a leading role in regional developments and international platforms.

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