

ANNUAL REPORT 2 0 1 3

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS KINGDOM OF THAILAND

ANNUAL REPORT

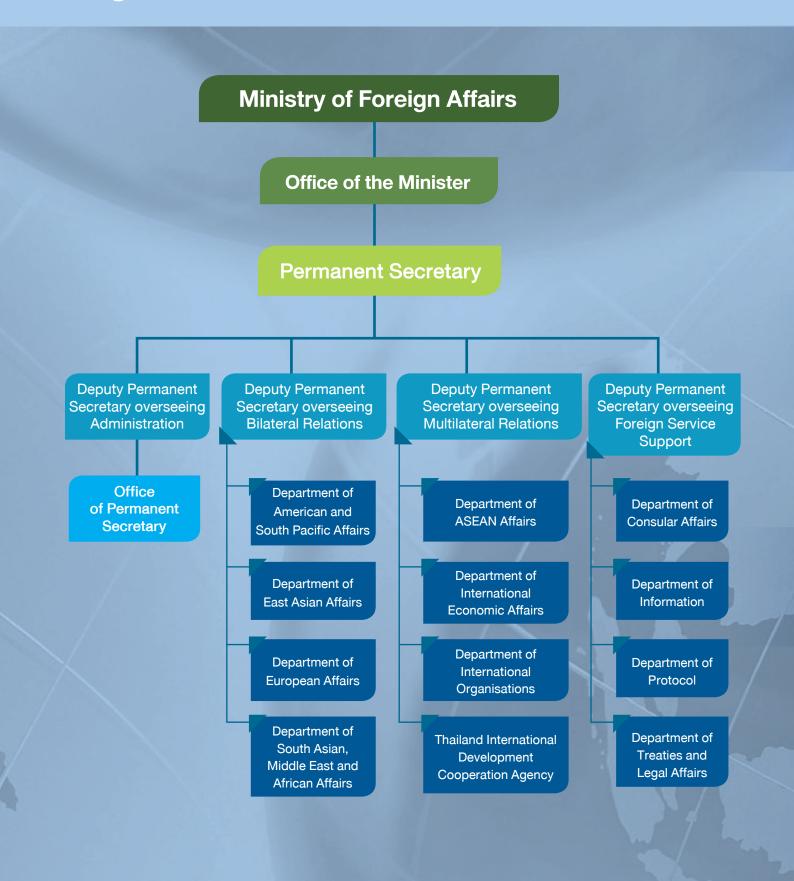
2013

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS KINGDOM OF THAILAND

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#### Organisation Chart



### The Minister and Executives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs



DR. SURAPONG TOVICHAKCHAIKUL

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs

MR. JULLAPONG NONSRICHAL
Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs



MR. SIHASAK PHUANGKETKEOW

Permanent Secretary



MR. NOPADOL GUNAVIBOOL
Deputy Permanent Secretary
(November 2011- October 2013)



MR. MANASVI SRISODAPOL
Deputy Permanent Secretary
(October 2013 - Present)



MR. KIATTIKHUN CHARTPRASERT
Deputy Permanent Secretary

MR. VIJAVAT ISARABHAKDI
Deputy Permanent Secretary
(October 2012 - October 2013)





MR. NARONG SASITORN

Deputy Permanent Secretary

(October 2013 - Present)





#### Forward

This Annual Report provides an overview of key activities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand in the year 2013. Along with the continuation of key policies from the previous year, Thailand's foreign policy priorities in 2013 included a number of proactive initiatives to promote and fine-tune closer cooperation with our neighbouring countries, our ASEAN partners, as well as Thailand's regional and international friends.

Throughout 2013, the Ministry stepped up its efforts in preparing Thailand for the ASEAN Community in 2015. This emphasis was also supported by the policy to enhance Thailand's contribution towards a more constructive role for ASEAN in international affairs. In line with our commitment to help promote key universal values for the well-being and advancement of the international community, Thailand's role in international organisations was also given priority by the Ministry. As it has always been a priority of the Ministry to constantly improve its public services, impetus was also given to working closely with the Thai people in providing effective and efficient consular services to Thai citizens and foreigners.

As a continuation from the preceding year, this English version of the Annual Report aims to reach out to our international readers so as to provide them with information and understanding about the work of the Ministry. The English version is not a translation, but rather a concise version of its Thai volume. On-line access to the Annual Report is also available on the Ministry's website at www.mfa.go.th.

The Editorial Committee



#### National Policy on Foreign Affairs

The Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand, B.E. 2550.

#### Article 77

The State shall protect and uphold the institution of monarchy, the independence, sovereignty, and integrity of the territorial jurisdiction of the State, and shall provide an armed forces, weapons, and modern technology as deemed necessary and sufficient for protecting and upholding the independence, sovereignty, national security, institution of monarchy, national interests, and the democratic regime of government with the King as Head of the State; and for developing the country.

#### Article 82

The State shall promote relations and cooperation with other countries, shall adhere to the principle of non-discrimination, and shall observe the treaties on human rights that Thailand has become party to, as well as other commitments made with other countries and international organisations.

The State shall promote trade, investment, and tourism with other countries and accord protection to Thai nationals and look after their interests in foreign countries.

Foreign Policy drawn from the Policy Statement of the Council of Ministers Delivered by Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra to the National Assembly, Tuesday 23 August B.E. 2554 (2011)

Urgent Policies to be implemented in the First Year

Policy 1.6: Expeditiously restore relations and enhance cooperation with neighbouring countries and other foreign countries so as to boost economic growth in the region, in particular expeditiously address border issues via diplomatic procedures



based on relevant treaties and laws, pursue the obligation to integrate into an ASEAN Community by 2015 in the economic, social, and security aspects, as well as link intraregional and inter-regional transportation.

#### Foreign Policy and International Economics

- 1. Expedite the promotion and development of relations with neighbouring countries by enhancing cooperation between the public sector, private sector, people, and the mass media in order to cultivate mutual understanding and instill closeness among all sectors which will lead to expanded cooperation in the areas of economics, trade, investment, tourism promotion, transportation, and others under sub-regional frameworks so as to promote good neighbourly relations.
- 2. Create unity and promote cooperation among ASEAN countries in order to realise the goal of creating an ASEAN Community, as well as promote cooperation with other countries in Asia through various cooperative frameworks, and prepare all sectors for the move towards becoming an ASEAN Community by 2015 in the economic, socio-cultural, and security areas.
- 3. Take on a creative role and promote the national interest in international organisations, specifically at the United Nations and regional organisations in order to preserve peace and security, promote the democratic process, human rights, humanitarianism, the environment, and sustainable development, as well as cooperate to address all transnational issues that affect human security.
- 4. Strengthen cooperation and strategic partnership with countries, groups of countries, and international organisations that play important roles in global affairs in order to boost confidence in Thailand, as well as build capacity and immunity for the Thai economy.

- - 5. Encourage people-to-people contacts with foreign countries, as well as promote a positive image and technical assistance with developing countries so that people, governments, and the international community will have positive attitudes toward the Thai people and Thailand.
  - 6. Promote public awareness and understanding of border issues and global changes that affect Thailand so as to forge consensus in the formulation and implementation of foreign policy.
  - 7. Support 'People Diplomacy' to safeguard the interests of Thai nationals, as well as protect Thai nationals and Thai workers abroad, specifically those employed and living overseas, in addition to strengthening and promoting the role of Thai communities in preserving their Thai identity.
  - 8. Utilise regional connectivity within the ASEAN region and sub-regions in order to expand the economic base in terms of production and investment, prioritising the development of Provinces and groups of Provinces situated along the economic corridors and border areas.
  - 9. Coordinate the work of government agencies overseas in accordance with the 'Team Thailand' policy in order to carry out foreign affairs efficiently, effectively, and with high quality.
  - 10. Promote close cooperation with Muslim countries and international Islamic organisations to create a correct understanding that Thailand is working on resolving the issue of the Southern Border Provinces, as an important internal issue, by following His Majesty the King's advice to 'Understand, Reach Out, and Develop'.



#### Vision

To serve, with honour and integrity, as the leading organisation for the promotion and protection of Thailand's interests, status, and role in the international community, particularly in the fields of political stability, economic progress, and social development; and ensure that Thai society can best benefit from globalisation.

#### Mission

- 1. Protect, maintain, and promote Thailand's national interests in international relations
- 2. Represent the Thai Government in international negotiations
- 3. Offer advice and strategic recommendations relating to policy and actions in foreign affairs and international law
- 4. Develop Thai diplomats with a sense of conscience, a good understanding of Thai society, and comprehensive skills and knowledge so as to well represent Thailand and to promote Thai interests abroad
- 5. Protect and promote rights and interests of Thai nationals living abroad and to provide them with consular services
- 6. Provide accurate information to domestic and international audiences about Thailand's foreign policy, as well as create a good international understanding about Thailand
- 7. Undertake relevant protocol functions that serve foreign policies and strategies
- 8. Integrate and coordinate the work in international affairs with all stakeholders
- 9. Undertake development cooperation both at bilateral and multilateral levels



#### Values

- 1. Committed to and having the courage to do what is right and fair. Performance of official duties with honesty, fairness, transparency, accountability, without adherence to any influence, while firm in logic and in substantive reasoning. True to the morality and ethics of being a government officer and able to preserve the integrity of the agency to which one belongs.
- 2. Devoted to completing the mission and obtaining the objective. Performance of duties with responsibility, sacrifice, and patience, so that the mission is completed effectively and efficiently in accordance with its purposes, based on the interests of the nation and the Thai peoples and not personal interests.
- 3. Respect for the value and dignity of the human person. Consider important the value and dignity of the human person, especially for fellow professionals who are to be treated with equality and compassion.



## CHAPTER Enhancing Relations with Neighbouring and Other Countries

2013 represented another proactive year for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, particularly the continuity of Thailand's strategic objectives in promoting cooperation with our international friends based on creating and sustaining mutual benefits. A number of milestones were achieved in cementing partnerships with our neighbours and in developing new channels of collaboration with regional and international friends old and new.

#### Thailand's Neighbours

A number of activities were accomplished with our neighbours on mainland Southeast Asia. With the strategic objective to enhance this sub-region as a hub for cooperation and development, and to serve as the crucial link between South Asia and East Asia, Thailand actively engaged in building a network of comprehensive cooperation with Myanmar, the Lao's People Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), Cambodia and Malaysia. As we share common responsibilities from being geographical neighbours, Thailand sought to promote common solutions to common problems for the well-being and development of the citizens of mainland South East Asia. This was done through many exchanges of visits at all levels along with intensive inter-agency collaboration on common issues.

For example, Thailand and Cambodia achieved a number of cooperation milestones this year, such as in the form of high-level visits, enhancing border community cooperation in transport, commerce, and public health.



On 11 June 2013, Mr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul,
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs,
and his counterpart Mr. Hor Namhong,
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs
and International Cooperation of Cambodia,
co-chaired the 1<sup>st</sup> Ministerial Meeting of the Joint
Committee on Border Area Development
and Connectivity between Cambodia
and Thailand held in Phnom Penh.

With the Lao PDR, Thailand was able to open additional border checkpoints in Chiang Rai Province and Uttaradit Province, not to mention further cooperation in border control, development of rail links, border community interaction, and joint cooperation along the Mekong River.





During 31 March – 3 April 2013, Thailand hosted the 18<sup>th</sup> Joint Commission (JC) for Cooperation Meeting between Thailand and the Lao PDR in Hua Hin, Prachuap Khiri Khan Province.

On 19 May 2013, Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra,
Prime Minister, and Mr. Thongsing Thammavong,
Prime Minister of the Lao PDR,
attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thai-Lao
Joint Cabinet Retreat at Le Meridien Hotel,
Chiang Mai.







Mr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, along with Mr. Thongloun Sisoulith, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao PDR, presided over the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Thailand-Laos Joint Boundary Commission (JBC) on 15 August 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Thailand has supported political and economic reform in Myanmar and 2013 saw the progress of a close relationship between the two neighbours in the areas of border cooperation, commerce, and connectivity including the opening of a new checkpoint at Phu Num Ron in Kanchanaburi Province, as well as cooperation in social and human development, education and healthcare.





On 22 November 2013, the Friendship Cultural Show to commemorate the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Myanmar and Thailand was held in Myanmar.

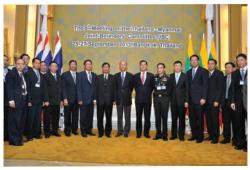




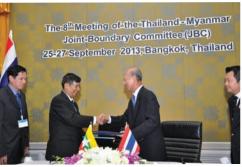


On 22 November 2013, Mr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, blessed the groundbreaking ceremony for the renovation of No.15

Basic Education Primary School, Thar Pyay Hla, Pyinmana in Nay Pyi Taw, under the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship School Project.







During 25-27 September 2013, Thailand hosted the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Thailand-Myanmar Joint Boundary Committee (JBC) in Bangkok.





Thailand supported the upgrading of Prosthetic Workshop at National Rehabilitation Hospital in Yangon.

For Malaysia, cooperation was intensified in several key areas such as border development projects, infrastructure development, development of rubber city, and cross-border security. Importantly, Thai and Malaysian Prime Ministers attended the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Consultation in February 2013.

On 28 February 2013, Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister, attended the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Consultation to strengthen friendship and reaffirm the close partnership between Thailand and Malaysia.







On 29 October 2013, Mr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, met with Dato' Sri Anifah Hj. Aman, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, to discuss the cooperation between the two countries.

#### Southeast Asia

In addition to our immediate neighbours, Thailand significantly progressed with comprehensive relations with the rest of our partners in Southeast Asia. For instance with Vietnam, 2013 marked a monumental milestone as Thailand was able to elevate bilateral relations to the level of a strategic partnership, the first of its kind between Thailand and an ASEAN member state, encompassing cooperation areas ranging from political, defence and security to economic, social and people-to-people cooperation.





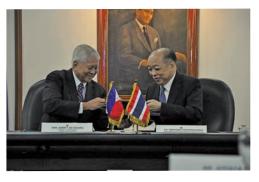
During 25-27 June 2013, Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong, the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, paid an official visit to Thailand as guest of the Royal Thai Government.

