

As of 30 Oct, 18, 09.21 hrs.

**Report at the Inaugural Ceremony
by Hon. Dr. Thamrong Dasananjali
Chairperson of the Executive Committee
of the Thai Scout Parliamentary Association
The 9th WSPU General Assembly
13th November, 2018, Dusit Thani Bangkok Hotel
Bangkok, Thailand**

Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. On behalf of the Executive Board Members ,World Scout Parliamentary Union, the Organizing Committee, Sub-Committee of the 9th General Assembly, National Scout Organization of Thailand and Thai Scout Parliamentary Association are all thankful to Your Excellency, Professor Pornpetch Wichitcholchai, President of the National Legislative Assembly of Thailand, and honorable delegates for taking your time to attend the 9th General Assembly of the World Scout Parliamentary Union (WSPU).
2. The World Scout Parliamentary Union (WSPU) is an independent association which unites scout-oriented parliamentarians from all over the world and brings them into closer contact with the world scout movement. The main purpose of the WSPU is to strengthen the national scout organizations, at the national level, and support world scouting at the international level, through the work of parliamentarians. It also aims to encourage the establishment of the National Scout Parliamentary Association (NSPA) under the parliamentary framework, with a firm belief in the effectiveness of non-formal education.
3. The 8th WSPU General Assembly in Stockholm, Sweden in 2016 had decided with a unanimous vote that Thailand would be the next venue for the 9th General Assembly and now the Forum will start today until 14th of November in Bangkok. Although the venue of the meeting cannot be held at the new Thai Parliament because of construction, Dusit Thani Bangkok Hotel is located near the Statue of King Rama 6, the founder of Thai scouting. This Forum will keep more emphasize on how to sustain the development goal achievement along with the UN declaration and the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej, Rama the Ninth of Thailand.

4. The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015 was aiming to eradicate poverty, protect our world and bring about peace and prosperity to people, however, the sustainable development challenges, especially on poverty, climate change and environment, still remain. Therefore, to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it requires effective plans and implementation as well as cooperation at all levels among stakeholders in public and private sectors, particularly children and youth who are the change agents to create a better world for themselves and future generation.

5. Thailand believes that the WSPU, which unites scout-oriented parliamentarians from all over the world, can be one of the international significant platforms to share ideas and means in promoting the youth affairs through scout activities. It is an honor to be the host of the 2014 WSPU's Executive Committee Meeting in Pattaya, and, once again, the 2019 Executive Committee Meeting and the 9th WSPU General Assembly during 12th - 14th November, 2018 in Bangkok.

6. The theme of the 9th General Assembly of WSPU is "Roles of the Parliament in Supporting Scout Movement towards SDGs Achievement". This is the first time that WSPU General Assembly adopts SDGs as the underlying theme. Apart from the "Review of WSPU Activities for Future Scouting Development" in Plenary Session, the meeting includes three panel discussions for delegates to join which are "Roles of the Parliament to Ensure Lifelong Learning", "Possible Contributions of the WSPU to Achieve SDGs" and "Scouting and Parliamentary Roles in Synergizing Efforts in Response to Global Challenges". All these panel discussions will take place today afternoon.

7. This WSPU meeting focuses on SDGs based on three objectives.

1. To review past WSPU activities and consolidate initiatives for scouting development in the future;

2. To raise awareness of potentiality of the national legislature as one of the key institutions for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the SDGs;

3. To provide parliamentarians with opportunities to discuss their roles concerning youth empowerment and the scout movement in response to development challenges.

8. During the meeting, the topic of SDGs will be discussed mainly on SDG 3 on good health and well-being, SDG 4 on quality education, SDG 13 on climate action, SDG 14 on life

below water, SDG 15 on life on land, SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions, and SDG 17 on partnerships for the goals.

9. Moreover, Thailand would like to propose the Bangkok Declaration into the Forum for consideration and hopes that this declaration produced by the WSPU's participants would be the 3rd significant outcome document of the WSPU after the 1994 Commitment of Valparaiso in Chile and the 1997 Manila Declaration in Philippines.

10. At this stage, I would like to invite Your Excellency, Professor Pornpetch Wichitcholchai, President of the National Legislative Assembly of Thailand, to give the opening address and also, make the speech on the development of Scouting in the new era for the benefit of mankind and our young children.
