

(As of 4 January 2006)

**List of Thai Delegation to the Meeting of the Committee on the Rights of the Child
for the Consideration of the Second Periodic Report of Thailand
on the Implementation of CRC
Tuesday 24 January 2006
Geneva, Switzerland**

1. H.E. Mr. Wattana Muangsook **Head of Delegation**
Minister, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS)
2. H.E. Mr. Chaiyong Satjipanon
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations Office and
other International Organizations in Geneva
3. Mrs. Kanda Vajrabhaya
Deputy Permanent Secretary, MSDHS
4. Dr. Saisuree Chutikul
Independent Expert
5. Prof. Vitit Muntarbhorn
Chairperson, Sub-committee of Child Rights
6. Mr. Boonrat Wongyai
Deputy Permanent Secretary for Education, Ministry of Education
7. Dr. Sriwana Poolsuppasit (MD)
Senior Advisor in Medicine, Ministry of Public Health
8. Mr. Somboon Wattanapornmongkol
Chief Judge of the Central Juvenile and Family Court
9. Mr. Wanchai Roujanavong
Director-General, Department of Probation, Ministry of Justice
10. Mrs. Panita Kambhu
Director-General, Department of Social Development and Welfare, MSDHS
11. Mr. Kitti Samanthai
Director-General, Office of Welfare Promotion, Protection and Empowerment of
Vulnerable Groups (OPP), MSDHS
12. Mrs. Krisana Chandraprabha
Minister, Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations Office and other
International Organizations in Geneva
13. Mrs. Thitikalaya Wangcharoen
Director, Bureau of Child Promotion and Protection, OPP, MSDHS

14. Mrs. Rarinthip Sirorat
Director, Bureau of Policy and Strategy, MSDHS
 15. Mr. Krirarch Kaewdee
Director, Division of Civil Registration, Department of Provincial Administration,
Ministry of Interior
 16. Miss Kannika Ratanamane
Director, Child Protection Division, OPP, MSDHS
 17. Mrs. Saowanee Khomepatr
Director of Protection on Women and Children Division, DSDW, MSDHS
 18. Mr. Pitchayaphant Charnbhumidol
Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations Office and
other International Organizations in Geneva
 19. Ms. Phantipha Iamsudha
Counsellor, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 20. Ms. Lada Phumas
First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations Office and other
International Organizations in Geneva
 21. Police Capt. Theppalit Keadchai
Bodyguard of the Minister of MSDHS
 22. Miss Cataleya Phathomros
Second Secretary, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 23. Mrs. Pratana Phornprapha
Secretary to the Minister of MSDHS
 24. Miss Worawan Arparatana
Social Technical Development Officer, OPP, MSDHS
 25. Mr. Soravich Sontijirawong
Child Representative, Student of Bangkok Christian College
 26. Miss Monrada Yamkasikorn
Child Representative, Student of Piboonbumpen Demonstration School,
Burapha University
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Introductory Statement
By H.E. Mr. Watana Muangsook
Minister of Social Development and Human Security
And Head of the Thai Delegation
To the 41st Session of
the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child
24 January 2006

Madame Chairperson,
Distinguished Members of the CRC,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. It is indeed a great honor and a pleasure for me to lead the Delegation of the Royal Thai Government to present Thailand's second periodic report to this distinguished UNCRC Committee. On behalf of the Thai Delegation, the Government and the people of Thailand, I would like to express my gratitude to the members of the Committee for your tireless efforts and all the hard work that you have done in the course of the promotion and protection of the rights of children worldwide.

2. Along with me today, I have also led the Thai delegation here to interchange views with members of the Committee. In order to save time, please consult the distributed handouts for details of the representatives of my delegation.

3. The Thai Government realizes that children are an invaluable asset to our human resources. On the belief that no person is born bright or fool from the start, it is the upbringing and education that form a better person. Therefore, without adequate development and assistance, children will risk the failure to grow and help reinforce our society in the near future. We will, therefore, certainly not let it happen to undermine the assets of our society. That is why we value any policy not only to ensure the basic rights but also to promote the mental and physical health of our children as a great investment as opposed to expense.