With Indonesia, there were many high-level visits. Cooperation on maritime issues, marine agriculture, and fishery exports also progressed this year, which significantly marks the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations between Thailand and Indonesia. With the Philippines, Thailand embarked on many humanitarian cooperation frameworks, as well as the exchange of visits between bilateral business councils, meetings of the Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation, and further cooperation on double taxation, energy, and dairy production. Singapore and Thailand also moved forward with cooperation on many aspects, such as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Singapore-Thailand Enhanced Economic Relationship (STEER) Meeting and the Civil Service Exchange Programme which this year focused on "good governance in an increasingly complex world." Thailand and Brunei Darussalam also enhanced relations by focusing on such issues as skilled worker cooperation, tourism, and bilateral trade.



During 13-14 November 2013,
Mr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul,
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs,
and Mr. Raden Mohammad Marty Muliana Natalegawa,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia,
presided over the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Joint Commission
between Thailand and Indonesia in Bangkok.

During 20-21 June 2013, Mr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Albert F. del Rosario, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, co-chaired the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation between Thailand and the Philippines in Manila.





During 23-25 January 2013,
Mr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul,
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs,
paid an official visit to Singapore to attend the 11<sup>th</sup>
Coordinating Meeting of the Thailand-Singapore Civil
Service Exchange Programme (CSEP) in Singapore.

#### Thailand and East Asia

The East Asian group of nations comprises a fundamental part of the Asia Pacific community. Considered to be a key driving force of the global economy, the People's Republic of China (PRC), Japan, and the Republic of Korea (ROK) are vital partners for Thailand and indeed for ASEAN. Cooperation with such major powers progressed steadily in 2013, with focus areas to include economics and commerce, sustainable development, and the maintenance of regional peace and security. With the aim to promote Asia Pacific regional resilience, Thailand engaged our Northeast Asian friends on a variety of fronts.

With the PRC, Thailand was keen on intensifying the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership which the Thai and Chinese Prime Ministers jointly announced in 2012. Hence, there were high-level visits to Thailand by Chinese premiers and foreign ministers, and the two countries developed this long-term partnership in nine key areas; namely, political cooperation; economic cooperation, in particular investment in infrastructure; national defense and security; transportation and connectivity; education, culture, and tourism; science, technology, and innovation; energy; and maritime cooperation. The PRC and Thailand were also able to complete six MOUs this year, which involved the areas of railway links, energy, science, technology, and innovation, maritime cooperation, and education cooperation.

Mr. Li Keqiang, Premier of the State Council of the PRC, met with Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister of Thailand, to discuss ways to enhance the Thailand-China Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership.





During 30 April – 1 May 2013, Mr. Wang Yi, Foreign Minister of the PRC, met with Mr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Thailand's relations with Japan also saw much progress. Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, paid a visit to Thailand in January on his first leg of a series of overseas trips. This marked the first time a Japanese Prime Minister visited Thailand in 11 years. Thailand and Japan moved forward with political, economic, and security cooperation in many forms in 2013. Examples of these achievements included progress on the implementation of Japan-Thailand Economic Partnership Agreement, as well as cooperation on SMEs, human resources, the Dawei Port project in Myanmar, and Japan's exemption of visa for Thai tourists.

During 17-18 January 2013, Mr. Shinzo Abe,
Prime Minister of Japan, paid an official visit to Thailand
as a guest of the Royal Thai Government and met with
Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister,
to discuss various issues covering bilateral,
regional, and multilateral cooperation,
to promote Thailand-Japan Strategic Partnership
based on over 125 years of diplomatic relations,
shared values of democracy, and mutual interests.



Thailand's strategic partnership with the ROK also moved forward during 2013. This included many high-level visits, as well as the promotion of economic, political, cultural, and security cooperation between the two countries.



On 25 February 2013, Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister, paid a courtesy call on, and had a bilateral meeting with, Mrs. Park Geun-hye, President of the ROK.

2013 also saw exchanges of visits and enhancement of relations between Thailand and other Northeast Asian countries. A delegation of senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs visited Pyong Yang in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to discuss areas of cooperation such as agriculture and food security. In July 2013, the Prime Minister of Thailand visited Mongolia for the first time, which paved the way for many subsequent high-level visits between Mongolia and Thailand.

During 15-21 September 2013, Mr. Damrong Kraikruan,
Director-General, Department of East Asian Affairs,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand,
paid a courtesy call on Mr. Pak Ui Chun,
Minister of Foreign Affairs, during the visit to the DPRK.





During 27-29 April 2013, Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister, paid an official visit to Mongolia.

#### South Asia and Central Asia

In 2013, Thailand sought to develop cooperation with our South Asian partners on a number of fronts, including sustainable development, food security, and agriculture.

Thailand and Pakistan exchanged a number of high-level visits this year. Cooperation between the two countries included the issues of intellectual property, taxation, counterterrorism, welfare, and disaster management.

During 9-12 January 2013, Mr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, paid a courtesy call on Mr. Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, Prime Minister of Pakistan on his official visit to Pakistan.



Relations between Thailand and India also advanced in 2013. The Prime Minister of India visited Thailand in November 2013, and there were also a number of corresponding visits by senior officials. The comprehensive nature of relations between India and Thailand was represented in a number of meetings and achievements this year, which involved enhanced cooperation in security issues, the defense industry, narcotics control, immigration cooperation, and cybercrime. The two countries are also in the process of FTA negotiation and business council management. The strategic importance of Myanmar was another major issue for discussion between the two countries.



During 30-31 May 2013, Mr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India, paid an official visit to Thailand and had a bilateral meeting with Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister of Thailand.

The Prime Minister of Thailand also visited Bangladesh in 2013 and discussed with her counterpart on issues such as development and trade, the role of women in society and the case of the Rohingya populations. The Prime Minister of Bangladesh visited Thailand in May 2013, both to attend the Water Summit in Thailand and to discuss bilateral issues with the Thai Prime Minister.

On 20 May 2013, Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister, met with Ms. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh, in Chiang Mai.

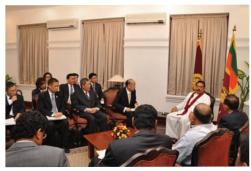


Both the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand visited Sri Lanka in 2013, which also marked the 260th anniversary of the Siamwong Buddhist pilgrimage from Thailand to Sri Lanka. Both countries were able to make progress this year on such areas as infrastructure, investment, counter terrorism, as well as science and technology.



During 31 May – 2 June 2013, Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister, paid an official visit to Sri Lanka and met with Mr. D. M. Jayaratne, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, to discuss ways to promote bilateral cooperation.

During 1-3 May 2013, Mr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thailand-Sri Lanka Joint Commission Meeting on Bilateral Relations in Colombo.



In June 2013, the Prime Minister of Thailand also visited the Maldives for the first time and discussed with her counterpart on many issues including trade, tourism, and alternative energy.



On 1 June 2013, Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra,
Prime Minister of Thailand, had an official meeting
with Mr. Mohemmed Waheed Hassan,
President of the Maldives.

In a year of many firsts, the Prime Minister of Bhutan also paid the first visit to Thailand in 2013, during which both leaders agreed to enhance cooperation, trade, and tourism.

During 13-16 November 2013, Mr. Tshering Tobgay,
Prime Minister of Bhutan, paid an official
visit to Thailand and met with Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra,
Prime Minister, on 14 November 2013.



Central Asia is another region with which Thailand sought to enhance strategic relations. With potential areas of cooperation including energy, trade and investment, technical cooperation, tourism, and agriculture, Thailand was honoured to receive the Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan in January while Thailand's Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs paid a visit to Turkmenistan in July. The Prime Ministers of Kyrgyztan also exchanged visits with the Prime Minister of Thailand in 2013, as did the President of Tajikistan.



During 15-16 January 2013, Mr. Berdiniyaz Myatiyev, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, paid an official visit to Thailand to reciprocate the visit to Turkmenistan made by Mr. Jullapong Nonsrichai, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, in September 2012 to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Thailand and Turkmenistan.

On 28 January 2013, Mr. Djoomart Otorbaev,
Deputy Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan, paid a courtesy
call on Mr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul,
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister
of Foreign Affairs on his visit to Thailand.





During 19-20 August 2013, Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister of Thailand, paid an official visit to Tajikistan.

#### Middle East and Africa

Thailand's relations with our partners from the Middle East also continued to grow this year. Among many high-level exchanges was the visit of the King of Bahrain to Thailand in April. Thailand was also able to move forward the cooperation with Iraq, particularly in the export of rice.

During 18-20 April 2013, His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of the Kingdom of Bahrain paid an official visit to Thailand as guest of the Royal Thai Government.



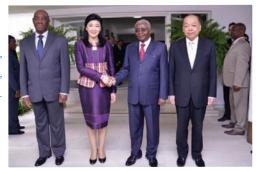
Importantly, 2013 marked the year of the Thai-Africa Initiative which sought to intensify relations with our African friends on many fronts. The pillars of cooperation include economic issues such as commerce and investment; sustainable development; and the development of strategic partnerships between Thailand and Africa on global issues. Other potential areas of mutual cooperation included public health, infrastructure, and agriculture.



During 6-7 September 2013, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Senior Official's Meeting on the Thai-Africa Initiative in Prachuap Khiri Khan Province, Thailand.

Senior Officials Meetings, in which 37 countries from Africa attended, were held in May and in September to discuss the Thai-Africa Initiative. The Prime Minister of Thailand visited three African countries this year; namely, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Uganda. In addition, Thailand's Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Equatorial Guinea, Mozambique, Mauritania, Swaziland, Nigeria, Tanzania, and South Africa. Furthermore, 2013 was the year in which Thailand established diplomatic relations with South Sudan.

During 28-30 July 2013, Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister, paid an official visit to Mozambique, and held bilateral discussion with her counterpart.

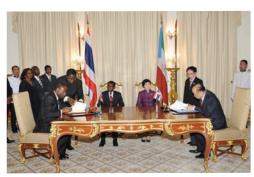




During 30 July – 1 August 2013, Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister, paid an official visit Tanzania and had a bilateral meeting with Mr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President of Tanzania, to discuss and exchange views on bilateral cooperation.

On 1 August 2013, Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra,
Prime Minister, paid an official visit to
the Republic of Uganda and had a meeting
with Mr. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of Uganda,
to discuss and exchange views on bilateral cooperation.





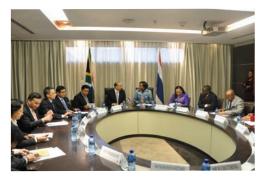
On 14 March 2013, Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra,
Prime Minister, and Mr. Teodoro Obiang Nguema
Mbasogo, President of Equatorial Guinea witnessed
the signing ceremony of the Memorandum of
Understanding (MOU) on the Formation of Bilateral
Discussion between Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand
and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of
Equatorial Guinea.

On 26 June 2013, Mr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, held a bilateral discussion with Mr. Hamadi Ould Baba Ould Hamadi, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Mauritania, during his official visit to Bangkok.





During 20-21 August 2013, Mr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, paid an official visit to Nigeria.



On 21 August 2013, Mr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, met with Ms. Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of South Africa, during his visit to South Africa during 21-22 August 2013.

#### The Americas and Oceania

A special occasion for 2013 was the commemoration of 180 years of diplomatic relations between Thailand and the United States. Thailand is the oldest non-treaty ally of the United States and cooperation between the two countries in 2013 reflected this deep-rooted friendship. Among the many areas of cooperation this year, Thailand and the United States focused on human security, cooperation between legal institutions, creative partnership, technology and innovation. At the same time, there were many regional issues of common interests, such as South China Sea, development of Mekong Sub-regional, as well as political and economic development in Myanmar.

On 29 May 2013, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted the 180<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Thai-U.S. Relations Gala. Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister of Thailand, Mr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, as well as Ms. Kristie Kenney, the U.S. Ambassador to Thailand, attended the gala.





On 6 May 2013, Mr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, met with Mr. John Kerry, Secretary of State of the United States, during his visit to Washington DC during 5-7 May 2013. The two Ministers discussed a wide range of bilateral and regional issues, as well as global issues of common concern. In 2013, Thailand was honoured to receive the Presidents of Chile and Peru. Among the many issues discussed during such high-level visits, education cooperation, free trade, public health, and joint investments proved to be main aspects. At the same time, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand visited Columbia and Costa Rica this year.

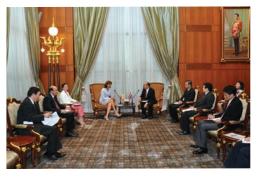
During 4-5 October 2013, Mr. Sebastián Piñera Echenique, President of the Republic of Chile, paid an official visit to Thailand as guest of the Royal Thai Government.

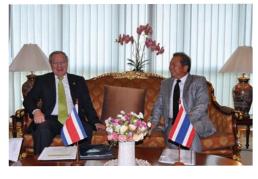




During 4-5 October 2013, Mr. Ollanta Humala Tasso, President of the Republic of Peru, paid an official visit to Thailand as guest of the Royal Thai Government.

On 11 July 2013, Ms. Maria Angela Holguin, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, visited Thailand and met with Mr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs.





On 25 October 2013, Mr. Jullapong Nonsrichai, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, held a bilateral discussion with Mr. José Enrique Castillo Barrantes, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of the Republic of Costa Rica, during the official visit to Thailand.

Australia's Foreign Minister visited Thailand in 2013 and the two countries were able to make important progress on education, free trade, regional security, and science and technology.

During 20-22 February 2013, Mr. Bob Carr, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Australia, visited Thailand and met with Mr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs.



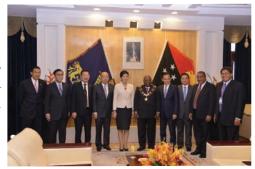
The Prime Minister of Thailand paid an official visit to New Zealand this year while the Prime Minister of New Zealand also took the opportunity to visit Thailand. The two countries were able to make progress on substantive issues such as food security, environmental sustainability, public health, education (in particular vocational training), and science and technology.



