

**Intervention on the Progress in Mine Clearance
By the Thai Delegation
Standing Committee on Mine Clearance
11 February 2004**

Thank you Mr. Co - Chairs,

I would like to take this opportunity to give a brief report on the progress Thailand has made on mine clearance during the past year.

Thailand Mine Action Center has been working closely with General Chatichai Choonhavan Foundation with the support of Japan Alliance for Humanitarian Demining Service in conducting demining operations in the Eastern part of Thailand, one of the most mine-affected areas in the country. Last year, we conducted a mine-clearance project at the Sadok Kok tom Palace with an area of 400,000 sq.m. This piece of land was later handed over to the Governor of Sa Kaew province to be developed as a tourist site. This project was considered successful as it made the land usable, turning the risk into opportunities. In addition, fewer people will suffer from landmines in that area. People living nearby will also benefit greatly from tourism promotion to be undertaken by the province. This is a good example that demonstrates the urgency why we need to clear mines.

I would also like to share with you how Thailand's progress in mine clearance as well as other mine-related activities. Partnership is key. Coordination and cooperation among several agencies is necessary. The success of the mine clearance project in Sadok Kok tom was made possible by the close collaboration between local NGOs and TMAC with the great contribution by the Japanese Government.

In addition, engaging civilians to undertake operations also helped the mine clearance in Thailand. It was the first time ever that civilians took part in the task and we are planning to engage more and more civilians in carrying out this sort of operation.

Despite the progress we have made, much remains to be done. I would now like to share with you our problems, plan and priority.

Thailand has difficulties in clearing mined land as we lack of resources. Insufficient budget has become a major obstacle. In this regard, we would like to emphasize the significance of resource mobilization and would like to urge States Parties in a position to those with mine area to do so.

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Thailand also realize the significance of having a comprehensive national plan for mined clearance. To do so, we are planning to conduct a Level-2 landmine Impact Survey so that we can identify the most mined area to be cleared.

I would also like to inform the meeting that TMAC is in the process of restructuring its organization. The military-led organization will be transformed into the private organization. We believe that with the new structure, our task will be carried out in a more efficient and effective manner.

I tank you, Mr. Co -Chair.