4. Against the above background, the Thai Government regards our reporting to the Committee not only as a legal obligation under Article 44 of the CRC Convention, but also as a mutual learning process, which would contribute to the advancement of our children at both the national and global levels. And I sincerely look forward to a constructive and fruitful dialogue with distinguished members of the Committee on ways in which we can enhance the protection of our children.

5. Since Thailand presented its initial report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, we place great value on a set of recommendations so-called Concluding Observation, which laid out priority areas where Thailand could improve its implementation of the CRC. I am pleased to share with you today the development and progress made since then.

Madame Chairperson,

6. To simplify things, we would like to group the Convention's substance into two main areas; the rights and benefits, and the protection of children. In the area of rights and benefits, the Convention touches on many issues from survival of children pre and post birth to the development and care that include many other fundamental social benefits a child ought to receive. In the area of protection, the Convention extends its coverage to touch upon issues from abuse and trafficking to child labor and child involvement in armed conflict. The Convention has been promulgated to fulfill the primary purpose of ensuring the completion of a child from birth. Please allow me to inform the Committee our progress through the two main areas of the Convention's spirit on the rights and the protection of children.

7. Thailand attaches great importance to the effective implementation of our obligations under international human rights instruments to which Thailand is a party, including those under CRC. We believe that these efforts would assist us to better serve the best interests of our people. Since Thailand acceded to the Convention in February 1992, the Thai Government has applied substance in the articles of the Convention reflected in many law amendments and new bills endorsement accordingly.

8. Although it is still necessary for Thailand to maintain its reservations on two provisions of the Convention, namely, Article 7 on birth registration, the rights to acquire a nationality and the rights to know and be cared for by one's parents and Article 22 on the protection of child refugees, there have been positive developments in Thailand with regard to the areas covered by these two provisions.

9. In 2005, the Cabinet designated the Ministry of Interior and the National Security Council as the main agencies responsible for developing a strategy to deal with the problem of status and rights of persons and to grant appropriate status to those residing in Thailand without clear legal status. In this connection, the authorities concerned will conduct surveys and carry out civil registration to these target groups including the registration of all births.

10. The Cabinet also adopted a resolution expanding education opportunities for children residing in temporary shelters for those fleeing armed conflicts. Therefore, all children in Thailand are entitled to 9 years basic education without discrimination.

11. Great emphasis is placed on improving the quality of education through enhancing the quality of both the teachers and the curricula. In 2004, both primary and secondary school enrollment rates have increased to more than 90 per cent. The Thai Government is currently working to reduce the number of school dropout, especially at the secondary level, by tackling problems at their root causes.

12. Because the most important stage of child development occurs from the moment a child is conceived until the age of 6, effective early childhood education and development is critical. At the end of last year, the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security has set up a sub-committee on early childhood development which is responsible for, for example, organizing training for parents and orphanage staffs on child development and designing appropriate curriculum and material on child development to be used in all orphanages and child care centers.

13. On health, Thailand has initiated the 30 baht or 75 cent health insurance scheme to ensure that those with less financial resources are able to access adequate medical care and treatment, including anti-retroviral treatment for HIV/AIDS infected persons. HIV/AIDS prevention campaigns are also carried out targeting especially young persons to ensure that they have proper knowledge and understanding of the disease. Measures are planned to ensure that children orphaned by HIV/AIDS will be able to integrate into a society and can develop to their full potential.

Madame Chairperson,

14. Thailand has also seriously taken up the task of implementing the goals as contained in the final document of the 27th special session of the United Nations General Assembly entitled "A World Fit for Children." As a result, a National Strategy and Plan of Action for a World Fit for Children for the years 2005-2015 has been put in place. It adopts a rights-based approach and is a result of a broad-based participation and close collaboration between governmental agencies, intergovernmental organizations as well as the civil society and non-governmental organizations.