During 17-20 November 2013, Mr. John Key, Prime Minister of New Zealand, paid an official visit to Thailand as guest of the Royal Thai Government.

The first trip by a Thai Prime Minister to Papua New Guinea also took place in 2013 during which the two countries discussed potential areas of cooperation in mineral resources development, fisheries, and skilled labour. Other Pacific Island countries that Thailand engaged with included Niue (establishment of diplomatic relations), Vanuatu, Tonga, Fiji, Solomon Islands, and the Marshall Islands. His Royal Highness Prince Tupouto'a of Tonga visited Thailand this year, as did the Prime Minister of Vanuatu.

During 24-25 March 2013, Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra,
Prime Minister, paid an official
visit to Papua New Guinea.





During 18-23 May 2013, Mr. Moana Carcasses Kalosil, Prime Minister of Vanuatu, paid an official visit to Thailand as guest of the Royal Thai Government.

#### Europe

With regards to Thailand's relations with countries in Europe, steady achievements were made in the areas of trade and tourism, science and innovation, human resources development, alternative energy, food safety, and environmental management. For instance, Thailand and the United Kingdom jointly held the first Strategic Dialogue in May to enhance cooperation on trade and investment, while also discussing ASEAN Connectivity and such key issues as the situations in the Middle East and the South China Sea.





On 20 May 2013, the first session of the Thailand-United Kingdom Strategic Dialogue was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangkok.

There were also a number of high-level visits between Thailand and our European counterparts. This included the Prime Minister of Thailand visiting Sweden, Belgium, and the European Union headquarters. The Prime Minister also visited Turkey, Switzerland, the Vatican, Italy, and Montenegro to explore further avenues of cooperation such as SME coordination, scholarship exchanges, disaster management, and water management. The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand also visited Russia, Hungary, Germany, the Czech Republic, and Estonia in

2013. These trips presented Thailand with the opportunity to pursue cooperation in such areas as green energy, education, science and innovation, and bilateral tourism promotion. The Estonian Foreign Minister also paid a visit to Thailand this year, as did the Prime Minister of France.

Between Thailand and the European Union, progress was made on finalising the Partnership Cooperation Agreement and the beginning of FTA negotiation process. Thailand also established diplomatic relations with Kosovo in 2013.



On 4 March 2013, Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra,
Prime Minister of Thailand, paid an official
visit to Sweden and had a meeting
with Mr. Fredrik Reinfeldt, Prime Minister of Sweden.

On 5 March 2013, Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra,
Prime Minister of Thailand, paid an official
visit to Belgium and had a discussion
with Mr. Elio Di Rupo, Prime Minister of Belgium.





On 6 March 2013, Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister of Thailand, paid an official visit to the European Union headquarters in Brussels, upon the invitation of Mr. José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission.

On 4 July 2013, during her official visit to Poland,
Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra
had a bilateral discussion with Mr. Donald Tusk,
Prime Minister of Poland.





On 5 July 2013, Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister of Thailand, paid an official visit to Turkey and held talks with Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of Turkey.

On 10 September 2013, Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister of Thailand, paid a visit to Switzerland upon the invitation of Mr. Ueli Maurer, President of Switzerland.





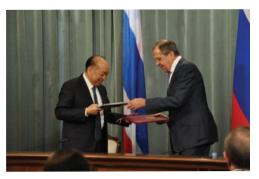
On 11 September 2013, Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister of Thailand, had a discussion with Mr. Enrico Letta, Prime Minister of Italy, during the official visit to Italy.

On 12 September 2013, Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra,
Prime Minister of Thailand,
called on Pope Francis in Vatican City.





On 14 September 2013, Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister of Thailand, paid a courtesy call on Mr. Filip Vujanović, President of Montenegro, on her official visit. On 28 March 2013, during his official visit to Russia, Mr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, met with Mr. Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia, and discussed a wide range of issues in the Thai-Russian bilateral relations.





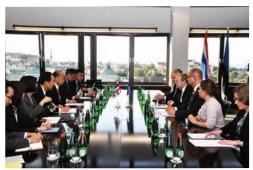
During 3-5 June 2013, Mr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, paid an official visit to Hungary, at the invitation of Mr. János Martonyi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Hungary, as the two countries celebrated 40 years of their diplomatic ties.

During 5-7 June 2013, Mr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul,
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs,
visited Germany and met Mr. Guido Westerwelle,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Germany, to follow up
on Prime Minister's visit to Germany in July 2012,
particularly cooperation in the areas of trade and
investment, green economy, education, and technology.





During 5-6 September 2013, Mr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, paid an official visit to the Czech Republic and had a meeting with Mr. Jan Kohout, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, to discuss ways to promote closer relations between the two countries. During 6-8 September 2013, Mr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, paid an official visit to Estonia at the invitation of Mr. Urmas Paet, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Estonia.





During 4-5 February 2013, Mr. Jean-Marc Ayrault, Prime Minister of France, paid an official visit to the Kingdom of Thailand as guest of Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister of Thailand.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, together with Mr. Declan Kelly, Ambassador of Ireland to Thailand, signed the Convention between the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Government of Ireland for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and Capital Gains on 4 November 2013 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangkok





Mr. Sihasak Phuangketkeow, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Pertti Torstila, Secretary of State, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, co-chaired the 1st Meeting of Thailand-Finland Political Consultation on 3 June 2013.



# CHAPTER 2 Thailand and ASEAN

With only two years towards ASEAN Community in 2015, Thailand stepped up its activities to further strengthen the three pillars of the Community, namely the ASEAN Political-Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community, and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community. The goal for Thailand in 2013 was to push forward various pending issues to enhance working relations between the ASEAN members and dialogue partners, as well as to move the organisation towards an effective functioning community.

#### **ASEAN Community Building**

The Department of ASEAN Affairs at Ministry of Foreign Affairs serves as the secretariat of the National ASEAN Committee, chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The key aim is to coordinate inter-agency cooperation in Thailand in preparing for the establishment and functioning of an ASEAN Community in 2015.

For this year, priority issues in preparing for the ASEAN Community included (1) trade facilitation (2) border management (3) regulatory adjustments to support ASEAN Community (4) enhancing SME capacity, and (5) enhancing public awareness. Given this, the Ministry took part in various activities, in cooperation with relevant Thai agencies to make progress in these areas.





On 5 April 2013, Mr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, presided over the  $2^{nd}$  Meeting of National ASEAN Committee at Ministry of Foreign Affairs.





On 19 June 2013, Mr. Nopadol Gunavibool, Deputy Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs, presided over the  $3^{\rm rd}$  Meeting of National ASEAN Committee at Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Ministry also implemented a proactive policy to raise awareness on ASEAN Community in Thailand through activities such as an ASEAN Outreach Programme, an ASEAN Day Event, and numerous seminars on ASEAN, as well as special publications such as the "ASEAN Mini Book" and "ASEAN in Brief".





During 27-28 March 2013, the Department of ASEAN Affairs in cooperation with the Department of Information visited Lampang Province under the Buakaew and ASEAN Outreach Programmes

The visit was part of public diplomacy to exchange views with local agencies on issues related to foreign affairs and to promote greater awareness about ASEAN.





On 12 July 2013, the Department of ASEAN Affairs organised the ASEAN Outreach Programme and the seminar on "Connectivity of the Southern Provinces to ASEAN Community" at Ko Samui in Surat Thani Province.



Activities on "ASEAN Day" marking the 46<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of ASEAN, on 8 August 2013 at Vithes Samosorn Hall, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Some publications on ASEAN

#### ASEAN Cooperation in 2013

In making progress for the establishment of ASEAN Community, all the ASEAN members agreed on the importance of implementing the plans of actions under the three pillars of ASEAN Community within 2015.

One of the key steps in the Road Map towards the ASEAN Community is to strengthen economic cooperation within ASEAN and between ASEAN and its partners. In this aspect, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs took part in many programmes in 2013 that focused on promoting the negotiation on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

In addition, it was a key priority of the Ministry in the year 2013 to coordinate with other government agencies, the private sectors, and other sectors of Thai society in many areas vital to ASEAN cooperation, such as disaster management and mitigation, ASEAN Connectivity, anti-trafficking in persons and narcotics, and food and energy security.

In the field of regional disaster management and mitigation, the Ministry coordinated with other Thai agencies to enhance Thailand's cooperative role in ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), particularly in joining hands with the ROK to host the ARF Disaster Relief Exercise 2013 (ARF DiREX 2013) during 7-11 May in Phetchaburi Province.







During 7-11 May 2013, Thailand and the ROK co-chaired the ARF Disaster Relief Exercise (DiREx) 2013 to strengthen the effective military-civilian coordination among the ARF participants.

For the essential issue of enhancing ASEAN Connectivity, Thailand took part in numerous activities to push for progress in connecting the member states within the region and to connect ASEAN with the rest of the world. This is vital for enhancing ASEAN competitiveness in the global economy. In this dimension, Thailand hosted (1) the EAS Regulatory Roundtable on 18 July, (2) the Workshop on "Enhancing Connectivity through Multi-Layered Regional Frameworks: The Role of Dialogue Partners" on 19 July, and (3) the Symposium: "Towards Realisation of the ASEAN Connectivity Plus: Moving Forward with ASEAN-India Connectivity" on 27 November.



On 19 July 2013, Thailand hosted the Workshop on "Enhancing Connectivity through Multi-Layered Regional Frameworks: The Role of Dialogue Partners".

On 27 November 2013, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in coordination with the governments of Japan and India, organised a Symposium titled "Towards Realisation of ASEAN Connectivity Plus: Moving Forward with ASEAN-India Connectivity" in Bangkok.



A key concern for the ASEAN member states is the level of intergovernmental coordination on the issue of Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Preventing Narcotic Drugs. In 2013, the Ministry sought to enhance Thailand's role in Regional Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons and ASEAN Convention on Trafficking in Persons (ACTIP). Regarding efforts against narcotic drugs, Thailand played a role this year in proposing ASEAN Leaders to adopt "Drug-Free ASEAN 2015", as well as attended the 2nd ASEAN Special Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters in 2013 and proposed the establishment of "ASEAN-Narco" for narcotics prevention and suppression.

With food security and energy security being high on the priority list of every country, Thailand and our ASEAN partners have been working to better prepare the ASEAN Community for these challenges. After the establishment of the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR), with its Secretariat in Bangkok, Thailand pushed for the expansion of reserve cooperation to cover more agricultural produces and to include the search for new technologies. This was proposed during the 46<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on 30 June 2013 in Brunei Darussalam. It was done in tandem with Thailand's push for ASEAN cooperation on renewable and alternative energy, by learning best practices and adopting new technologies.



The 4<sup>th</sup> Regional Consultation on Related Documents for the Operation of the APTERR Secretariat during 26-27 March 2013 in Bangkok



The 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) Council during 28-29 March 2013 in Bangkok

#### Post-2015 Vision

The goal of sustainable development is shared by all ASEAN Members, and to highlight this issue, Thailand along with other partners adopted the "Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision" during the 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit in October. It focuses on sustainable development in accordance with UN's Post-2015 Development Agenda, hence the proposal of the "ASEAN Development Goals".



During 9-10 October 2013, Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister, attended the 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit and Related Meetings in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.

# Thailand's Role as Country Coordinator for ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations

Thailand is fully committed to its role as country coordinator for ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations. In this capacity, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs undertook many efforts this year.





On 29 August 2013, Mr. Sihasak Phuangketkeow, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, attended the Reception in Celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership in Beijing.

Without question, Thailand sought every appropriate opportunity to enhance cooperation within ASEAN and between ASEAN and the PRC, including in the challenging issue of South China Sea. In this matter, Thailand has been active in seeking a common ASEAN position while promoting the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in South China Sea (DOC) and pushing for the progress of the negotiation on the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC). One highlight of this was the High-Level Forum on the  $10^{th}$  Anniversary of ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership on 2 August in Bangkok. Thailand also co-chaired the ASEAN-China Special Ministerial Meeting on 28-30 August 2013 in Beijing and then played a constructive role in drafting and negotiating the Joint Statement of the  $16^{th}$  ASEAN-China Summit on Commemoration of the  $10^{th}$  Anniversary of the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership in October in Brunei Darussalam. In addition, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent an officer to work at the ASEAN-China Centre in Beijing as the Director of Information and Public Relations Unit in June.





On 2 August 2013, Mr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Wang Yi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the PRC, attended the High-Level Forum on the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership in Bangkok.

Meeting in Beijing.

On 29 August 2013, Mr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, co-chaired the Special ASEAN-China Foreign Ministers'







On 15 September 2013, Mr. Sihasak Phuangketkeow, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, co-chaired the  $6^{\text{th}}$  Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) on the Implementation of the DOC with Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Vice Foreign Minister of the PRC, at Suzhou.

## Promoting ASEAN's Role in the International Community

In this era of the Asian Century, when the region serves as a main influence in international peace and global prosperity, the centrality of ASEAN is an important part of Thailand's foreign policy. Not only is it important for the ASEAN members to maintain an effective framework to ensure peace and security in Southeast Asia, but it is also essential for ASEAN to have a constructive position on global issues. A strong ASEAN will contribute to a strong Asia-Pacific. Thus, it has been imperative for Thailand to support ASEAN's regional role in such areas as disaster management, border management, maritime security, and territorial disputes. This has also meant promoting ASEAN's constructive role in such frameworks as ASEAN+1, ASEAN+3, EAS, and the ARF, while also supporting ASEAN candidates in international organisations.



During 27-30 May 2013, Vietnam hosted the 22<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-2) to the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (ADDMER) in Hanoi, Vietnam.

On 9 October 2013, Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister, attended the 16<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Japan Summit in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.







On 2 July 2013, Mr. Sihasak Phuangketkeow, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, attended the 20<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, and shared Thailand's views on regional and international issues.



# CHAPTER 3 Enhancing Thailand's Role in the International Community

One key function of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is to promote Thailand's proactive and constructive role in international affairs, particularly in the areas of international security, global economy, and social development. In 2013, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was able to achieve progress both at the regional and international levels in key areas such as connectivity, security, economic growth, and social development, as well as enhancing human security and promoting key universally accepted values.

