



**Introductory Keynote**  
at the opening session of  
the resumed first session of the ad hoc open-ended working group  
on a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound  
management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution  
(OEWG1.2)

by

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On behalf of

**H.E. Mr. Varawut Silpa-archa**

**Minister of Natural Resources and Environment,  
the Kingdom of Thailand**

At the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok

30<sup>th</sup> January 2023



**Excellencies,**

**Ms. Sheila AGGARWAL-KHAN,**

**Director of Economy Division,  
on behalf of Ms. Inger Anderson,  
Executive Director of UNEP**

**Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus,**

**Director-General of the World Health Organization**

**All distinguished guests,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Good morning. Sawasdee Krub,**

On behalf of the Royal Thai Government, it is my great honor to deliver the welcome remarks and Introductory Keynote at the resumed first session of the ad hoc open-ended working group on a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution (OEWG1.2). I wish to thank UNEP and the Secretariat for your hard works and all arrangement, and extend to all funding partners my appreciation for your contributions to support the establishment process of a science-policy panel including the organization of this meeting as well.

COVID-19 has presented an unprecedented challenge to global health, economies, and environment, while disrupting the world towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals or SDGs. Yet, I strongly believe that with the collective resolve, every challenge is an opportunity for the international community to rethink and work more closely to build a greener and healthier world, as well as resilience to existing and future crises.

At this critical juncture, there is no doubt that science helps us better understanding and equipping us to address the planetary crisis with collaborative



actions between scientists and decision-makers for environmental sustainability. However, chemicals, waste and pollutions has been lacking the intergovernmental science-policy interface body, engaging with multistakeholders, to support the global decision making to overcome such issue in the same paces of climate and biodiversity issue.

In this context, Thailand joins the global on this matter, as one of co-sponsors to the UNEA Resolution 5/8 entitled “Science-policy Panel to Contribute Further to the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste and to Prevent Pollution”, proposed by the Federal of Switzerland, at the resumed 5<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations of Environment Assembly in Kenya.

### **Excellencies,**

Thailand attaches the great importance to addressing triple planetary crisis of climate changes, biodiversity losses, and pollutions. We stand firm in our pledge and commitment made in major conferences on environmental issues which were held last year, from Minamata COP4, 2022 BRS COPs, the fourth session of the Intersessional Process of the development of the beyond 2020 instrument on the sound management of chemicals and waste to UNFCCC COP27 and CBD COP15. Thailand is also committed to working closely with international community on the negotiations of the INC on Plastic Pollution which its first session took place in Uruguay last year.

In action and deed, Thailand has adopted the Bio-Circular-Green Economy Model (BCG), guided by the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy of His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej as a means to achieve more balanced development and protect our planet. Our ambitious commitment have been translated into actions, through the development and implementation of national



policies, plans, measures, standards, which are aligned with UNEP's Nature-Based Solutions.

### **Excellencies,**

From our part, Thailand views that OEWG1.2 is timely opportunity to discuss on the improvements of the availability of scientific data, information and assessments in enabling more effective and efficient action to minimize and prevent the adverse impacts of the unsound management of chemicals and waste, as well as prevent pollution. Moreover, the working group would further consider on the institutional arrangements for the evaluation report on the policy development and implementation of SPP outcomes at all levels.

Thailand stands ready and will continue to work with all delegates and stakeholders in establishing the science-policy panel to be the main body to providing policy-relevant scientific evidence and supporting the policy development and implementation, particularly financial contribution for developing countries, on the sound management of chemicals and waste and the prevention of pollution at all levels.

In closing, I wish you all have fruitful discussion and successful outcomes, including the way forwards for the near future intersessional works and next coming OEWGs. And I sincerely hope the renowned smiles and warm hospitality of the Thai people will impress upon your stay.

**Thank you very much. Kob Khun Krub.**

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*Prepared by the Pollution Control Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, in collaboration with the Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Kingdom of Thailand, on 28 January 2023.*