

## Opening Remarks

*[Your Excellency the Minister Attached to the Prime Minister's Office]*

Country Director of the World Bank for Southeast Asia

Secretary-General of the Public Sector Development Commission

Honorable Speakers

Distinguished Participants

Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Office of the Council of State, and as co-organizers of the ASEAN Workshop on the New Era for the Public Sector Reform in ASEAN Community, I would like to extend my warmest welcome to all of you who are gathered here today with the common purpose of achieving an efficient and modernized public sector under the auspices of ASEAN integration.

As it is the topic of the Workshop, “Public Sector Reform” will be an important step in moving forward to the ASEAN Economic Community in 2015. One of the mechanisms needed to achieve this is a process which guarantees good regulatory practices.

The Office of Council of State, as the central law agency for the Royal Thai Government, is responsible for the review of proposed legislations or “Bills” introduced by each ministry and approved by the Council of Ministers. The Office of the Council of State’s role in public sector reform therefore lies in the exercise of its scrutinizing functions in regard to the proposal of new legislation. This examination process incorporates a procedure known as regulatory impact assessment, or RIA, which essentially requires the assessment and analysis of potential impacts arising from the implementation of the proposed legislation. The process examines a bill from various dimensions, whether cost-effectiveness,

readiness of agencies in terms of budget, manpower and other resources, as well as the anticipated responses of the public, just to name a few. If carried out properly, the process will ensure that enacted legislation will achieve their intended objectives and that the public sector will be able to deliver public services in a seamless fashion.

It is hoped that this Workshop will inspire and strengthen further ASEAN cooperation. Participants are encouraged to utilize this Workshop as a platform for exchanging valuable ideas and experiences on Public Sector Reform. Together, we can build upon our past accomplishments and adopt innovative approaches to tackle the potential challenges we might face as we move towards the new era of ASEAN integration.

On final note, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to *[Your Excellency the Minister Attached to the Prime Minister's Office for honoring us by presiding over the Opening ceremony,]* the Country Director of World Bank for Southeast Asia and Secretary-General of the Public Sector Development Commission for the excellent arrangements for this Workshop in collaboration with the Office of the Council of State, Honorable Speakers and all Distinguished Participants, and wish you a fruitful discussion in accordance with the set objectives.

Thank you.