#### Peace, Security, and Development in the Region

#### Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic

#### Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS)

From the very beginning, Thailand has considered this sub-regional framework to be an important pillar for peace and development in mainland Southeast Asia. It also serves as the crucial link between the West and South Asia and the Asia-Pacific. In March 2013, Thailand attended the 5<sup>th</sup> ACMECS Summit in Vientiane, the Lao PDR, where key areas of collaboration included (1) physical and economic connectivity, (2) opening and upgrading many checkpoints along Thailand's borders, (3) promoting single market among ACMECS countries, (4) establishing cooperation on rice standard and market sharing, (5) promoting investment on economic crops through contract-farming cooperation with ACMECS countries, (6) tourism corridors and the ACMECS single visa, and (7) human resource development.



On 12 March 2013, Mr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, attended the ACMECS Foreign Ministers' Meeting as a preparation for the 5th ACMECS Summit on 13 March 2013 in Vientiane, Lao PDR.

During 12-13 March 2013, Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister, attended the  $5^{\rm th}$  ACMECS Summit in Vientiane, Lao PDR.



# Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)

Congruency in combining the Look West policy of Thailand and ASEAN with the Look East policy of India and South Asia serves as another aspect of Thai Foreign Policy.

The essence is to capture the momentum of cooperation initiated and sustained by our South Asian friends and match it with our own.

For this in 2013, Thailand continued in cooperating with Asian Development Bank (ADB) on the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of BIMSTEC Transport Infrastructure and Logistics Study (BTILS). Thailand also attended the Inception Workshop of the BTILS Updating and Enhancement during 5-6 June 2013 and the 1<sup>st</sup> BIMSTEC Expert Working Group on Road Development in Yangon, Myanmar. For the agricultural sector, Thailand's active role included the organisation of the BIMSTEC International Training Programme on Advanced Aquatic Plants Tissue Culture during 15 October – 13 November 2013.





Inception Workshop of the BIMSTEC Transport Infrastructure and Logistics Study
Updating and Enhancement during 5-6 June 2013 in Yangon, Myanmar

Meetings of BIMSTEC Working Groups also took place regularly to follow up and push forward progress in each cooperation sector. Thailand's participation included our attendance at (1) the 6<sup>th</sup> Joint Working Group Meeting in Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sub-group Meeting on Intelligence Sharing during 6-8 May in Colombo, Sri Lanka, (2) the 4<sup>th</sup> Task Force Meeting on Trans Power Exchange on 11 January in New Delhi, India, and (3) the 1<sup>st</sup> BIMSTEC Tourism Working Group on 23 September in New Delhi, India.

#### Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS)

The importance of the Mekong River to peace and development in Southeast Asia is acknowledged at both regional and international levels. Thailand has long supported the GMS framework of cooperation with five other countries of the Mekong River basin: Cambodia, the Lao PDR, Myanmar, Vietnam, and the PRC. With assistance from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Thailand continued with efforts to foster economic corridor

development, technology and education cooperation, effective resource utilisation, and access to the international market. In 2013, Thailand attended the 19<sup>th</sup> Greater Mekong Subregion Ministerial Conference on 11 December in Vientiane, the Lao PDR, as well as established the Greater Mekong Railway Association (GMRA), while also endorsing the GMS Regional Investment Framework (RIF) 2013 – 2017.

#### East-West Economic Corridor (EWEC)

With steady regional cooperation to promote effective East-West Economic Corridor (EWEC), Thailand took efforts to address cross-border transportation difficulties on this vital corridor, including repairing damaged roads and improving and streamlining cross-border process such as document inspection and other logistical procedures.

In addition, Thailand played an important role on the inclusion of routes No.8 and No.12 in the EWEC and the Greater Mekong Subregion Cross-Border Transport Agreement (GMS CBTA) during the  $2^{nd}$  Foreign Ministers' Meeting on the East-West Economic Corridor during 15-16 May in Savannakhet, the Lao PDR.



The 2<sup>nd</sup> Foreign Ministers' Meeting on the East-West Economic Corridor during 15-16 May 2013 in Savannakhet, Lao PDR

#### Mekong-Japan Cooperation

Thailand participated in the 5<sup>th</sup> Mekong-Japan Summit in Tokyo in December. At this event, we actively took part on the mid-term review of the Tokyo Strategy 2012 for Mekong-Japan Cooperation, which underlined the three key pillars of the Mekong-Japan Cooperation: (1) the promotion of connectivity in the Mekong river area, (2) development with strategic investments, and (3) creating confidence through human security and environmental sustainability.

Thailand also reaffirmed a readiness to work closely with Japan and other Mekong member countries to realise the projects in the adopted Plan of Action, particularly on the development of connectivity and trade facilitation.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, attended the 6<sup>th</sup> Mekong-Japan Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.



#### Mekong-Republic of Korea Cooperation

Continuing with the theme of enhanced regional cooperation on the Mekong, Thailand attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Mekong – Republic of Korea Foreign Ministers' Meeting on 30 June in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. In this forum, Thailand put forward key proposals such as (1) sharing technology on crop silos with the ROK to ensure quality storage of agricultural produce, (2) cooperation on the regional weather forecasting, and (3) supporting Cambodia's proposal to hold a meeting between Thailand, Cambodia, and the ROK on the improvement of Road No. 48 linking Thailand and Cambodia.



On 30 June 2013, Mr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Mekong-Republic of Korea Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.

#### Lower Mekong Initiative (LMI)

To continue with important activities of the LMI, Thailand attended the 6<sup>th</sup> Lower Mekong Initiative (LMI) Ministerial Meeting and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friends of the Lower Mekong Ministerial Meeting (FLM) on 1 July in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. Along with this year's focus on cooperation in connectivity and environmental sustainability, Thailand was able to make proposals on (1) enhancing capacity on border management,

(2) skill development in English language, and (3) prevention and control of Malaria in border areas. Thailand also attended the Lower Mekong Initiative's 5<sup>th</sup> Regional Working Group Meeting during 6-7 November in Cambodia. Importantly, this meeting discussed developments in the areas of agriculture and food security, connectivity, education, energy security, environment and water, and health.





On 1 July 2013, Mr. Sihasak Phuangketkeow, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, represented Thailand at the 6<sup>th</sup> Lower Mekong Initiative (LMI) Ministerial Meeting in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. The meeting was chaired by Mr. John Kerry, U.S. Secretary of State, and attended by representatives of Thailand, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Vietnam.

#### Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC)

In 2013, as a coordinator of the MGC, Thailand played major roles in the realms of culture, education, and tourism, which included the technical support for the establishment of a textile museum and vocational training centre in the region, as well as the organisation of tourism training curriculum for member countries.

#### Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD)

In 2013, Thailand proposed tourism to be the theme of the 12<sup>th</sup> Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Ministerial Meeting in Manama, Bahrain, and agreed to set up an Asian Tourism City award, an annual title to be granted to selected cities of ACD member states that have tourism potential. Other milestones in the ACD included the adoption of the ACD Energy Plan of Action and a framework for ACD energy cooperation for 2013-2017.

Another important area of cooperation is connectivity. Thailand hosted the Working Group Meeting on Enhanced ACD Regional Connectivity in July. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs seeks to work closely with ACD member states to draw up an ACD Connectivity Road Map which will be the main theme of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ACD Summit, which Thailand plans to host in 2015.





On 25 November 2013, Mr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, attended the 12<sup>th</sup> Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD)

Ministerial Meeting in Manama, Bahrain.



On 17 July 2013, Mr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, presided over the opening ceremony of the 1st Working Group Meeting on Enhanced Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Regional Connectivity.

#### Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

Thailand is committed to contributing to the progress in the APEC framework. In 2013, Thailand attended the  $21^{\rm st}$  APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting hosted by Indonesia during 7-8 October, where the participants aimed to attain the Bogor Goals of sustainable growth with equity while promoting connectivity.

The Meeting deliberated on the Bali Package, which included issues for trade facilitation, agriculture, and development. On connectivity, key areas were (1) physical connectivity that improves supply chain performance, connects and integrates logistics, transport, energy, and telecommunication infrastructure in the APEC region, (2) institutional connectivity that advances regulatory and procedural cooperation and coherence among our economies, and (3) people-to-people connectivity that enhances interaction, mobility, and joint endeavours.





During 7-8 October 2013, Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister, attended the 21<sup>st</sup> APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting hosted by Indonesia. (Photo Courtesy of APEC Secretariat)

#### Beyond Thailand: Thailand in the Global Dimension

Based on the vision of looking 'beyond Thailand', the Ministry of Foreign Affairs sought to play a constructive role in the international community by participating in international fora, as well as promoting international principles.

#### Participation at the United Nations General Assembly

Thailand attended the 68<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly during 24 September – 2 October in New York and took the opportunity to participate in a number of other meetings in ACD, ASEAN, and LLCD frameworks, as well as having bilateral meetings with 14 countries and international organisations. Thailand also hosted a reception in New York to launch a campaign on Thailand's candidature for non-permanent membership in the United Nations Security Council (2017-2018).





On 28 September 2013, Mr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul,

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, delivered his statement
at the General Debate of the 68<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

#### The Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

To maintain and expand its contribution to the UN Human Rights Council, Thailand announced its candidacy for the UN Human Rights Council for the term 2015-2017. In 2013, Thailand participated in the  $22^{nd}$  -  $24^{th}$  sessions of the Human Rights Council meetings in Geneva and proposed the enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity building in the field of human rights. The Prime Minister of Thailand attended and delivered a statement on various human rights issues at the  $24^{th}$  session of the Human Rights Council meeting in Geneva during 9-27 September. The UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation also visited Thailand between 1-8 February 2013.





During 24 February – 1 March 2013, Mr. Jullapong Nonsrichai, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, delivered his statement at the High Level Segment of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council (HRC) in Geneva.





On 9 September 2013, Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister, delivered her statement at the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva.

#### The Promotion and Protection of Persons with Disabilities

Thailand's role in promoting and protecting persons with disabilities in the international community was boosted by our attaining membership of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) for the term 2013-2016. For this important humanitarian activity, Thailand hosted a meeting to promote the rights of persons with disabilities under the theme "The Way Forward: Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation on a Disability-Inclusive Development Agenda towards 2015 and Beyond" during 15-16 May.





Thailand hosted a meeting to promote the rights of persons with disabilities under the theme "The Way Forward: Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation on a Disability-Inclusive Development Agenda towards 2015 and Beyond" during 15-16 May 2013.

#### Democracy

Representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs attended the  $6^{th}$  Bali Democracy Forum in Indonesia on 7 November. The Prime Minister also attended the  $7^{th}$  Ministerial Conference of the Community of Democracies in April 2013 in Mongolia.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Bali Democracy Forum on 7 November 2013 in Indonesia





The 7<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference of the Community of Democracies during 27-29 April 2013 in Mongolia (Photo Courtesy of The Nation)

#### **Human Security**

2013 saw the Ministry of Foreign Affairs play a part in enhancing Thailand's role in Human Security Network (HSN) and Group of Friends of Human Security (FHS). Thailand participated in the Human Security Network meeting in New York during the 68<sup>th</sup> UNGA, and also contributed 30,000 US dollars to the UN Trust Fund for Human Security.

#### Preventing and Solving the Problem of Narcotic Drugs

Thailand's commitment to solving transnational problem of narcotic drugs continued in 2013. Thailand attended the 56<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs during 11-15 March, as well as the 56<sup>th</sup> Reconvened Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs during 12-13 December in Vienna, Austria. In addition, Thailand participated in the Senior Officials Meeting under the 1993 MOU on Drug Control in the Greater Mekong Subregion during 6-10 May in Yangon, Myanmar. This year, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also continued with the Thai Youth Initiative against Drugs whereby young people were encouraged to actively participate in drug prevention programmes and activities.





On 12 March 2013, Her Royal Highness Princess Bajrakitiyabha,
Ambassador of Thailand to Austria and Permanent Representative of Thailand
to the United Nations in Vienna, and Mr. Yury Fedotov, Executive Director of the United Nations Office
on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), presided over the ceremony to inaugurate the exhibition entitled
"Thailand's Approach to Alternative Development," which was held during the 56<sup>th</sup> session
of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) at the United Nations Office in Vienna during 11-15 March 2013.





On 29 July 2013, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Office of the Narcotics Board Control (ONBC), the Ministry of Education, and the Asia-Pacific Non-Government Organization on Drug and Substance Abuse Prevention (ASPAC-NGO) co-organised a workshop for the presentation of project ideas as part of the Thai Youth Initiative against Drugs 2013 Project at Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

#### Health Diplomacy

Thailand actively participated in discussion and cooperation on health in various fora. As a member of the Foreign Policy and Global Health Initiative (FPGH), Thailand attended the FPGH Ministerial Breakfast during the 68<sup>th</sup> UNGA and took part in relevant activities in the Global Health Partnership and on promoting Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in international agencies such as ESCAP and HRC.

#### Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

As part of Thailand's continued commitment to the global cooperation on crime prevention and criminal justice, Thailand participated in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) during 22-26 April. Thailand's proposals, which were endorsed, focused on (1) the drafting of a model strategy on the prevention of child abuse, (2) the review of the standard minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners, (3) the promotion of the rule of law and crime prevention and criminal justice in the United Nations development agenda, (4) the prohibition of torture and killing of women and girls, and (5) the preparation for the 13<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.



On 27 September 2013, Mr. Yury Fedotov,
Executive Director of the United Nations Office
on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) had a discussion
with Mr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul,
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs,
during the latter's visit to New York for the 68<sup>th</sup>
Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Thailand hosted the Bangkok Dialogue on the Rule of Law on 15 November in Bangkok and was involved in many other forums such as the  $2^{nd}$  Session of the Working Group on the Smuggling of Migrants and the  $5^{th}$  Session of the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons in November in Vienna.





