

**Keynote Address**  
**By His Excellency General Tanasak Patimapregorn**  
**Deputy Prime Ministry of the Kingdom of Thailand**

*At the Opening Ceremony of the 3rd Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF) Leaders' Summit  
Grand Pacific Hotel, Suva, Republic of Fiji  
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Your Excellency Prime Minister Bainimarama,  
Heads of State and Government,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. May I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to His Excellency Prime Minister Bainimarama and the people of Fiji for the warm welcome and exceptional hospitality extended to me and my delegation. I am honoured to be here in this beautiful country. I wish to convey my Prime Minister's deepest apologies for not being able to take part in this 3<sup>rd</sup> Pacific Islands Development Forum or PIDF Summit as intended because the voting process for our new constitution has already begun. However, my Prime Minister asked me to convey his best wishes to the Government and the People of Fiji and to the conference. I wish to thank you His Excellency the Prime Minister of Fiji for the message of condolence on the recent bombing incident in Thailand. The authorities concerned have arrested a suspect and the investigation is still on-going.

2. Today, I am glad to see so many of our Pacific brothers and sisters in this conference. I would like to commend Fiji's leadership and initiative in hosting the 3<sup>rd</sup> PIDF Summit under the theme of "Building Climate Resilient Green Blue Pacific Economies". This is most timely and relevant to the Pacific Island Countries and to other regions as well.

Excellencies,

3. Allow me to take this opportunity to share with you Thailand's development policies and experiences regarding climate change, disaster management, green economy and blue economy.

4. Thailand's development policies have been guided by His Majesty the King's Sufficiency Economy Philosophy, which has as its roots the basic concept

of “Understanding, Reaching Out and Development”. Following this principle, the Government established a development vision that will guide Thailand in becoming a country of “Stability, Prosperity and Sustainability”.

Excellencies,

5. Addressing and mitigating the impacts of climate change and natural disasters is one of the greatest challenges of our time. Thailand and Small Island Developing States can work together to mitigate the impact of these two issues while at the same time sustain economic growth and development. We must also work to promote renewable energy, environment-friendly industrial development and urban planning that is disaster resilient.

6. Thailand is strongly committed to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol. Thailand is also committed to carrying out our obligations agreed upon at the 3<sup>rd</sup> UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030, after which the Thai cabinet approve its first national Climate Change Master Plan, that will enable us to cooperate closely with international community

7. We will be more than happy to share our modest experiences and best practices in areas such as sustainable agriculture and disaster management. Furthermore, Thailand has also been working to put in place an early warning system for disasters such as earthquakes and tsunamis in the region. In this connection, I recognize Fiji’s theme, “Climate Change: Communities Adapting From Ridge to the Reef”, which encourage all Fijians to have the responsibility in preparing for invisible impacts of climate change.

Excellencies,

8. Thailand considers green economy as an important tool in achieving sustainable development. First, the Government has set a target of alternative energy use at 25 per cent of the country’s energy consumption by 2021. The Government is also working closely with our private sector on green economy. Among the many public-private partnership projects, the Green Industry Project developed in 2009 aims to promote business models that are eco-friendly and socially responsible. Thailand also implements the international Clean Development Mechanism that allows us to actively participate in the carbon

credit market. Thailand hopes that the Clean Development Mechanism will make us part of the global low carbon community in the future.

9. At the regional level, Thailand is implementing the 2014 APEC Economic Leaders' Declaration to promote green, low carbon and energy-efficient development. Thailand has initiated two pioneer projects. The first is the Samui Island Low-Carbon Model Town Project. The project aims to cut CO2 emissions as well as reduce and reuse both solid waste and waste water for non-sanitary purposes. The second is the Chiang Mai World Green City. This project aims to develop a green community, comprising academic institutions, a renewable energy research center, a climate change protection office, and an eco-product business center.

Excellencies,

10. On the issue of the Sustainable Development Goals, Thailand fully supports Small Island Developing States in highlighting the importance of goal number 14, which aims "to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development". In this regard, Thailand has already pledged our support to the organization of the Triennial Oceans and Seas Summit initiated by Fiji.

11. Allow me to update you on the Thai Government's actions to achieve a blue economy sustainably. Last May, the Prime Minister set up a Command Center for Combating Illegal Fishing to drive major reforms in Thai fisheries management. The Government is committed to enforcing the revised Fisheries Act B.E. 2015 formulating a National Fisheries Management Policy; revising the National Plan of Action to Combat, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing; and, most importantly, establishing 28 Port in-Port Out control centers to improve monitoring, control and surveillance of Thai fishing vessels.

Excellencies,

12. Thailand, as a new global development partner, is ready to share our experience to support our partner countries in accelerating their progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals. Our Annual International Training Courses or AITC for Pacific Island countries is an example. Through our commitment as a Dialogue Partner of the Pacific Islands Forum or PIF, and under the Thailand – Pacific Islands Forum or TPIF, Thailand's AITC has provided more than 130 scholarships to Pacific Island Countries for the past years.

13. Let me provide you with some information on the TPIF. TPIF was initiated in 2014. I myself had the opportunities to open both the 1<sup>st</sup> TPIF in August last year and the 2<sup>nd</sup> TPIF in May this year in Bangkok. I am glad that this Forum was well-received and well-attended by Pacific Island Countries' Leaders and high-level representatives. Because of the importance that Thailand attaches to this framework, I attended the whole plenary session of the 2<sup>nd</sup> TPIF, and after which we were able to agree on the Three-Year TPIF Development Partnership Programme (2015-2017), covering 11 areas of cooperation from tourism, food security to community development.

14. Moreover, the Thailand International Cooperation Agency or TICA has recently formulated a Plan of Action for the countries in the Pacific region. TICA could offer additional assistance, including assistance in designing development projects, short-term training courses and study visits or offer the services of Thai experts and Thai development volunteers to Pacific Island countries. For example, the Thailand – Fiji Plan of Action is formulated in accordance with the Green Growth Framework for Fiji, announced in 2014. Thailand stands ready to continue to work with Pacific Island Countries and the PIDF on three specific areas where we have expertise and experience, namely, agriculture, sustainable development, and human resources.

Excellencies,

15. The Pacific Ocean may set Thailand and the Pacific Islands apart. However, it is this Ocean that we share not just natural resources, but also prosperity and friendship. Today, I wish to reaffirm Thailand's firm commitment, as a friend of the Pacific Islands, to assist and advance our mutual interests on a sustainable future. Thank you very much.

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