

**Statement by**  
**H.E. Mr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul**  
**Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand**  
**at the High – Level Public – Private Counter Piracy Conference**  
**28 June 2012, Dubai, United Arab Emirates**

-----

**Excellencies,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I wish to thank the Government of the United Arab Emirates and DP World for organizing this second edition of the Counter Piracy Conference. I also wish to thank the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the UAE for the warm hospitality extended to our delegation.

Since our last meeting, maritime piracy remains a global threat.

I join others in expressing our utmost concern over the rise of piracy around the world, especially in the Gulf of Aden and off the coast of Somalia.

The sea routes in this area are major lifelines for many economies.

A more worrying sign is the increasing economic and human cost. I concur with the statement by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the UAE yesterday who said that hostages are suffering harsher situations than before.

In sharing international responsibility and in support of UN Security Council resolutions, Thailand has been part of the anti-Somali piracy operation under the Combined Maritime Forces since 2010. As Commander of Combined Task Force 151 until July this year, we have exerted all efforts in countering piracy.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is now time for us, governments and industries, to step up efforts in our counter-piracy response. Let me share with you some of our thoughts.

**Firstly**, we need to enhance capacity for greater exchange of information and intelligence. Thailand is an active member of the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP). And we are now looking to enhance information-sharing and cooperation between ReCAAP and the three piracy information-sharing centers in Africa, established under the Djibouti Code of Conduct.

**Secondly**, we need to cut off the illicit financial flow of piracy syndicates and break up their network. This is an area where governments and private sectors can work together. The Thai Anti - Money Laundering Office is ready to exchange information and intelligence regarding worldwide piracy networks and has financial investigation tools and expertise to be shared with Somali counterparts.

**Lastly**, we need to address the underlying causes of piracy by finding inclusive, long-term and sustained solutions. An effective approach is to provide capacity building support in states directly affected by piracy.

In the case of Somalia, we have begun technical cooperation in a number of areas. Senior officials from the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources of Somalia visited Thailand to learn about our expertise in integrated marine and coastal resources management. We also provided training in the field of fishery for Somali officials.

We are also considering the possibility of providing training for Somalia's law enforcement agencies in order to prepare them for their future demanding duties.

In this connection, I would like to announce the proposal for the next phase of technical cooperation.

First, we will organize additional vocational trainings for Somalis to support income generation such as mechanics.

Second, we are considering establishing a training center in Africa staffed with Thai experts to provide training for African countries, including Somalia, in the areas that will contribute to their economic well-being and sustainable development.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I would like to close by reiterating our commitment to cooperate with the regional and international community in the fight against piracy, which weakens our progress and development.

Thank you.