The Bangkok Dialogue on the Rule of Law: Investing in the Rule of Law,

Justice and Security for the Post-2015 Development Agenda on 15 November 2013 in Bangkok

(Photo Courtesy of Thailand Institute of Justice)

#### Global Migration

Thailand is well aware of the importance of foreign workers in the country, who have contributed to the Thai economy and social development. To stay consistent with international practice and standards, Thailand participated in a series of consultations on Migrant Health with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) this year. In addition, we also participated in the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development 2013 between 3-4 October in New York, as well as the 103rd Session of the IOM Council. As well, Thailand is seeking to play a more constructive role in the Bali Process and work closely with OIC, UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF, and ICRC to find a sustaining resolution for the issues of Rohingyas.

#### Living in Diversity

As part of Thailand's commitment to the development of multicultural and peaceful societies, Thailand delivered a statement on the importance of diversity at the  $5^{\rm th}$  Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations during 26-28 February in Vienna. In relation to this, Thailand also hosted the conference on the role of religion in building peace at the Regional Interfaith Dialogue on 13 February.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Global Forum of the United Nations
Alliance of Civilizations
during 26-28 February 2013 in Vienna



## Thailand's Candidature for Non-permanent Membership of the UNSC for the Term 2017-2018

Thailand firmly believes in the UN system and that every member state has a valuable contribution to make to peace and security. With Thailand's experiences in regional and international peace making and peace building, Thailand announced its candidature for a non-permanent membership of the UNSC for the term 2017-2018. Many awareness-raising activities were undertaken, including the official launch of this campaign on 16 August.





On 16 August 2013, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted a reception to officially launch a campaign promoting Thailand's candidature for non-permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council (2017-2018) at Vithes Samosorn Hall, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.





On 30 September 2013, Mr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, hosted a reception in New York to launch Thailand's campaign for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the term 2017-2018.

#### Promoting Peace, Security, and Disarmament

In keeping with Thailand's traditions of playing a constructive role in promoting peace and security, as well as participation in the United Nations Peacekeeping and Humanitarian Missions, Thailand was involved in a number of events this year. One example was the visit of Lieutenant General Babacar Gaye, Assistant Secretary-General/Military Advisor for Peacekeeping Operations to Thailand during 3-4 June.





The visit of Lieutenant General Babacar Gaye, Assistant Secretary-General/ Military Advisor for Peacekeeping Operations to Thailand during 3-4 June 2013

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs co-hosted the Workshop under the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) on 20 August with the U.S., as well as the Open Ended Consultations (OEC) on the Draft International Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities during 20-22 November. Thailand also participated in the  $1^{\rm st}$  Asia Regional Meeting to Facilitate Dialogue on the Arms Trade Treaty during 26-27 February in Kuala Lumpur and the  $2^{\rm nd}$  Meeting during 26-27 November in Manila. In addition, Thailand attended the Final UN Conference in the Arms Trade Treaty (Final ATT) at UN Headquarters in New York.





During 20-22 November 2013, Thailand hosted the Open Ended Consultations (OEC) on the Draft International Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities in Bangkok.





During 26-27 November, Thailand participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia Regional Meeting to Facilitate Dialogue on the Arms Trade Treaty in Manila.

Thailand also plays a role in the global anti-landmine campaign. In this field, Thailand held the Bangkok Symposium on Enhancing Cooperation and Assistance: Building Synergy towards Effective Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation during 23-25 June. There was also a visit of Myanmar delegation to observe Thailand's Mine Action Centre during 25-30 August.



During 23-25 June 2013, Thailand hosted the Bangkok Symposium on Enhancing Cooperation and Assistance: Building Synergy towards Effective Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation.

#### Intellectual Property

Intellectual Property issue is an important aspect of Thailand's participation in the global economy. For this, Thailand was particularly active in attending the 23<sup>rd</sup> WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (WIPO IGC) during 4-8 February, the 24<sup>th</sup> IGC during 22-26 April, and the 25<sup>th</sup> IGC during 15-24 July. From Thailand's end, we hosted the Informal Meeting related to Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC Retreat) during 5-7 July in Bangkok, and also hosted preparation meetings for the WIPO IGC three times in 2013.

Thailand attended the 51<sup>st</sup> Session of WIPO General Assembly during 23 September – 4 October and attended the 12<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) during 18-21 November, not to mention the 2<sup>nd</sup> WIPO Annual Conference on South-South Cooperation on Intellectual Property and Development on 22 November. Thailand also took part in the Project on Intellectual Property and Product Branding for Business Development in Developing Countries and Least-Developed Countries (Branding Projects).

#### Sustainability in Natural Resources, Environment, and Development

As part of Thailand's commitment to promote sustainable development, sustainability in natural resources and environment is a key priority. For this, Thailand has engaged in a number of efforts, such as to enhance international cooperation on conservation through activities related to environmental diplomacy, including the hosting of the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CITES Conference and screening the wild animal conservation film "Return to the Forest" on 13 March, and hosting of the Climate Change Retreat in preparation for the 19<sup>th</sup> UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCC) during 11-22 November 2013 in Warsaw.

The screening of the documentary

"Return to the forest"

on 28 March 2013 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs



In addition, Thailand has actively taken part in the setting of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We hosted the Asia Pacific Ministerial Dialogue: From the Millennium Development Goals to the United Nations Development Agenda Beyond 2015 during 26-28 August in Bangkok in which participants constructively exchanged views in various discussion, and whereby the Bangkok Declaration of the Asia-Pacific Region on the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015 was adopted. Other activities in

promoting development included our hosting of the  $69^{th}$  Commission Session of ESCAP during 25 April – 1 May, the hosting of the  $2^{nd}$  Asia-Pacific Water Summit during 19-20 May in Chiang Mai, and our participation in subsequent meetings on water management cooperation such as in Tajikistan in August.





During 26-28 August 2013, Thailand hosted the Asia Pacific Ministerial Dialogue: From the Millennium Development Goals to the United Nations Development Agenda Beyond 2015.



During 14-20 May 2013, Thailand in collaboration with the Asia-Pacific Water Forum hosted the  $2^{\rm nd}$  Asia-Pacific Water Summit ( $2^{\rm nd}$  APWS) in conjunction with Technical Workshops and Exhibitions in Chiang Mai.

On 20 August 2013, Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister, participated in the High-Level International Conference on Water Cooperation (HLICWC) in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.



An overarching theme in Thailand's economic and social development policy is the philosophy of Sufficiency Economy which underpins successful implementation of sustainable development. Our contribution to the international society in this aspect was to share our practical and successful experience such as on our participation in the ECOSOC Substantive Session during 1-25 July in Geneva, and our hosting of the 2013 Bangkok Conference Global Dialogue on Sustainable Development on 10 October in Bangkok.

#### Maritime Security

Growing international piracy is a concern for all countries, as vital sea lanes of communication in the transport of goods and strategic resources are being jeopardised by increasingly organised criminal elements that transcend national sea and land borders. Thailand has been a victim of this piracy and has committed itself to a host of international maritime security initiatives. Most recently in 2013, Thailand attended the 93rd session of the Maritime Safety Committee during 14-23 March in London and the 7<sup>th</sup> Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) during 5-7 March in Singapore. Thailand was elected to the Council of International Maritime Organization (IMO Council) for the term 2014-2015, and the Royal Thai Navy took part in the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) in counter-piracy operations.





On 29 November 2013, Thailand was re-elected as Member of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Council under Category C at the 28<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the IMO Assembly held at the IMO Headquarters in London.

#### Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime

Thailand continued with its efforts in the fight against global terrorism and transnational crime by taking part in a number of key activities in 2013. These have included the APEC Counter-Terrorism Task Force (CTTF) Meeting in Indonesia, the Global Counterterrorism Forum's South East Asia Capacity Building Working Group in Indonesia, the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC), Senior Officials' Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC), ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (ARF ISM on CTTC), the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus Experts Working Group on Counter Terrorism (ADMM Plus EWG on CT), BIMSTEC Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (JWG-CTTC) and BIMSTEC Sub-Group on Combating the Financing of Terrorism (SG-CFT).



# CHAPTER 4

Cooperation for Development, Humanitarian Assistance, and Cultural Diplomacy

#### International Cooperation in Development

With Thailand's successful experience on development issues and recognition of the importance in sharing this experience and best practices, Thailand has sought to enhance development cooperation as a cornerstone of the country's foreign policy. Cooperation in this area falls into many aspects, including the provision of scholarships, special training courses, as well as provision of technical assistance and equipment. Thailand's international development cooperation are in various forms such as bilateral or trilateral programmes, as well as in sub-regional, regional, and international frameworks.

#### Bilateral Development Cooperation

In fulfilling Thailand's commitment to enhancing security and prosperity in mainland Southeast Asia, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been active in implementing several development cooperation programmes with our immediate neighbours. In the case of the Lao PDR, Thailand undertook development cooperation programmes for 2013 in many fields, such as agriculture, education, public health, economic development, and natural resources sustainability. For Cambodia, our cooperation programme included a Thai-language curriculum development, skill development, as well as a medical personnel development project. Thailand's cooperation programmes with Myanmar included Thai language teaching, technical assistance, as well as hospital improvement and livestock management.





On 24 January 2013, Mr. Jullapong Nonsrichai, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand, and Associate Professor Dr. Kongsy Sengmany, Vice Minister for Education and Sports of the Lao PDR, participated in the handing over ceremony of the Ban Bajiang Training Station in Champasak, the Lao PDR.



In October 2013, the Ambassador of Thailand to Cambodia and Director-General of Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) visited the construction site of dormitory and sport stadium, along with the renovation of buildings and roads at the Cambodian-Thai Skill Development Centre.

During 17-22 June 2013, Thai specialists from the Department of Livestock Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, demonstrated the plantation of fodders for livestock under the Project of Livestock Development Village in Myawaddy, Myanmar, in the Thai-Myanmar border area.







During 27 June – 2 July 2013, Ms. Angsana Sihapitak, Deputy Director-General of TICA, headed the Thai delegation to discuss with the representatives from the Ministry of Health, Myanmar, on Malaria Prevention and Control along the Thai - Myanmar border area.

For Thailand's other regional partners, 2013 saw the establishment of several development cooperation initiatives. For instance, with Vietnam, Thailand embarked on many development cooperation projects in agriculture, public health, and education. Training programmes on environmental sustainability, toxicology, and agriculture were also initiated by TICA for our friends in Bangladesh, India, and Sri Lanka, not to mention the deployment of special volunteers to Bhutan. For Jordan, Thailand has been continuing with a development cooperation programme on artificial rain.





During 21-28 September 2013 in Dhaka, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by TICA collaborated with the Prostheses Foundation of H.R.H. the Princess Mother in delivering a prosthetic mobile clinic. The medical team gave aid and provided prosthetic legs to the victims of building collapse in Savar and general public, altogether 97 people.



On 9 October 2013, volunteers from Thailand performed the demonstration of mowing Napier Pak Chong (Pennisetum purpureum, Schum) at the National Feed and Fodder Development Programme, Department of Livestock in Tang Village, Bumthang, Bhutan.

In March 2013, Jordanian delegation paid a study visit on the artificial rain production under Thailand-Jordan Technical Cooperation Programme.



With friends from afar, Thailand also took the initiative to share experiences and best practices. For our friends in Africa, as part of our Thai-Africa Initiative, Thailand commenced many cooperation projects such as fisheries in Mozambique and Senegal, gems-cutting training for Madagascar, and sustainable tourism management and diplomatic skills training. For our partners in Latin America, Thailand implemented cooperation on issues of common interests such as forensic science with Argentina, tourism with Brazil, mining with Peru, including several visits under FEALAC framework. With our Pacific Island friends, Thailand began several development cooperation programmes, particularly in the fields of sustainable development and sufficiency economy, global warming, food security, and public health.



During 21-27 October 2013, a team from TICA visited Mozambique to follow up with the Development of Small Scale Fishery Project.





During 4-15 March 2013, Thai specialists from the Central Institute of Forensic Science paid a study visit to the Forensic Laboratory in Argentina and exchanged technical knowledge and experience in the area of Genetics and Anthropological Laboratory with the Argentina Forensic Anthropology Team (EAAF).

# Development Cooperation under Sub-regional and Regional Frameworks

Along with other countries, Thailand has played a key role in contributing to the sub-regional and regional development cooperation. For instance within ACMECS, Thailand has provided scholarships and training courses in the areas of agriculture, public health, education, economic development, energy, environmental sustainability, skills training, tourism, and science and technology. Within the GMS framework, Thailand has established training scholarships in the areas of public health and social development, and within the larger ASEAN framework, Thailand has provided training scholarships in the areas of agriculture, labour, and public administration. This has also taken form under the BIMSTEC framework, where Thailand has recently established training scholarships in the area of agriculture.

#### Working with Thailand's Development Partners

Thailand's success as a donor country and development partner has, in many parts, been due to longstanding cooperation with our more advanced partners. The formula is for Thailand to serve as an effective bridge between advanced economies and those in need of development assistance. For this, Thailand worked with several partners this year. Key examples include technical assistance and volunteers from Japan, the ROK, and the U.S. in collaborative projects such as with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), and the Peace Corps, respectively.





On 16 July 2013, Mr. Piroon Laismit, Director-General of TICA welcomed Mr. Young-mok Kim, President of Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) on his visit to Thailand, and discussed ideas to enhance close collaboration.





On 6 August 2013, Ms. Suchada Thaibunthao, Deputy Director-General of TICA, presided over the welcoming and hand-over ceremony of 12 Japanese Organization Community Volunteers (JOCV) and Senior Volunteers (SV) to Thai agencies.

Trilateral Cooperation, or cooperation with another developed country/ agency in providing development assistance to a third country, is another key aspect of our development cooperation. For 2013, there were many examples. For instance, Thailand and France cooperated in a programme to assist Mozambique on fisheries, while also

offering research funds under the Royal Golden Jubilee Scholarship to our mainland Southeast Asian friends (Cambodia, the Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Vietnam). Thailand and Germany worked together on Paper Mulberry Supply Chain and Strengthening National Good Agricultural Practice Projects for the Lao PDR, as well as on Advanced Technical Service for SMEs in Selected Industrial Sectors in Vietnam. With the U.S., in particular USAID, Thailand participated in an assistance programme for Malaria prevention in Thailand-Myanmar border areas, in addition to the cooperation on biotechnology, pollution-free development, and law enforcement to protect wild life and plants. As well, Thailand – New Zealand cooperation in 2013 focused on providing support for human resource development in Southeast Asia, while Thailand – Japan cooperation focused on joint training programmes for many other developing partners.



