

Keynote Address
by
H. E. Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister of Thailand
The Royal Thai Government

Delivered by
H.E. Mr. Woravat Auapinyakul
Minister Attached to the Prime Minister's Office

at the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) 2012
Bangkok Celebration
on 17 May 2012
United Nation Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand

Dr. Xuan Zengpei, Director of Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division (IDD), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Dr Eun-Ju Kim, Regional Director of ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific,

Distinguished delegates and participants,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning,

It is an honour for me to deliver keynote address at this World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2012 Bangkok Celebration, which is jointly organized by the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and the International Telecommunication Union.

It is another year that the Thai Government, the Ministry of ICT in particular together with ESCAP and ITU are organizing WTISD celebration and I am delighted to see that the three organizations have given importance to this important event because ICTs, as you know, play a significant role in not only national development but also in many aspects of lives. The theme of this year WTISD is also very important – *Women and Girls in ICT* – and hence I wish to share with you about three things today.

First, women and girls and the role of ICT.

We must first recognize that women have been increasingly contributing to the social and economic development in many countries. However, majority of women are still poor and are neglected. As reported by the UN, in Asia, women represent two thirds of the poor and when it comes to access to economic assets, public services, and opportunities, women still have not equal

access as men do. This includes the digital opportunity. Women are often denied access to basic education and health care, and many of them suffer violence and discrimination. Although we have seen more and more female leaders, women are still under-represented in political and economic decision-making processes in many parts of the world.

ICT is recognized as a means of social and economic development. They improve health care and they must be used to reduce the mortality rate of women dying in pregnancy or childbirth. While two out of three illiterate adults are women and girls still are less likely to be in school, ICT provides a great opportunity for anyone to learn and in a cost effective manner than ever. ICT opens a new door of opportunities to housewives to earn an income that they had never had a chance before. This was demonstrated also in Thailand which I will talk about it later on.

Today women are more actively participating in politics and in important decision makings, ICT can help empower their potentials in mobilizing their rights and engaging in leaderships. In Thailand, for example, the Prime Minister herself admitted that she has had to prove herself every day.

While women and girls are the most benefited from ICT, they are also the most utilize and harness the power of ICT. Therefore, it is important that we must ensure that women have not only the right to access but also equal access to ICT and in turn services and benefits which people are entitled to have.

Distinguished delegates and participants,

The second thing I would like to say is about the role of international community especially the UN in promoting and empowering women and girls.

It is really a historical step in accelerating goals on gender equality and the empowerment of women when the United Nations General Assembly created UN Women in July 2010. This is because the issue of gender equality has still had many challenges, although 90% of the UN membership has made a commitment to advance women's human rights and remove discrimination against women through ratification or accession to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in which Thailand ratified the Convention in 1985.

The UN Millennium Development Goals, as we all know, has specific targets on gender equality. In fact, gender issues are integral to other goals as well. To achieve these goals by 2015, it is still very much challenging. This means women issues will still remain at large if we are not able to meet the targets. We must be committed and make a greater effort in achieving the goals so that we will be able to see the betterment for women and girls.

ITU, as a specialized UN agency in ICT, has played a very important role in empowering women and girls through harnessing the power of ICTs. A forum like this one today is a good example of promoting the rights of women and girls in ICT. Therefore the Thai Government is committed in supporting the UN, the ITU, and the international community to work toward meeting targets of the MDGs, particularly the gender equality.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The last thing of my speech this morning is about the commitment of Thailand in gender equality and ICT.

The Thai Government recognizes the potential of women and girls and the significance of gender equality. Therefore this Government established the *Women's Development Fund* with an aim to promote the roles of women in national development and to amend related laws in order to protect women's rights and also from domestic violence. The fund also serves as a funding source for women who want to have greater access to education, employment, and healthcare services. The Women's Development Fund is open to all women, whether rich or poor, urban or rural.

Moreover, the Government has initiated a policy of establishing child care centers in government offices, private companies, and communities. It has increased and improved the 24-hour help centers for children and women who are victims of family violence, while enhancing women's role to be a cornerstone of a warm family.

It is also fortunate to Thailand that the UN Women has its East and Southeast Asia Regional Office located in Bangkok, Thailand. In this regard, the Prime Minister of Thailand has viewed this as an opportunity for the Thai government and the United Nations to promote and improve women's roles both in Thailand and the region. As you might have seen the 'Say NO' campaign which aims to end violence against women, Thailand's Princess Bajrakitiyabha has been a UN Women Goodwill Ambassador and more than three million Thais called for an end to violence against women, and participated in awareness-raising events.

In the context of ICT, the Ministry of ICT has established over 1,800 Community ICT Learning Centres nationwide. These ICT centres have opened up new opportunities for female populations especially those living in remote areas to have access to knowledge, information, government services, and more importantly these centres have created jobs and incomes for them. Following the success of Thai Community ICT Learning Centres projects, many other initiatives focusing on women were launched and in collaboration with the international community such as Thai-ASEAN e-Home Workers and e-Women. The Government of Thailand and the Ministry of ICT in particular are committed to continuing promoting and empowering women and girls in ICT through current and new initiatives. Taking this opportunity, I invite you all to visit the exhibition outside this room which is organized by the Ministry of ICT to showcase some of projects initiated by the Ministry.

Ladies and gentlemen,

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_7625

