

Welcome Address
By
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Acting Director, Public Policy Development Office

International Conference on Happiness and Public Policy
18-19 July 2007
United Nations Conference Center
Bangkok, Thailand

Your Excellency, Deputy Prime Minister Paiboon Wattanasiritham;

Your Excellency,

Minister of Home and Cultural Affairs of Bhutan, Lyonpo Jigme Thinley;

Secretary-General to the Cabinet, Rongphol Charoenphandhu;

Secretary of UNESCAP, Mr. Kim Hak-Su;

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Public Policy Development Office, it is indeed my great honor to welcome you to this International Conference on "Happiness and Public Policy" in Bangkok.

We are here today to participate in this conference to discuss very important issues relating to a paradigm shift in development, a shift that entails new approaches in development measurement and implications to public policies that would bring happiness to people and societies all over the world.

This Conference is very timely in the sense that the happiness issue has become a topic of interest internationally and is increasingly concerned among academia, policy makers, NGOs, and politicians. Many

participants who are working on this subject are from different parts of the world and may not know each other before. This conference is therefore a good opportunity for us all to meet and share our ideas and our works. For many months during the preparation period of the conference, I look forward to this meaningful task and foresee new challenges before us. Today, it is time that the conference has become a reality and we all are now meeting in person. Many of distinguished guests and participants have traveled long distance from different parts of the world to Thailand in order to contribute to this important conference, for which I am very grateful. The Public Policy Development Office is a new office and it is our great honor to have all of you as partners in this endeavor. I am indeed very glad that this Happiness International Conference can take place finally, and I very appreciate cooperation from all partner organizations and participants here. I am sure that this kind of conference, being organized for the first time in Thailand, will have significant contributions to the progress of the research on happiness itself, as well as to the national and international development, and to the people of the world at large.

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Once again, I would like to express my deep gratitude to you all for your presence here today. I hope you enjoy your stay in Thailand and will be happy with the conference results.

Thank you.