During 22 March – 3 April 2013, Thai specialists from Department of Fisheries, visited Mozambique to give advice on the prevention of the white spot virus in shrimp under Thailand-France-Mozambique Trilateral Cooperation.

On 18 June 2013, Representatives from Department of Agriculture, the Lao PDR, paid a study visit to the Strengthening National Good Agricultural Practice Project in Suphan Buri Province in Thailand.





The training course on Agricultural Sector
Value Chain Analysis and Promotion
under the Thai-New Zealand Trilateral Cooperation
during 19-30 August 2013 at Mekong Institute,
Khon Kaen Province, Thailand.

During 14-27 September 2013, representatives from TICA, JICA Thailand, JICA Headquarter, and Kasetsart University paid a visit to Uganda and Togo to explore the possibility of the implementation of Trilateral Cooperation on Rice Production for African Countries under the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD).



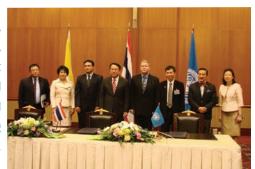


On 10 September 2013, TICA in cooperation with JICA hosted the Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development Aid Coordination Meeting in Bangkok.

The CEAPAD was initiated by Japan aiming at fostering the development assistance from East Asian countries for Palestine.

Without question, Thailand and the United Nations have a long history of joint cooperation for the global development agenda. In 2013, Thailand worked with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to provide knowledge and training on reproductive health, as well as mother and child care. Thailand and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) also cooperated on sharing knowledge and experience, as well as promoting the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in our neighbouring and other developing countries.

On 26 April 2013, Mr. Piroon Laismit,
Director-General of TICA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Mr. Tandin Dorji, Director-General of the Department
of Public Health, Ministry of Health of Bhutan and
Mr. Caspar Peek, UNFPA Representative for Thailand
signed the Memorandum of Understanding regarding
Trilateral Partnership on Technical Cooperation.



# Cooperation on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Mitigation

Thailand has been stepping up its efforts in responding to disasters, especially in cooperation with other countries. In 2013, Thailand took part in the global response in providing humanitarian assistance to several disaster situations such as the building collapse in Bangladesh, the earthquakes in Pakistan and the PRC, the devastating floods in India, the PRC and Myanmar, and Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines.





On 19 November 2013, Mr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, presented 200,000 US dollars (around 6 million baht) to H.E. Jocelyn S. Batun Garcia, Ambassador of the Philippines to Thailand, as part of Thailand's contribution to the Government of the Philippines for disaster relief following the devastation caused by Typhoon Haiyan.

In 2013, Thailand served as chair of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) and participated in the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre), as well as co-hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Regional Forum Disaster Relief Exercise (DiREx) with the ROK on 7-11 May in Phetchaburi, Thailand.

#### **Extending Strong Cultural Ties**

An important part of the work carried out by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is cooperation with various friends to enhance cultural links. Such ties are essential for the maintenance of goodwill and understanding between the people of Thailand and our international friends.

The Ministry attaches importance to the promotion of multi-cultural societies underpinned by mutual understanding and acceptance. In 2013, we produced Islamic Calendars by using award winning photos about the livelihoods of Muslims in Thailand. As well, the Ministry provided publications and multimedia for "Thai Corner" in many

educational institutions abroad, local libraries, and Thai student associations abroad. A key example is the publication and dissemination of a book titled "Muslim Thais: Diversity and Creativity." Thailand also organised international visitors' programme this year, such as a familiarisation trip to Thailand for representatives from ASEAN and Muslim media; invitations to key media personalities to visit Thailand to interview senior government officials and high-level private sector personalities; a study visit for ASEAN Media to the rural areas of Thailand; and a briefing to Muslim media on the situation of Southern Border Provinces of Thailand during the said study visit.

In 2013, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs continued with a number of cultural activities to promote people-to-people ties. These included the Royal Sponsored Offering of Buddhist Robes to Buddhist temples in other countries to promote people-to-people contacts and enhance bilateral relations with these countries; support for Thai contestants in Quran reading competitions; activities to promote Thai culture, Thai films, TV dramas; and to promote Muay Thai (Thai Boxing) by organising a number of activities abroad; for example, in Italy, Russia, the Czech Republic, and Hungary.





During 23-24 October 2013, Mr. Nuttavudh Photisaro, Deputy Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs, presided over the Offering Ceremony of the Royal Kathina Robes, graciously bestowed by His Majesty the King through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to the congregation of monks at Niroth Raingsey Monastery, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.





Thai contestants participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Competition of the Holy Quran Recitation during 10-15 September 2013 in Jakarta, Indonesia.





On 2 July 2013, Her Royal Highness Princess Bajrakitiyabha, Ambassador of Thailand to Austria and Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations in Vienna, presided over the Thai Festival 2013 to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of the Diplomatic Relations between Thailand and Austria in Prater, Vienna.



During 20-30 April 2013, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Royal Thai Embassy in Nairobi, and Royal Thai Embassy in Dakar organised a Thai cultural show in Kenya and Senegal.





During 30 June – 18 July 2013, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Royal Thai Embassy in Santiago, and Royal Thai Embassy in Buanos Aires organised a Thai cultural show in Chile, Argentina, and Uruguay.



During 11 August – 3 September 2013, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Royal Thai Embassies in Oslo, Copenhagen, Stockholm, and Helsinki organised Thai cultural shows in Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Finland, and Denmark.



During 8-10 April 2013, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Royal Thai Embassy in Jakarta led the directors and cast from GTH's movie "Pee Mak" to the movie premier in Jakarta, Indonesia.





During 17-19 April 2013, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Royal Thai Embassy in Beijing, and National Federation of Thai Film Associations organised a Thai film festival in Beijing.





Muay Thai Demonstration in Saint Petersburg and Moscow, Russia, during 26 May – 3 June 2013

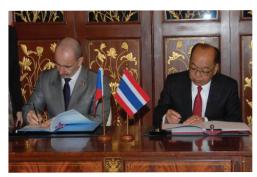


# CHAPTER 5 Economic Diplomacy

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has contributed in many ways to the implementation of Thailand's international economic policy. Our efforts in economic diplomacy focused on enhancing Thailand's competitiveness, economic strength and capacity, promoting Thailand's and services, as well as expanding our international economic cooperation in such areas as science, technology and innovation as well as food and energy security. The Ministry's economic diplomacy is in line with the 11<sup>th</sup> National Economic and Social Development Plan (2012-2016), as well as the New Growth Model under the government's 'Country Strategy' with an aim to take the country out of the middle - income trap. Emphasis was thus given to a quality - based economic system that gives priority to knowledge and value creation.

## Promoting Thailand's International Trade and Investment

Working together with other economic agencies, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs undertook a number of activities in 2013 to enhance trade and investment relations with our existing key market partners such as the U.S., Europe, and Japan. At the same time, our economic ties with many other countries were also strengthened.





On 23 January 2013, Mr. Martin Kuba, Minister of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic, visited Thailand to co-chair the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation (JEC) between Thailand and the Czech Republic, with Mr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul,

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

In addition, the Ministry sought to reach out to new expanding and potential markets, such as in Africa, Central Asia and Latin America. Examples included our activities under the "Thai-Africa Initiative", such as the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Senior Officials' Meetings on the Thai-Africa Initiative in May and September 2013, as well as participating in Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) to enhance closer ties and greater connectivity among countries in Asia. These included our hosting of the 1<sup>st</sup> Working Group Meeting on Enhanced Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Regional Connectivity on 17 July 2013 and attending the 12<sup>th</sup> Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Ministerial Meeting in Manama, Bahrain, on 25 November 2013.



On 17 July 2013, Mr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul,
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs,
presided over the Opening Ceremony
of the 1<sup>st</sup> Working Group Meeting on Enhanced Asia
Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Regional Connectivity in Bangkok.





On 25 November 2013, Mr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, attended the 12<sup>th</sup> Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Ministerial Meeting in Manama, Bahrain. The Meeting was chaired by Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al-Khalifa, Foreign Minister of Bahrain, and attended by 33 foreign ministers and other heads of delegation from ACD Member States.





Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister, discussed with Thai representatives of private sectors who accompanied her on the official visits to Mozambique, Tanzania, and Uganda during 28 July – 2 August 2013.



On 30 July 2013 at the Thailand-Tanzania Forum in Dar es Salaam, Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra,
Prime Minister, launched the "Thai-Africa Initiative" aiming at enhancing partnership between Thailand and
Africa and providing the building block for a wider Asia-Africa link.





During 5-8 September 2013, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with Mr. Sihasak Phuangketkeow, Permanent Secretary, as chairperson, hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thai-Africa Initiative Senior Officials' Meeting to prepare for the Thai-Africa High-level Dialogue which Thailand planned to host in a near future and pave the way forward to enhance cooperation between Thailand and African countries.

Another key endeavour was to promote the country's border trade. Based on mutual benefits between Thailand and our neighbours, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been actively supporting government efforts to facilitate border trade and assist Thai entrepreneurs in expanding their trade and investment in Thailand's neighbouring countries. Examples included the signing of the Agreement on Border Crossing between Thailand and Malaysia, and the MOU on the Proposed Development by Private Sector in the Border Area during the Thai Prime Minister's official visit to Malaysia for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Consultation on 28 February 2013. Other important efforts included the opening and upgrading of checkpoints along Thailand's border with our neighbours to facilitate transportation and trade.

In coordination with the Board of Investment of Thailand (BOI), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been supporting Thailand's investment abroad, as well as implementing several programmes to facilitate international investors into Thailand. Our embassies world-wide have been active in receiving BOI delegations and coordinating between Thai and foreign investors to synergise their efforts in a competitive international investment market. Within this range of activities, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has participated in developing investment agreements to help protect Thai investors overseas, promoting education, and enhancing the knowledge and understanding of the new trade and investment issues for Thai entrepreneurs such as organising the Seminar on Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements in European Union on 27 March 2013 and the "Ambassador's Talk: Opportunities for Thai Trades and Investments in Middle East" on 6 August 2013.





On 6 August 2013, the Department of South Asian, Middle East, and African Affairs,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in association with the Federation of Thai Industries
and the Thai Chamber of Commerce organised "Ambassador's Talk: Opportunities for Thai Trades
and Investments in Middle East" in Bangkok.

# Strengthening Confidence in Thailand's Economy and Supporting the Government's Economic Policy

In a highly competitive global market, the importance of creating and sustaining confidence in a country's products requires efforts from the government and private sectors. It has therefore been a role of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to work together with other agencies in promoting Thailand's products and services overseas, especially in the strategy to capture a growing number of "niche markets" for Thai brands. As well, the Ministry was active throughout the year in enhancing Thailand's competitive role in the international corporate community. This has been implemented by such measures as completing key agreements with regional countries through ACMECS, GMS and IMT-GT; introducing and implementing the One Ambassador-Three Products project to promote top Thai products and premium OTOP (One Tambon, One Product) products overseas; and promoting international cooperation in the area of food and energy security. Examples of these activities included our participation in the ACMECS Senior Official's Meeting in Vientiane, the Lao PDR on 11 March 2013 and the organisation of Thai Festival 2013 by our Embassies and Consulate-Generals worldwide.





On 13 March 2013, the Government of Lao PDR and the Government of Thailand signed the MOU on Cooperation in the Promotion of the Contract Farming Scheme under ACMECS in Vientiane.





Thai Festival in Kunming during 4-9 May 2013.





Thai Festival 2013 in Tokyo during 11-12 May 2013



Thai Festival in Denmark on 8 June 2013.





Thai Festival in Chicago during 19-21 June 2013

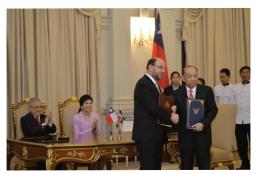


Thai Festival in Singapore on 29 August 2013.

# Supporting and Contributing to Free Trade Agreement Negotiation

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has constantly been involved in the negotiation of bilateral free trade agreements with our trading partners. This year, the Ministry was involved in many Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations, some of which were successfully completed. For example, Thailand and Chile signed FTA on 4 October 2013, Thailand and Peru concluded negotiations, Thailand and EU started the FTA negotiation process in March 2013.

On 4 October 2013, Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister of Thailand, and Mr. Sebastián Piñera, President of Chile, witnessed the signing of the Thai-Chile Free Trade Agreement (FTA) at the Government House, Thailand.



#### **Enhancing Capacity of Thai Entrepreneurs**

One of the highlights for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs this year was the establishment of a Business Information Center (BIC) website (www.thaibiz.net) which provides important information on economic opportunities, rules and regulations, as well as key events. It also serves as a network of Business Information Centres of various Thai Embassies and Consulate-Generals abroad. The establishment of the BIC aims at enhancing cooperation and networking between Thai and foreign private sectors. The initiatives in opportunity creation and network expansion also include the visit of Thai business delegations in accompany with the Prime Minister of Thailand to various countries, whereby business events and activities were arranged during the visits.



ThaiBiz.net website



On 24 July 2013, Mr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, officially launched the Business Information Centre (BIC) website ThaiBiz.net at Vithes Samosorn Hall, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



On 29 July 2013, Prime Minister of Thailand and the President of Mozambique delivered statements at Business Forum: Strengthening Thailand-Mozambique Business Partnership during the official visit to Mozambique

During 19-20 August 2013, Private sectors from Thailand and Tajikistan participated in the Business Matching during the Thai Prime Minister's official visit to Tajikistan.





On 11 September 2013, the Department of International Economic Affairs organised a discussion on "Possibility for Cooperation between Thai and Italian Companies".

On 12 September 2013, Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra,
Prime Minister, presided over the signing
of agreement between Thai and Italian private sectors
in the Business Forum in Rome during the official
visit to Italy from 9-14 September 2013.