15. The safeguarding of the rights of children and the implementation of the provisions enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child requires strong and active cooperation and coordination among all agencies, both public and private. In Thailand, the National Youth Commission (NYC) comprising 21 experts from the public and private sectors is the main national body on children and youth, covering persons from 0-25 years of age. The mandate of the NYC is all encompassing, from the drafting of policies and strategies to their monitoring and evaluation.

16. On the child protection front, the Thai Government has proclaimed the trafficking issue as our national agenda. We adopted a National Policy and Plan of Action for the Prevention and Eradication of Commercial Sexual Exploitation. The Government is also in the process of enacting a new legislation on the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking.

17. Since human trafficking is a transnational issue, the Thai government has made collective efforts and close cooperation with various NGOs and the neighboring countries to overcome the problem. These efforts include the Memoranda of Understanding among the government agencies and NGOs, the bilateral cooperation with Cambodia, and the Lao PDR, as well as the Sub-regional cooperation in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region.

18. As regard to children participation, the Thai Government has set up a children forum and expression channels in a so-called the National Youth Council as a stage for children expression and participation as well as children activities provision. This council will be set up in all 76 provinces of Thailand.

19. In an effort to prevent and eradicate the use of child labor, Thailand has become Party to the two important ILO conventions, namely, Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labor and Convention No. 138 on Minimum Age for Admission to Employment. Enforcement in the country of these commitments is being seriously carried out.

20. The Child Protection Act of 2003 establishing the child protection committees both at the national and local levels is another important mechanism for the protection of children. The Act not only aims to protect children from various types of abuse but also to ensure that all children are able to develop to their full potential. Those principles which are at the very heart of the CRC are clearly reflected in this Act, such as the principles of the best interests of the child and non-discrimination. Several new pieces of draft legislation are also in the pipeline, which once in force will benefit children. These include the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act and the Prevention and Resolution of Domestic Violence Act.

21. To more effectively address violence against children issue at the grass-root level, the Government has also set up a family development center at the community level, which acts as a surveillance network to help prevent domestic problems and violence. Several services have been arranged to provide assistance to victims of violence including in hospitals and police stations throughout the country.

22. In order to raise public awareness of the violence issue and the products of the government policies, the Cabinet has declared the month of November to intensify the campaign for the elimination of violence against women and children. The white ribbon is used as a symbol to promote anti-violence network throughout the country.

23. Besides, Thailand has legally banned the use of corporal punishment in all schools nationwide. Alternatively, other disciplines to promote positive behavioral changes in children are encouraged.

24. With regard to international legal standards concerning children, Thailand became Party to the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction in 2002 and the Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Inter-Country Adoption in 2004.

25. In addition, in November 2005 the Cabinet approved the decision for Thailand to become Party to the two optional protocols under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, namely, the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflicts. The implementation of these instruments through national laws and policies will be one of the Government's top priorities to ensure that these initiatives will truly make a difference for our children.

26. As you know, Thailand was one of the countries struck by the tsunami in December 2004. Many children are among those worst affected by this tragedy. Physical and mental rehabilitation of these children to ensure their long term recovery and reintegration into society is at the forefront of the Thai Government's agenda. A number of programs and projects have been initiated to assist these children. Financial assistance has been given to families of affected children and scholarships have been granted to those young orphans. The Thai Government is committed to continue working closely with all sectors, including the UNICEF, private sector, and the civil society to assist these children.

27. Although there has been significant progress in Thailand on the promotion and protection of children's rights, there is room for improvement and we remain

committed to do more to protect our children. To fail even one child is to fail ourselves and our future, and we cannot afford to do so.

28. My delegation is pleased to be with the Committee today. We look forward to having a constructive dialogue with members of the Committee with a view to seeing how best we can tackle the challenges. As a panel of experts, your suggestions will be very welcome and much appreciated.

Thank you.

