An Opening Address
by Mr. Chaiyosh Imsuwan, Ph. D.
Deputy Permanent Secretary for Education,
Ministry of Education, Thailand
at the 2nd Asia-Pacific Meeting on Education 2030 (APMED 2030 II)
on Wednesday 16 November, 2016, at 09.00 a.m.
at Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel, Bangkok

Dr. Gwang-Jo Kim, Director of UNESCO, Bangkok,
Ms. Karin Hulshof, Regional Director, UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour and pleasure for me to be here with you this morning. In this opportunity, I would like to express my appreciation to UNESCO, Bangkok and UNICEF for organizing the 2nd Asia-Pacific Meeting on Education 2030.

Given the size and diversity of the population in the Asia and Pacific Region, how can we achieve a balanced and inclusive development? For Thailand, the solution is the “Sufficiency Economy Philosophy”, which was bestowed by His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej in the 1970s. Although this Philosophy was initiated for over 40 years, it is still very much relevant to today’s context, nationally and globally. That
is why we are very proud to have this opportunity to share His Majesty’s vision with all of you here.

The Sufficiency Economy Philosophy is a means to promote more balanced and sustainable social and economic development. Its three basic principles, namely moderation, reasonableness or responsible consumption, and self-immunity or proper risk management, could be applied over a wider range of problems and situations. Thus, this Philosophy is an approach to life and conduct, which can be applied at every level of society, from the individual, to the family, to the community and even to the management and development of the nation.

If you study the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy thoroughly, you will discover that its “middle path” approach strongly reinforces the United Nations’ own advocacy of a people-centered and sustainable path toward human development. This Philosophy also has many synergies and linkages with Sustainable Development Goal 4: Education 2030 Agenda, for which UNESCO is the lead agency.

The fact that almost 400 out of over 4,000 Royal Development Projects have been devoted to the improvement
of education and social welfare in Thailand reflected His Majesty the King’s dedication in this area. These Royal Development Projects have paved the way for further improvement of lifelong learning, educational access and quality in Thailand.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thailand has continuously invested over 20 percent of our national budget to education during the last decade. We strongly believe that equal access to quality education will definitely provide more opportunities in improving people’s quality of life, leading to social equity and a more sustainable Community. The country is now reforming our education, in particular in 6 areas including: 1) development of curriculum and learning process; 2) training and development of teachers and educational personnel, with a focus on providing teachers with 21st century skills and ability to teach students to recognize the importance of global changes; 3) training and development of workforce skills to serve the national development needs and the market demand by working closely with the private sector; 4) development of educational assessment and quality assurance as well as formulation of National Qualifications Framework in line with ASEAN
Qualifications Framework; 5) promotion and development of digital technology for education; and 6) development of administration system by promoting the systematic participation of all stakeholders in educational provision and lifelong learning.

On this opportunity, I would like to reaffirm that Thailand is now ready and committed to collaborate with UNESCO and the global community in creating and promoting stability, prosperity and sustainability in the Asia-Pacific Region, without leaving no one behind in line with Education 2030 agenda.

I wish you every success in your deliberations and have a great pleasure to declare the 2nd Asia-Pacific Meeting on Education 2030 open.

Thank you.