Furthermore, by acknowledging that key element in achieving the enhancement of Thai entrepreneurs' competence in a competitive global market is the advancement in the areas of science, technology, and innovation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has thus undertaken proactive approaches in promoting international cooperation on science, technology, and innovation with countries such as in East Asia, Europe, North America, and South Pacific. Examples were the inclusion of representatives from Thailand's key agencies in these areas in the Prime Minister's foreign visits, the exchange of visits by relevant experts, and the arrangement of creative partnership programmes, etc.



On 14 August 2013, the Department of American and South Pacific Affairs organised the Thai-U.S. Creative Partnership Speakers Program Series: The Journey in Independent Animation with John Andrews.

On 3 October 2013, Mr. Singtong Lapisatepun,
Minister of the Royal Thai Embassy in Tokyo,
and Ms. Rommane Kananyrak, Deputy Director-General,
Department of East Asian Affairs, led representatives
from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and
Ministry of Education to a study visit at Institute
of Technologists (Monotsukuri Institute) in Japan
to discuss on educational cooperation.



#### **Promoting Regional Connectivity**

Thailand's economic development and business sector development will depend on how well Thailand is connected to the region, and how the region is connected with the rest of the world. For this, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been active throughout the year in encouraging and supporting transportation development, as well as logistics connectivity within sub-regional and ASEAN frameworks. This is seen by our close cooperation with our neighbours in the development of infrastructure and border areas. These have included the opening of new checkpoint in Kanchanaburi Province, on the Thailand-Myanmar border leading to Dawei, the opening of the 4<sup>th</sup> Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge across the Mekong River, progress in the efforts to upgrade checkpoints on the Thailand-Lao PDR border as well as opening new checkpoint on the Thailand-Cambodia border in Sakaeo Province.



On 11 December 2013, Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn presided over the opening ceremony of the 4<sup>th</sup> Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge in the northern Thai district of Chiang Khong.

#### Participation in International Economic Framework

Throughout 2013, Thailand maintains constructive role and contribution to international economic frameworks such as Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and East Asia Summit (EAS), while keeping up with the development of new alternative frameworks such as Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).



# CHAPTER 6 Promoting Peace and Security in the Southern Border Provinces

Along with other government agencies, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has contributed to the continuing efforts of bringing sustainable peace, security, and development to Thailand's Southern Border Provinces (SBPs). In 2013, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs undertook a number of missions and activities, in accordance with government policy, so as to gain support and cooperation from the international community for this peace and development process.

# Strengthening Support Networks within the Country

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has contributed to providing relevant information about international norms, standards, and procedures to Thai officials involved with the SBPs including by organising training courses and lectures on key issues such as human rights and international civil rights. An example was the pre-deployment training on human rights issues for soldiers departing for the SBPs at the Suriyapong Military Camp in Nan Province, on 26 March 2013.

With an aim to create better understanding within the international civil society about the situation in the SBPs and as a way to enhance transparency and inclusiveness in the process, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also been active in engaging with several Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). In addition, we organised a special talk on the role of the Ministry in the international aspects of Thailand's efforts to address the issue of peace in the SBPs.

## Supporting Education for Thai Muslim Students Abroad

There are more than 6,000 Thai Muslim students studying abroad, most of them are from the SBPs. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs undertook many activities to provide support and promote their well-being. For instance, the Ministry provided scholarships to Thai Muslim students in the areas of Business Administration, Linguistic, Economics, and Computer Science. As well, the Ministry has allocated a budget for Royal Thai Embassies and Consulate-Generals to support the education of Thai Muslim students and ensure their well-being while living in foreign countries. In order to give Thai Muslim students from the SBPs better opportunities in education and training, the Ministry has also promoted closer cooperation with a number of educational institutions worldwide.





During 13-17 February 2013, the Royal Thai Embassy in Ankara held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of Thai Students in Turkey.





During 8 September – 6 October 2013, the Royal Thai Consulate-General in Dubai organised a month-long study programme in Dubai with the aim to promote education and culture in a moderate Muslim society for Thai Muslim students from the Southern Provinces of Thailand.



On 26 April 2013, the Royal Thai Embassy in Tripoli led a group of Thai students to a study visit at Leptis Magna in Libya.





On 14 December 2013, the Royal Thai Embassy in Islamabad held a get-together with the Thai Students Union in Islamabad. On this special occasion, sports activities such as football, table tennis, and Sepaktakraw were organised and participated by the officers and staff of the Royal Thai Embassy and Thai students.

#### Supporting the Hajj Pilgrimage

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has long supported and facilitated the Hajj pilgrims during the Hajj season to provide safe passage for Thai Muslims on this important trip.

In 2013, the Ministry's role in supporting the Hajj Pilgrimage included (1) appointing a special Consul on Hajj Affairs in Saudi Arabia, (2) facilitating the application of Hajj Passports in the SBPs, (3) giving financial support to the leader of Hajj representatives of Thailand (Amirul Hajj), and (4) dispatching liaison officers to facilitate and support Thai citizens who joined the pilgrimages in Mecca and Medina during the Hajj season.





The Royal Thai Consulate-General in Jeddah welcomed the delegation from Thailand to Saudi Arabia for Umrah practice on 16 June 2013.

# Cooperation with Malaysia on Bringing Peace to the SBPs

Communities in the SBPs have a long history of interaction with our Malaysian friends in the border areas. Therefore, an integrated approach to promote peace and development of this area involves support and contribution from the Malaysian Government in close cooperation with Thai agencies. In 2013, this close cooperation took many forms such as the exchanges of visits and high-level meetings, as well as projects and activities under the Joint Development Strategy for Border Areas (JDS), Joint Commission (JC), and Thailand-Malaysia Cooperation in Education.

Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister, attended the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Consultation to strengthen friendship and reaffirm the close partnership between Thailand and Malaysia.









During 17-19 September 2013, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Royal Thai Embassy in Kuala Lumpur led Thai and Malaysian students in Malaysia to attend the  $2^{\rm nd}$  Thailand-Malaysia University Students Forums.

# Interaction with the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs attaches importance to providing accurate information about the situation in the SBPS. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs monitors viewpoints of other countries and agencies about the SBPs, and when appropriate, has taken measures to promote understanding of the situation through different channels.

To continue with a history of cooperation with the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the Ministry has once again this year welcomed delegations from the OIC to Thailand, in particular to the SBPs, to follow up on previous cooperative efforts and to update on latest developments.



The visit of delegation from the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to the Southern Border Provinces on 31 January 2013

By the same token, Thailand has participated in various OIC activities and meetings as an observer state. These have included (1) the Islamic Summit Conference during 2-7 February in Egypt, (2) consultations with the OIC Secretary-General during Thai Prime Minister's official visit to Turkey in July, and (3) participation in the OIC Ministerial Meeting on 9-11 December in Guinea.

Thailand attended the 12<sup>th</sup> Session of the Islamic Summit Conference in Cairo which commenced on 6 February 2013.



To support these endeavours, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has carried out several activities to help strengthen multicultural network and understanding within civil society. This has included (1) arranging a familiarisation trip for the Muslim media to visit Thailand, (2) promoting pluralism in the Thai society through activities such as the "Thai Muslim Way of Life" photography contest, (3) producing and distributing an Islamic calendar by using award winning photos about Muslim communities in Thailand, and (4) the publication of the book "Muslims in Southern Thailand" in English, Arabic, and French.



The visit of the Muslim media to an islamic school in Songkhla Province of Thailand in June 2013

#### Cooperation with the United Nations

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been a focal point in providing updated information on Thailand's policies and measures implemented in the SBPs to concerned international organisations, including the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Thailand has attached particular importance to the promotion and protection of the rights of the child throughout the country, including in the SBPs. In this connection, the Ministry has worked closely with relevant line agencies in order to provide timely responses and clarifications to allegations from relevant treaty bodies, human rights special procedures, as well as related report of the UN Secretary-General.



# CHAPTER Public Diplomacy

One priority of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is to excel in people-centred diplomacy. The Ministry seeks to provide information regarding the country's foreign policy direction and implementation, as well as how they can impact the lives of the Thai people and community. This is because the involvement and participation of all sectors of Thai society is an important element of successful foreign policy implementation. In 2013, activities under public diplomacy took many forms such as training programmes, conferences, and seminars.

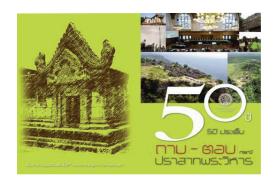
#### Keeping the Public Informed

It is important for the Thai public to understand the country's foreign policy priorities such as cooperation with our neighbours, promotion of economic growth in the region, ASEAN cooperation, and our role in international organisations and in the international community. It is also important for the Thai public to be aware of how country's foreign policy apparatus has played a role in curtailing a number of threats to the society and in preventing conflicts. For this, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has continuously used many different channels to communicate with the people particularly through various kinds of media. We also arrange conferences to create awareness of such issues as global and regional security developments, economic diplomacy, maritime security, human rights, environmental sustainability, public health, disaster mitigation and management, as well as trade and investment.

### Awareness Raising on International Laws and Boundaries

One key issue for Thailand in terms of international law this year was Cambodia's Request to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for Interpretation of the Judgment of the 1962 Case concerning the Temple of Phra Viharn. To keep the public informed on this important yet complicated issue, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs continuously provided information on backgrounds and developments of the case through various channels such as brochures, books, radio and television documentaries, website www.phraviharn. org, and social media. Moreover, after the ICJ rendered its decision on 11 November 2013, the Prime Minister set up a committee to study the Judgment in details. This exercise involved a wide range of concerned agencies and sectors, and the progress was informed to the public.

More generally, the Ministry seeks to keep the public informed of the process in the demarcation of land boundary with neighbouring countries. On maritime boundary, the Ministry has taken the initiative to discuss this matter with the related government agencies in order to develop and improve Maritime Law to be consistent with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).





Examples of publications on the background and development of the Temple of Phra Viharn case







During 15-19 April 2013, Mr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Phongthep Thepkanjana, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education, and Air Chief Marshal Sukumphol Suwanatat, Minister of Defence, led the Thai delegation to attend Thailand's presentation of arguments and its final submission to the International Court of Justice in the public hearings in the Case concerning Cambodia's Request for Interpretation of the Judgment of 15 June 1962 in the Case concerning the Temple of Phra Viharn.





On 19 November 2013, Mr. Sihasak Phuangketkeow, Permanent Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, chaired the Committee to study the Judgment
of the International Court of Justice on the Case concerning Cambodia's Request for Interpretation
of the Judgment of 15 June 1962 in the Case concerning the Temple of Phra Viharn.

Participants included representatives from many sectors; namely,
civil sector, military, police, and legal experts.

## Preparing for the ASEAN Community and Community Network Building

To prepare the Thai public for the coming ASEAN community, the Ministry has collaborated with other relevant agencies in organising a number of ASEAN awareness activities across the country such as organising the ASEAN Day in August, organising special talks and exhibition on ASEAN including the Bua Kaew, ASEAN and Saranrom Radio Outreach Programmes to provide information on foreign affairs and exchange views with local administrations and communities.







On 8 August 2013, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organised "ASEAN Day," an event to celebrate the 46<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of ASEAN, at Vithes Samosorn Hall, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Activities included an ASEAN exhibition, the display of winning pieces from the ASEAN Drawing Competition 2013 under the theme "Our People, Our Future Together," seminars on ASEAN and an ASEAN Quiz. The event was attended by teachers and students from 90 schools nationwide.









The ASEAN Outreach Programme 2013

#### Capacity Building and Network Creation

Similar to the work done by other renowned diplomatic academies, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organised special talks and forums, as well as training for diplomatic staff members, both on skill improvement and on issues that are reflected in an increasingly complex international system. These include such topics as science diplomacy, energy diplomacy, the impact of climate change on international affairs, the promulgation of international civil rights, and the changing forms of terrorism and statecraft negotiations.

Also in this endeavour, the Ministry, through the Devawongse Varopakarn Institute of Foreign Affairs, has organised special talks and sessions on foreign policy and international affairs for other organisations and groups, for example, the National Defense College, the Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy, university students attending our internship programme, as well as officials from many government agencies. Similar programmes were also provided for international participants, which served to encourage network creation and subsequent close cooperation.



During 18 November – 6 December 2013, Ministry of Foreign Affairs organised a special programme "Knowledge of Diplomacy with a Special Focus on ASEAN" to provide in-depth understanding regarding Thailand and ASEAN in the aspects of politics, economy, and culture. The participants were from Argentina, Germany, Japan, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Pakistan, Turkey, and Africa.

Also as part of the objective to create awareness of key trends in international affairs, the Ministry played host to a number of events this year. Among the many events were a Lecture Series on the "Non-traditional Threats: Challenges to Thailand and ASEAN" in September 2013, as well as the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action during 4-14 April in Bangkok. Also, in cooperation with the Thai Red Cross Society, we organised the 6<sup>th</sup> Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Lecture on International Humanitarian Law on 19 June to promote greater understanding and awareness of international humanitarian law. Another important activity was the sending of Thai youth representatives as part of Thailand's delegation to the 68<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 68) during September-October in New York.







On 19 June 2013, Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, as Executive Vice President of the Thai Red Cross Society, presided over the 6<sup>th</sup> Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Lecture on the International Humanitarian Law held by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in cooperation with the Thai Red Cross in Bangkok.

(Photo Courtesy of Thai Red Cross Society http://english.redcross.or.th/news/information/1132)





During 4-14 April 2013, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs held an event on International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action in Bangkok to raise awareness on mine action.



# CHAPTER 8

# Consular Services and the Protection of Thai Nationals Abroad

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is committed to offering effective consular services and protecting the interests of Thai nationals who live or travel abroad. Over the years, we have improved our mechanism to cope with the increasing number of Thais who work and live overseas.

## Safeguarding the Interests of Thai Nationals Abroad

Our consular services range from providing administrative services, legal advice, and assistance to Thai nationals in trouble abroad. At the same time, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also undertaken several preventive measures to better prepare and forewarn Thai citizens that intend to travel abroad for work.

