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Statement by Mr. Saksit Tridech, Delegation of Thailand at the High-level Segment
of CSD9, New York, 20 April 2001

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Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, please allow me to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, and the members of the bureau on the excellent preparation for this important meeting of the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

I wish to associate my delegation (with the statement made by the Chairman) of the G-77 and China. In this connection, my delegation would like to restrict our comments specifically to energy issues.

Mr. Chairman,

It is well noted that nearly one third of the global population (of six billion), mostly living in developing countries, continue to lack access to modern energy and transportation services. Such pervasive scarcity should be addressed to help eradicate poverty, which is a crucial impediment to sustainable development.

Given that energy is an area with strong interdependence among countries, international cooperation should be promoted in line with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. It is important that partnership be established between developing and developed countries in this field.

As it is widely known, energy utilization is not only a crucial element dictating the pace of development but also, on the other side of the coin, a main source of environmental degradation. The proper uses of energy resources and further development of clean technologies are vital for sustainable development. Thailand has always attached great importance to its energy policies. We are of the view that national and international efforts can be further strengthened to achieve the goal of energy for sustainable development.

Concerning general energy policies, we believe that each and every country should implement plans or programmes needed to ensure the availability of reliable and affordable energy resources to the public.

Sharing of information and expertise on technologies at regional and international levels is also another important aspect of the global efforts to achieve affordable energy for sustainable development. The lack of such information and knowledge can preclude countries from adopting new and appropriate approaches in

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energy planning and technology applications. To this end, the exchange of information through the internet, among other mediums, should be encouraged.

There is also further the need to build and strengthen the capacities of institutions and human resources in the energy sectors of (developing countries.) Partnerships between the public and private sectors have to be forged to ensure (sustainable) use of energy.

Mr. Chairman,

The use of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies are widely believed to have a promising role in future sustainable development if the numerous constraints and barriers, such as high investment costs, can be overcome. At the national level, relevant laws and regulations should be reformed or strengthened to provide a solid foundation for achieving the goal of affordable energy for sustainable development. However, developing countries need new and additional financial resources for incentives or projects related to energy conservation, renewable energy, research and development, capacity building, and for the promotion of public awareness.

Energy efficiency should also be accorded high priority in the overall national energy policy. Thailand has always put emphasis on the improvement of the use of energy. Several efforts have been vigorously pursued. One of our projects concerning demand-side management, which was funded jointly by the Royal Thai Government and the Global Environment Facility or GEF, has been highly recognized by prominent international organizations including the GEF and UNEP.

Mr. Chairman,

It is imperative that we all in the global community share a collective effort to promote the improvement and greater use of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies through research and development and technology transfer. To these ends, we should also come to an agreement on an appropriate international financial mechanism, which is necessary for the promotion of, and support for, renewable energy technologies and their applications as well as energy efficiency and conservation. One possible way to fund such a financial mechanism is to levy special charges on any uses of environmentally-unfriendly energy sources.

Thank you.
