

Welcome Remarks
by Dr. Suthasri Wongsamarn
Permanent Secretary for Education and
Acting Minister of Education, Thailand
at the Asia-Pacific Regional Education Conference
on August 6, 2014, at 9.00 hrs.
at Royal Grand Ballroom, Royal Orchid Sheraton, Bangkok

Excellencies,

Dr. Gwang-jo Kim (กวาง โจ คิม), Director of UNESCO Bangkok,

Mr. Yoshiaki Sato (โยชิอากิ ซาโตะ), Representative from the Ministry
of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to have this opportunity to welcome you all today to Bangkok. On behalf of the Thai National Commission for UNESCO and the Thai Ministry of Education, I would like to extend our warmest greetings to all the distinguished delegates and speakers to this very important Asia-Pacific Regional Education Conference.

In 1990, the World Declaration on Education for All was endorsed in Jomtien, Thailand. Since then, all UNESCO member states have made great efforts to fulfill the educational commitments, as contained therein. Therefore, the year 2015, which will mark the 25th anniversary of the Declaration, will be an opportune time to think back and, more importantly, to think ahead. It is in this spirit that the World Education Forum 2015 will be held at Incheon (อินชอน), in the Republic of Korea, next year.

Preceding the World Education Forum, this Asia-Pacific Regional Education Conference is being held as the forerunner of other regional conferences. In this Conference, we will have a Regional Dialogue on EFA and Beyond for the first two days, followed by a Ministerial

Forum on Education Beyond 2015, which will be opened tomorrow. With the cooperation of distinguished representatives gathering here, I am convinced that we will be able to come up with innovative ideas and policy recommendations to feed into the 2015 World Education Forum at Incheon (อินชอน), in the Republic of Korea.

Apart from the many thought-provoking presentations and the insightful discussions that will take place during this Conference, we will also have an important opportunity to network across the agencies represented at this Conference. This will help pave the way for national, regional and global collaboration across all sectors to improve the quality and relevance of education beyond 2015.

I also hope that this Conference will further strengthen the spirit of community in the Asia-Pacific Region. Together, we can make a difference for the people of this region and nurture them as global citizens. Together, we can create partnerships that can not only serve our mutual benefits and common interests but also make contributions to educational development in the global arena.

On behalf of the Thai Ministry of Education and the Thai National Commission for UNESCO, I would like to thank UNESCO for choosing Thailand as the venue for this important Conference. Also, I would like to thank all of you for attending this meeting. I wish you all a pleasant stay in Thailand and every success in your deliberations.

Thank you.