In 2013, the Ministry handled a total of 3,265 cases of assisting Thai citizens overseas. These included preparation and operation for evacuation of Thai nationals from uncertain political situations abroad which were likely to lead or had led to escalating tensions posing threats to the security of Thai people.





Evacuation of Thai nationals from Egypt during political instability and violence in Egypt in August-September 2013

With regards to the Ministry's proactive role in protecting Thai nationals abroad, key measures taken this year include (1) offering training courses for Thai citizens going to live and work abroad, (2) cooperating with other government agencies to enhance protection in terms of work contracts, permits, and other immigration matters, (3) sharing information and travel warnings through different media channels (magazines, newspapers, TV, and radio), and (4) promoting well-being and unity of Thai communities abroad. It must also be noted that many aspects of our consular work are contributed by Thailand's Honorary Consul-Generals worldwide.



During 2 March – 23 April 2013, the Royal Thai Embassy in Lisbon, together with many Royal Thai Embassies in Europe, jointly organised the project "Mobile Dharma Service for Thai Community." The activity offered an opportunity for Thai communities to learn and appreciate Buddhist teachings and principles, as well as to socialise and consolidate the communities.

#### Annual Meeting of Consular Officers

In 2013, the Ministry held the annual meeting of Thai consular officers during 24-27 June in order to update consular officers with new policies, regulations, and to exchange best practices in providing efficient services to Thai nationals overseas, as well as foreigners. This year the theme for discussion was "People-Centred Diplomacy," particularly how to adapt embassy capabilities to better respond to the needs of Thai citizens overseas.





During 24-27 June 2013, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organised the annual meeting of Thai consular officers in Bangkok.

In 2012, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior launched a project which offered a service to renew national identification (ID) cards for Thai citizens living abroad in six overseas offices. In 2013, the Ministry has expanded this service to 16 more offices. This enables a number of Thai nationals abroad to conduct their necessary business with valid ID cards.

### Pictures of an operation of the renewal of national identification cards service for Thai nationals living abroad at the Royal Thai Embassies and the Royal Thai Consulate-Generals



The Royal Thai Embassy in Stockholm, Sweden



The Royal Thai Embassy in Bern, Switzerland



The Royal Thai Embassy in Canberra, Australia

#### Comprehensive Consular Services

In 2013, the Department of Consular Affairs constantly improved its ability to provide comprehensive consular services to Thais and foreigners. These included legalisation services on certifying genuine signatures and translations, and endorsement of important documents for foreigners living in Thailand and Thai citizens living abroad. Meanwhile, efforts have been stepped up to ensure national security in the process of considering and issuing of visas to foreigners who apply at Thai Embassies and Consulate-Generals around the world. These have included plans to establish Thailand's Visa Data Centre and to develop the online visa system (e-Visa).

Since 2005, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also continued to improve its passport issuing service to ensure greater security in compliance with the standards set out by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). Currently, the Ministry is operating Phase II of the e-Passport production with upgraded security features. Consular services from the Ministry are available not only in Bangkok offices but also in our Passport Offices in 14 Provinces throughout Thailand. In addition, the Ministry offers mobile consular services in some remote areas and overseas.

On 23 January 2013, Mr. Pichet Wangtepanukhor,
Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs,
together with Mr. Navin Boonseat, Secretary
to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, visited the Passport
Office in Udon Thani Province to follow up
the trial process of e-Passport production.



#### **Overseas Elections**

One important duty of Thai Embassies and Consulate-Generals is to organise general elections for registered Thai voters abroad, in cooperation with the Election Commission of Thailand. In December 2013, the Ministry, together with Royal Thai Embassies and Royal Thai Consulate-Generals worldwide prepared for general elections scheduled to take place in early 2014.



Preparation for overseas elections

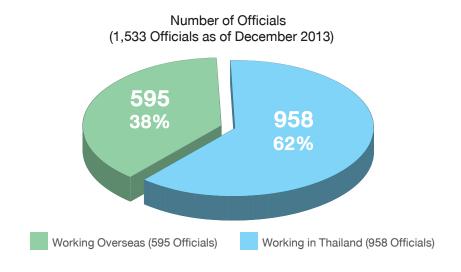


# CHAPTER 9 Reform and Development of the Organisation

In 2013, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs continued with various reform initiatives in order to further enhance organisational capabilities.

#### Personnel Management

Compared to other Thai government agencies, the Ministry is one of the smallest in terms of the number of personnel, with 1,553 officials in total (as of December 2013). Nevertheless, the Ministry has taken many measures to promote effective human resource management, including (1) provision of effective training, (2) request for an increase in diplomatic staff in line with increasing responsibilities of the Ministry, resulting in the approved 51 additional diplomatic positions, (3) increasing and adjusting some high-level positions, (4) providing additional staff for special projects within the Ministry, (5) adjusting the pay rate for temporary employees of Thai Embassies and Consulate-Generals abroad, (6) recruiting more home-based officials, such as administrative experts and legal experts, and (7) revising and improving a policy of career-path building.



#### **Expertise Training Courses**

Through the Devawongse Varopakarn Institute of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry has arranged a number of training courses for officials and diplomats. Importantly, the Ministry continues to provide English tests for other government agencies.





During 23-27 September 2013, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organised a workshop "Ambassadorial Executive Management in Foreign Countries 2013" for executives





During 11 November – 8 December 2013, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by the Devawongse Varopakarn Institute, in cooperation with Victoria University and Auckland Technology University, New Zealand, organised an English training course "5<sup>th</sup> Advanced Oral Communication Course: (AOCC)" aiming at enhancing public speaking skill, professional presentation skill, and negotiation skill.

#### Structural Improvement

In 2013, the Ministry took the initiative to restructure some parts of the organisation in order to promote work efficiency. These included the revision of composition of the Department of ASEAN Affairs to include Strategy and Planning Division and Dialogue and International Organs Relations Division to greater reflect the three pillars of ASEAN Community by having three corresponding divisions. In addition, more supporting groups were created to support the work of the office of the Permanent Secretary.

#### Financial Management

For the budget year of 2013 (1 October 2012 – 30 September 2013), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs received the amount of 7.875 billion baht or 0.31 percent of the national budget. To effectively spend the budget according to plans, the Ministry undertook financial management improvements in many aspects, such as: (1) giving consultations to different agencies on financial management, (2) providing accurate information on the Ministry's financial status to its officials, (3) monitoring monthly spending of agencies under the Ministry, (4) organising meetings on financial regulations e.g. a meeting among Thai Embassies and Consulate-Generals in East Asia held in Hong Kong in May 2013, and (5) publishing a handbook on financial management for officials abroad.

During 9-11 May 2013, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by Financial Management Bureau organised a meeting among Thai Embassies and Consulate-Generals in East Asia regarding financial regulations and guidelines in Hong Kong.



#### Asset Procurement and Management

In 2013, the Ministry was able to construct Embassy buildings and Ambassadorial Residences in six locations: the Royal Thai Embassy in Beijing, the Royal Thai Embassy in Tokyo, the Royal Thai Embassy in New Delhi, the Royal Thai Consulate-General and Residence in Guangzhou, the Royal Thai Consulate-General and Residence in Chicago, and the Royal Thai Consulate-General and Residence in Savannakhet. In addition, the Ministry was able to open a new office overseas; namely, the Royal Thai Consulate-General in Qingdao, PRC.

Another important management aspect is the constant improvement of the Ministry's Information and Communication Technology (ICT) capabilities. For this year, the Ministry undertook the developments to enhance its IT proficiency, particularly

its Portal system to include new and more effective features; improving websites and databases; enhance proficiency and security of the ICT infrastructure; acquiring 100 new computers for replacement; as well as improving the capabilities of the Ministry's ICT technicians.





Construction project of the Royal Thai Embassy in Beijing under Phase II Construction (Interior decoration and infrastructure system setting up)





Construction project of the Royal Thai Consulate-General and Residence in Savannakhet

## Enhancing Coordination and Improving Regional Work

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs attaches high importance to effective coordination between its agencies. One aspect is to encourage exchanges and meetings between relevant offices and officials.

In 2013, the Ministry organised regional Ambassadors and Consul-Generals' meetings in many regions to discuss key foreign policy trends in order to adapt Thailand's foreign policy objectives and implementation accordingly. These included: (1) the meeting of Thai Ambassadors and Consul-Generals to ASEAN countries and South China Region and a joint meeting with Thailand's Provincial Governors on 14-17 July; (2) the meeting of Thai Ambassadors and Consul-Generals to the Middle Eastern Countries on 5 August in Bangkok; and (3) the meeting of Thai Ambassadors and Consul-Generals to the African Region on 21-23 August in Johannesburg, South Africa.







During 14-17 July 2013, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs held the meeting of Thai Ambassadors and Consul-Generals to ASEAN countries and South China Region and a joint meeting with Thailand's Provincial Governors in Bangkok.





During 21-23 August 2013, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs held the meeting of Thai Ambassadors and Consul-Generals to the African Regions in Johannesburg, South Africa.



# Appendix

#### Foreign Visits and International Meetings attended by Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister, and Mr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs

January	
9 – 12 Jan 2013	The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Pakistan.
24 Jan 2013	The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the 11 <sup>th</sup> Civil Service Exchange Program (CSEP) Meeting in Singapore.
February	
4 Feb 2013	The Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the Royal Cremation Ceremony of the late King Norodom Sihanouk in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
24 – 25 Feb 2013	The Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs visited the Republic of Korea (ROK) to attend the inauguration of President Park Geun – hye.
25 – 26 Feb 2013	The Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs visited the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China.
28 Feb 2013	The Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the 5 <sup>th</sup> Annual Consultation between the Kingdom of Thailand and Malaysia in Putrajaya, Malaysia.
March	
4 – 5 Mar 2013	The Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Sweden.
5 – 6 Mar 2013	The Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Belgium and the European Union.



12 – 13 Mar 2013	The Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the 5 <sup>th</sup> ACMECS Summit in Vientiane, Lao PDR.
21 – 24 Mar 2013	The Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs visited New Zealand.
25 – 26 Mar 2013	The Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Papua New Guinea.
27 – 29 Mar 2013	The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Russia and attended the 5 <sup>th</sup> Session of Thailand – Russia Joint Commission on Bilateral Relations in Moscow.
April	
13 – 21 Apr 2013	The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the public hearings in the Case concerning Cambodia's Request for Interpretation of the Judgment of 15 June 1962 in the Case concerning the Temple of Phra Viharn in the Hague, Netherlands.
24 – 25 Apr 2013	The Prime Minister attended the 22 <sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Summit in Banda Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.
26 – 29 Apr 2013	The Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Mongolia and attended the 7 <sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference of the Community of Democracies.
Мау	
1 – 4 May 2013	The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thailand – Sri Lanka Joint Commission Meeting in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs visited the United States and met with Mr. John Kerry, Secretary of State of the United States.
The Prime Minister visited Japan to attend the 19 <sup>th</sup> International Conference on The Future of Asia in Tokyo.
The Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Sri Lanka
The Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs visited the Maldives.
The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the 6 <sup>th</sup> FEALAC Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Bali, Indonesia.
The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs visited the Philippines and attended the 5 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation between Thailand and the Philippines in Manila.
The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the 46 <sup>th</sup> ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting and other related meetings in Banda Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.
The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the Thai Festival 2013 in Vienna, Austria.
The Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Poland.



6 – 7 July 2013	The Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Turkey.
16 July 2013	The Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the funeral of Mr. Hun Neang, the father of Prime Minister of Cambodia in Phnom Penh.
28 – 30 July 2013	The Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Mozambique.
30 July – 1 Aug 2013	The Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Tanzania.
August	
2 Aug 2013	The Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Uganda.
18 – 20 Aug 2013	The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Nigeria.
19 – 20 Aug 2013	The Prime Minister visited Tajikistan and attended the High – Level International Conference on Water Cooperation.
20 – 21 Aug 2013	The Prime Minister visited Pakistan.
20 – 21 Aug 2013	The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs visited South Africa and attended the meeting of Thai Ambassadors and Consul – Generals to the African region in Johannesburg.
28 – 29 Aug 2013	The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the Special ASEAN – China Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Beijing, PRC.

September	
2 – 3 Sep 2013	The Prime Minister attended the $10^{\rm th}$ China – ASEAN Expo in Nanning, PRC.
5 – 6 Sep 2013	The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs visited the Czech Republic and had a meeting with Mr. Jan Kohout, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic.
7 Sep 2013	The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Estonia.
8 – 10 Sep 2013	The Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Switzerland and attended the 24 <sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva.
10 – 13 Sep 2013	The Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Italy.
12 Sep 2013	The Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs visited the Vatican.
14 – 15 Sep 2013	The Prime Minister visited Montenegro.
October	
6 – 8 Oct 2013	The Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the $21^{\rm st}$ APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Bali, Indonesia.
8 – 10 Oct 2013	The Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the 23 <sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.
15 – 17 Oct 2013	The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the Seoul Conference on Cyberspace 2013 in Seoul, ROK.

17 – 18 Oct 2013	The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thai – Chinese Strategic Research Seminar in Nanning, PRC.
28 Oct 2013	The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs met with Mr. Hor Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia, in Poipet, Cambodia and held a joint press conference in Sakaeo Province, Thailand.
9 – 12 Nov 2013	The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the reading of the International Court of Justice's Judgment on Cambodia's Request for Interpretation of the Court's 1962 Judgment on the Case concerning the Temple of Phra Viharn in the Hague, Netherlands.
21 – 22 Nov 2013	The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the 7 <sup>th</sup> Thailand – Myanmar Joint Boundary Commission (JBC) Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
24 – 26 Nov 2013	The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Ministerial Meeting and the ASEAN – GCC Conference in Manama, Bahrain.

#### **Embassies and Consulate-Generals**

#### Argentina

#### Royal Thai Embassy, Buenos Aires

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#### Royal Thai Consulate-General, Osaka

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5540-4529, 5540-4711, 5540-4674

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(51 1 55) 4042-8690 (Saturdays,

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#### Morocco

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#### **Netherlands**

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#### **New Zealand**

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#### Peru

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