

ENGLISH only

Statement by
H.E. General Tanasak Patimapragorn
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand
at the 2015 OSCE – Asian Conference
“The Changing Global Security Environment and Visions of Multilateral
Security Co-operation in Asia”
1 June 2015, at 09.30 hrs., Lotte Hotel, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Your Excellency Mr. Yun Byung-se, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea,

Your Excellency Mr. Didier Burkhalter, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Swiss Confederation,

Your Excellency Mr. Lamberto Zannier, Secretary-General of the OSCE Excellencies,

Distinguished Participants,

1. First of all, it is nice to be back here in Seoul once again. I wish to thank the Republic of Korea for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to me and my delegation at this important Conference.
2. I also wish to personally thank Minister Yun and Minister Burkhalter for kindly inviting me to deliver a statement at this Conference.
3. The Conference provides a good opportunity for Asia and Europe to share one another's experience and exchange views on common security issues. I am confident that the outcome of this Conference will be useful for the OSCE and its Asian partners in carrying out future cooperation.

Excellencies,

4. The changing global security environment has made today's security challenges more complex and varied.
5. While traditional security challenges remain, we are facing a growing number of non-traditional security challenges. Together, they have the potential to undermine the well-being and livelihood of our peoples in ever more complex ways.
6. That is why we need to not only adapt to the changing circumstances, but must also work together across countries, continents and organizations.
7. On this note, I wish to focus on a few **areas** where I see the **potential** for the **OSCE and its Asian Partners** – as well as regional security-related arrangements in Asia – **to work together**.
8. **First is addressing extremism.** This requires new approaches to security that go beyond military action and sanctions.

9. Instead, we must **address the root causes**. Promoting inclusiveness must be at the core of the United Nations Post-2015 Development Agenda.
10. And this is where the work of the OSCE in the human dimension can make a significant contribution. In Asia, ASEAN is also pursuing this approach in tackling extremism. It is therefore only logical that ASEAN and the OSCE work together.
11. A **second** area for our cooperation is **disaster management**.
12. We welcome the fact that Serbia, the OSCE's Chairperson-in-Office, has made regional co-operation on water management, with an emphasis on disaster response, a top priority.
13. This is consistent with what we are doing in Asia. We are trying to improve our capacities in disaster risk reduction by building networking among regional centers such as the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center in Bangkok and the Asian Disaster Reduction Center in Kobe.
14. We can, therefore, share experiences and best practices between these Centers and the concerned OSCE missions and programmes.
15. A **third** area of cooperation is **human trafficking**. This issue is a threat to human security and is related to other trans-boundary challenges facing Asia and Europe, such as irregular migration.
16. For Thailand, we are taking a comprehensive approach in combatting human trafficking. We are also stepping up cooperation with other concerned countries to address the issue of irregular migration in the Indian Ocean.
17. Last Friday, Thailand hosted a Special Meeting on Irregular Migration in the Indian Ocean to address this problem comprehensively in the spirit of international burden-sharing. The Thai Government has also launched a humanitarian mission to provide assistance to migrants stranded at sea. Royal Thai Navy vessels have been deployed as floating platform to provide humanitarian assistance to those migrants at sea. Personnel on these floating vessels consists of the following:
 - First a medical team to provide treatment, food, and water;
 - Second, an investigation team to investigate the possibility of human trafficking activities;
 - Third, a registration team to identify and prepare for possible solutions.We have also deployed air patrols by the Royal Thai Navy and Royal Thai Air Force to monitor movement over Thai waters within our capability to assist and support the humanitarian mission.
18. A **fourth** area is **preserving peace and stability**, a common goal for both ASEAN and the OSCE.

19. As the only ASEAN Member State in the OSCE, Thailand stands ready to serve as a bridge between ASEAN, which includes the ASEAN Regional Forum, and the OSCE.
20. This Conference is thus a good opportunity to exchange views on lessons learnt and explore how to enhance interaction between security related arrangements in Asia and Europe.
21. In this regard, I also wish to recognize and commend President ปัก กิ่ง-ฮเย's Northeast Asia Peace and Co-operation Initiative to promote trust and confidence.

Excellencies,

22. Thailand is an active and committed partner of the OSCE.
23. We are ready and most willing to continue to play our role in promoting peace and security not only in our region, but also in the world at large through cooperation with the OSCE and other organizations.
24. In this regard, I wish to reiterate Thailand's readiness to host the 2016 OSCE – Thailand Conference. We will work closely with Serbia, the Chair of the Asian Contact Group for 2016, and the OSCE Secretariat to make proper arrangements in order to ensure a successful Conference.
25. I look forward to welcoming delegates from the OSCE Participating and Partner States to Thailand next year.
26. Finally, I wish this Conference every success.
27. Thank you for your kind attention.
