

Thailand's Input on "Bali Declaration on the Enhancement of the Role and Participation of Persons with Disabilities in ASEAN Community" and "Concept Paper on ASEAN Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2011-2020): the Thematic Years to Promote Disability Inclusive Development in ASEAN"

National Office for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities,
Ministry of Social Development and Human Security of Thailand

July 29, 2011

Introduction

1. Thailand appreciates the initiatives of Indonesia regarding the promotion of the rights and participation of persons with disabilities, specifically the draft Bali Declaration on the Enhancement of the Role and Participation of Persons with Disabilities.
2. According to comments made by the Philippines and Vietnam at the 8th Senior Officials Committee for the ASCC (SOCA) Meeting held on 26 April 2011 in Jakarta, Indonesia, **Thailand recognizes that the paper from Indonesia complements Thailand's plan to propose to ASEAN the "Proclamation of ASEAN Decade for Persons with Disabilities (2011-2020): the Thematic Years to promote disability Inclusive development in ASEAN"**. Importantly, it is clear that both initiatives lead toward mainstreaming disability perspectives in the ASEAN Community.

Bali Declaration and Proclamation of the ASEAN Decade

3. Both initiatives draw ASEAN community's attention to disability related issues and complement each other; however, **Thailand considers each initiative outlines differing objectives, namely the proposal from Indonesia places emphasis on the political commitment of ASEAN leaders towards the implementation of disability policies, while that of Thailand focuses more on collaboration of ASEAN Member States (AMS) towards developing and implementing disability related projects at regional level.**
4. Although the two proposals discuss the topic comprehensively, there remain some points to be included in the draft Bali Declaration.
 - That the content of the Bali Declaration includes the proclamation of "ASEAN Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2011-2020)", the set objectives, expected outcomes, and work plan of ASEAN Decade.
 - The Declaration should also reflect prior actions taken within the ASEAN community regarding disability related issues, particularly the focus on disability

as a priority under ASEAN's Strategic Framework on Social Welfare and Development (2011-2015).

- The Declaration should encourage **AMS to act on mobilizing the plan of action of the ASEAN Decade for Persons with Disabilities** with the concerned bodies/mechanism i.e. Senior Official Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD), Senior Official Committee for ASCC (SOCA) and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Meeting (ASCC).
- **The Declaration should encourage all stakeholders to join the effort to implement the ASEAN Decade.** Further, the Declaration should mention the key role of ASEAN Secretariat to facilitate implementation of the ASEAN decade.
- As the ASEAN Decade for Persons with Disabilities (2011-2020) and its related initiatives under the ASEAN Strategic Framework on Social Welfare and Development (2011-2015) are initiatives under the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, the Declaration should **emphasize that disability is a cross-cutting issue embedded within all three ASEAN Communities** with the ultimate goal of ASEAN to mainstream disability perspectives in all three ASEAN Communities.

5. In this regard, Thailand proposes that Indonesia and Thailand initiatives be proposed in parallel for adoption. Thailand proposes that ASEAN leader proclaims the "ASEAN Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2011-2020) at the 19th ASEAN Summit in 2011.

Recognition of People-Oriented Mechanism in the Region

6. Thailand appreciates that the Declaration mentions "The ASEAN Disability Forum (ADF)" which is the initiative of the regional disability community, providing a platform to share good practices and discuss disability issues among multi-stakeholders to promote disability inclusion within ASEAN.

Following inauguration of the ASEAN Disability Forum (ADF), Disabled People's International Asia Pacific and Thai government are preparing for **accreditation of ADF at SOMSWD** in September 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand, as part of the Dialogue between GOs and NGOs on Disability issues project approved under the ASEAN Strategic Framework on Social Welfare and Development (2011-2015).

-End-