

Statement by Thailand: 4 February 2003

- Thailand realizes that national government has its role in providing sufficient assistance, medical care and rehabilitation services to disable persons including landmine victims. However, there are still some people who have been left behind due to insufficiency of the services and the lack of access to those services. In order to respond to the needs of mine victims, Thailand is of the view that all stakeholders and partners including government sector, international organizations, nongovernmental organizations and victims themselves should take part in this process. We firmly believe that this would be channeled to the most preferred and viable solution.

- In Thailand, the cooperation between the local government agencies and the NGOs has already been forged. The joint projects aiming at assisting mine victims in mine affected area are running well. In September 2001, the National Workshop on Mine Victim Assistance was first held in Bangkok. The workshop brought together representatives from all sectors concerned. Participants took this opportunity to exchange information and share their views. This was considered step forward in improving victim assistance in Thailand.

- Recently, Thailand Mine Action Center conducted two training courses on mine victim assistance and mine awareness in Sri Sa Ket and Buriram provinces in the Northeastern part of Thailand. They provide opportunity for new participants to learn valuable lessons that can be applied to their day-to-day living.