

A working breakfast on

***Sufficiency Economy: The Role and Participation of Youth
in Sustainable Development***

*Thursday, 14th October, 2010
8:00-9:45 AM*

at The Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations



On 14th October 2010, the Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations New York with the sponsorship of Good Governance For Social Development and the Environment Institute (GSEI) hosted a working breakfast, themed “*Sufficiency Economy: The Role and Participation of Youth in Sustainable Development*”, during the 65th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 65) in New York. The event welcomed audiences from 30 delegations, including many youth delegates who are involved in economic and environmental development program in their respective countries. The event was opened by the Deputy Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations, Mr. Jakkrit Srivali, followed by a video presentation of GSEI’s Oriental Wisdom video show casing Sufficiency Economy Philosophy and Oriental Wisdom as a mean to solve global economic and environmental problems. Further details on Sufficiency Economy Philosophy were then introduced by Thailand’s Minister Counsellor, Ms. Sansanee Sahussarungsi.

The event also received the privilege of welcoming H.E Lhatu Wangchuk, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bhutan to the United Nations, who gave a presentation on Bhutan’s infamous Gross National Happiness (GNH) as well as explaining important qualities that are needed to achieve good governance.

After, a brief presentation was given by the two Thai Youth Delegates to UNGA 65, Ms.Pacharaporn Panomwon na Ayutthaya and Ms. Ploypailin Rupavijetra, to promote the need for sustainable mindsets among youth and encourage youth participation in promoting the ideas. The event was then wrapped up with a short workshop on the application of Sufficiency Economy Philosophy and GNH to “Education and Vocational Training”, “Environment”, and “Corporate Social Responsibility”, which allowed each delegates to link the concepts presented to the respective circumstances in their countries. The question and answer session lasted well over time as many delegates inquired on specific traditional knowledge, such as the case of Chumbhorn Cabana in the video presentation, and policy approaches that could be used in their respective countries. Discussions were also raised about Mohammad Yunus’ microfinance and yoghurt project with Danone as a way to alleviate poverty. Participants agreed that the presentation gave a new light to developmental approach and that there needs to be a collaborative effort in encouraging ideas like Oriental Wisdom.

The event received a huge positive feedback from the audience; many delegates requested sources for further information and expressed their desire to participate in conferences in Thailand about Sufficiency Economy Philosophy. In addition, many Youth Delegates also sent electronic documents and research paper on Sufficiency Economy Philosophy and GNH that were distributed at the event to their Green Movement networks in Europe. The aftermath of the event will also be publicised by Thailand’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the United Nations Program on Youth Website.

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