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OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

Letter dated 21 April 1987 from the Permanent Representative
of Thailand to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the inaugural address by His Excellency General Prem Tinsulanonda, Prime Minister of Thailand, delivered on 21 April 1987 at the forty-third session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of ESCAP (see annex). I would be grateful if you could have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 84 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) M. L. Birabongse KASEMSRI
Permanent Representative

* A/42/50.

ANNEX

Inaugural address delivered on 21 April 1987 by the Prime Minister
of Thailand at the forty-third session of the Economic and Social
Commission for Asia and the Pacific

First, on behalf of the Government and people of Thailand, I am very pleased to extend a warm welcome to all distinguished delegates gathered here.

I am deeply honoured to be with all of you today to inaugurate the forty-third annual session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), which also marks the fortieth anniversary of its establishment. During the past four decades, ESCAP has contributed significantly to the economic and social development of the countries in this region. Moreover, ESCAP has proven itself capable of coping with changes, of adapting to new circumstances and of responding to the needs of its members. It has also been a catalyst of their concerted efforts to build a better world. This is evidenced by the many regional projects, in which ESCAP was involved at their inception, such as the Asian Development Bank, the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity and the Asian Reinsurance Corporation.

In spite of ESCAP's accomplishments in the past, there are still formidable challenges ahead. Thus, I believe that this commemorative session is the most opportune time to look back critically, to assess our past activities. It is also the time to look ahead and to formulate new guidelines for our future work.

The main theme of this session is: "Problems, policies and perspectives of human resources development" or, in layman's terms, how can we help improve the quality of our peoples. In this connection, I wish to mention the example of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand, whose sixtieth birthday anniversary this year also coincides with the fortieth anniversary of ESCAP. Everything His Majesty has done is first and foremost "for the people".

His Majesty's incessant concern for the plight of the Thai people is evidenced by the multitude of important projects in various fields that he has initiated and supported, ranging from artificial rain-making and irrigation to education and health care. In addition to contributing to the uplifting of the Thai people's standard of living, several of the royal-sponsored projects have proved to be sources of valuable information and know-how for similar undertakings carried out either by government agencies or by the villagers themselves. Moreover, the experiences and knowledge gained in the fields of social and economic development, particularly in agriculture, the economic backbone of most of the countries in the region, have been compiled and can be made available to the member countries of ESCAP.

His Majesty's work and dedication for the betterment of the Thai people's economic and social conditions have served as an inspiration for the Royal Thai Government in our efforts to promote the welfare of the Thai people and, at the same time, contribute to the furtherance of the ideals and objectives commonly shared among countries of the ESCAP region.

We have come a long way these past 40 years. Let us work together to meet the future with the same courage, the same conviction and the same high hopes that we had in the past. We should be encouraged by what we have achieved and be inspired by a clear vision of what must be accomplished for the prosperity and well-being of the peoples in this part of the world.

On this auspicious occasion, I would like to extend my warm felicitations to the Commission for its past achievements and to express the hope that the Commission will renew its determination to work for the enhancement of the economic and social development of the peoples in this region in the years to come.

I now have the honour to declare open the forty-third annual session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. I also wish to extend to you my best wishes for the success in your deliberations and for a pleasant stay in Thailand.

Thank you.
