

Closing Remarks
by
Mrs. Kanchana Patarachoke,
Deputy Director-General, Department of International Organizations,
at the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development,
The Head of State Chamber, Royal Cliff Grand Hotel, Pattaya, Chonburi
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Mr. Chairperson,
Madame Executive Secretary,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

It is truly an honour for Thailand to host the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.

During these three days, we have benefited from our panelists and views from all participants on practical experiences in the implementation of the MDGs and ways forward to achieve sustainable development.

We have together identified our region's key common challenges, needs, and priorities.

We have heard about specific needs of the SIDs.

We have heard the views of member states, UN bodies, specialized agencies, and international organizations, as well as those of civil society organizations representing people from all walks of life.

We have reaffirmed that the balanced integration of economic, social and environmental aspects of development must be mainstreamed into the post-2015 development agenda.

And we are leaving Pattaya today with a renewed sense of commitment to work closely together to advance the Asia-Pacific's needs and priorities in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda so that no one is left behind.

Among various challenges, eradication of poverty, addressing inequality, pursuing sustained and inclusive growth, promoting gender equality, addressing the needs of vulnerable groups, building resilience to the impacts of climate change, natural disasters and multiple shocks, responding to population dynamics and urbanization, enhancing resource efficiency and natural resource management, promoting the patterns of sustainable consumption and production, deepening regional connectivity, expanding universal health coverage, achieving quality education for all, respecting human rights, the rule of law, and the functioning of open and accountable institutions, have been identified as sustainable development priorities for our region.

On the way forward, we recognize the significant roles of science, technology and innovation, addressing digital divide, innovative financing and global partnership for development. We believe we can count on ESCAP in facilitating Member States to gain access to these means of implementation.

Last but not least, on behalf of the Government of Thailand, I would like to thank all of you for your active participation. Thailand as the host country will present the report of this meeting to the upcoming High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development to be held in New York in July.

Thank you and have a safe journey home.
