

**Intervention on
Resource Mobilization to Achieve the Convention's Humanitarian Aim
by
Mrs. Atchara Suwanan, Director-General, Department of International Organizations,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand
to the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention
3 February 2003
Geneva, Switzerland**

Thank you.

The significance of resource mobilization

The challenge to humanity posed by landmines is far too great for any single country to handle alone. For mine affected developing countries in particular, resource mobilization is indeed a necessity. Cooperation and assistance both in financial and technical forms as well as the transfer of equipment are the primary factor for the achievement of the Convention's goal. The need for such cooperation and assistance is even greater for those mine affected developing countries that are currently experiencing extreme poverty, economic hardship and arms conflict.

From our experience, we would not have achieved our efforts in tackling landmine problems were it not the assistance and cooperation we received from our partners including the international organizations, non-governmental organizations and major donors. I would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all partners who have been continuously supporting mine action activities in Thailand. We hope that our partners will continue to cooperate and assist Thailand in reaching our common goal of ridding landmines. We also urge greater and continued commitment from donors countries, international organizations, and multilateral agencies to contribute to the success of implementation of the Convention.

Thailand's Contribution

Although Thailand is not in a position to contribute to mine action in other countries, since the establishment of Thailand Mine Action Center in 1999 immediately after acceding to the Convention, Thailand has duly developed mine clearance expertise and is prepared to share our experiences with any interested countries. Currently, we have a number of qualified trainers who are available to provide mine clearance training. We have recently set up mine dog training center, with the support of the Government of the United States of America. The center has a comprehensive dog training programme which is also available for interested countries. Our Director-General of Thailand Mine Action Center, who is also present at this Committee is willing to share information with all interested parties.

Responsibility of the Recipient Countries

While recognizing the importance of continued support by donor countries and international organizations, responsibility also lies with the recipient countries in ensuring effective and efficient management of assistance.

Thailand realizes this responsibility and has done its best to manage all funding and assistance in the most effective and transparent manner.

While Thailand received financial contribution from the Japanese Government through UNDP in 2001, we have efficiently managed the fund through the Project Steering Committee comprised of all Thai agencies concerned. All projects have to be approved and the expenses were closely monitored by the Committee.

Another important responsibility of the recipient countries is to formulate the tangible plan in order to implement the obligation under the Convention in an effective manner. In this regard, Thailand Mine Action Center is in the process of drafting its five-year Master Plan for the year 2003-2007 and will subsequently submit it for approval from the National Mine Action Committee comprised of all Thai relevant authorities. The Thai Government has also allocated resources to support national projects and activities for mine action activities.

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Thank you.

First of all, I would like to commend Norway for her active role in pushing forward this important aspect of the success of the implementation of the Convention for discussion among us. I would also like to extend our appreciation for her kind offer to be a coordinator of this contact group.

The significance of resource mobilization

The challenge to humanity posed by landmines is far too great for any single country to handle alone. For mine affected developing countries in particular, resource mobilization becomes a necessity. Cooperation and assistance both in financial and technical forms as well as the transfer of equipment are the primary factor for the achievement of the Convention's goal. The need for such cooperation and assistance is even greater for those mine affected developing countries that are currently experiencing extreme poverty, economic hardship and arms conflict.

From our experience, we would not have achieved so many of our objectives in tackling landmine problems were it not the assistance and cooperation we received from various of our partners including international organizations, non-governmental organizations and major donors. I would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for all partners that have been continuously supporting mine action activities in Thailand. We hope that our partnership will remain and will contribute to the success in reaching the common goal of ridding landmines.

Thailand's Contribution

Despite limited resources, Thailand has managed to extend assistance to our neighbour. Good progress has been achieved in solving landmine problems.

After the establishment of Thailand Mine Action Center, Thailand has duly developed mine clearance expertise and wishes to share our experience with any