

**Her Royal Highness Princess Soamsawali
Presides and inaugurates
Campaign 2000 for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons 1993-2002,
ESCAP Hall, United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok
Tuesday, 12 December 2000**

- 0930 hrs. - Guests and Participants are kindly requested to take their designated seats.
- 1000-1130 hrs. - Arrival of H.R.H the Princess Soamsawali.
- Organizing Committees welcome H.R.H the Princess Soamsawali
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sobha Spielmann, Vice-Chairman, Organizing Committee
Mr Yutaka Takamine, Representative for ESCAP
Mr Ichiro Maruyama, Representative of RNN
respectfully present garlands to H.R.H the Princess Soamsawali.
- H.R.H the Princess Soamsawali proceeds to the ESCAP Hall on the second floor of the United Nations Conference Centre by escalator.
- Mr Somporn Thepsithar, Vice President of NCSWT and Chairman of the Organizing Committee for the Campaign 2000 respectfully presents the meeting documents to H.R.H the Princess Soamsawali.
- Mr Sakchai Sakkulwong, Director-General, Department of Public Welfare, representative of Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare respectfully presents Campaign 2000 Souvenir.
- Prof. Prapasna Auychai, President of NCSWT, reports on the objectives of the meeting.
- Ms Kayoko Mizuta, Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP reads the speech of Mr Kim Hak-Su on the activities of the United Nations on Campaign 2000
- Mr. Ichiro Maruyama, Secretary General, Regional NGO Network for the Promotion of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons (RNN) reports on the activities of RNN on Campaign 2000.

- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sobha Spielmann, Vice-Chairman, Organizing Committee presents three supporting organizations to receive tokens of appreciation
 - Inaugural Address by H.R.H the Princess Soamsawali.
 - H.R.H the Princess Soamsawali proceeds to the ground floor of the United Nations Conference Centre to cut the ribbon opening the exhibition on Freedom from Barriers, and visit the exhibition.
 - H.R.H the Princess Soamsawali leaves the United Nations Conference Centre.
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Speech of
Mr. Kim Hak-Su, Executive Secretary
United Nations Economic and Social Commission
for Asia and the Pacific
at the Opening Ceremony of Campaign 2000
for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993 – 2002
ESCAP HALL, United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok
Tuesday 12 December 2000

Your Royal Highness,

My name is Kayoko Mizuta, Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. It is a great honour that you have come to preside at the opening ceremony of Campaign 2000.

It is my privilege to deliver the message of the Executive Secretary of the Commission, Mr Kim Hak-Su, on the occasion of the opening ceremony of Campaign 2000.

I quote,

"Your Royal Highness, it gives me great pleasure to extend my warm greetings to you, and to all who are gathered here, at the opening session of Campaign 2000 for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002.

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific is pleased to extend its support to, and to serve as a co-organizer of, Campaign 2000. Your Royal Highness, this is a very special event in the new millennium, to launch disability action into the twenty-first century, here in Bangkok.

I would like to thank the Government of Japan, and to convey special appreciation of the generous funding support that it has given towards the successful implementation of Campaign 2000. I would also like to thank, Mr Ichiro Maruyama, the Secretary General of the Regional NGO Network for the Promotion of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, for his support. The Network has played an important role in preparing for this eighth Campaign since the beginning of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons in the year 1993.

Finally, Your Royal Highness, I wish to thank the Organizing Committee of Campaign 2000, which has worked tirelessly to make this important event such a success. I am sure that the outcomes of the Campaign will lead to significant and positive developments for people with disabilities in our region.

Once again , Your Royal Highness, on behalf of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, I have the honour to thank you for your presence, and for your support of persons with disabilities.”

End of quote.

Thank you.

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Speech of
Mr. Ichiro Maruyama, Secretary General
Regional NGO Network for the Promotion of the Asian and Pacific
Decade of Disabled Persons (RNN)
at the Opening Ceremony of Campaign 2000 for the Asian and
Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993 – 2002
ESCAP HALL, United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok
Tuesday 12 December 2000

Your Royal Highness,

My name is Ichiro Maruyama, Secretary General, Regional NGO Network for the Promotion of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons.

With the presence of Your Royal Highness Princess Soamsawali, it is my great honor and pleasure to be able to extend all participants my heartiest welcome to the Campaign 2000 Thai Conference to “promote the social integration of People with Disabilities of Asia and the Pacific Region”.

A quarter century has passed since “the Declaration on the rights of Disabled Persons” of United Nations was proclaimed and called for national and international action to ensure the protection of the rights of people with disability. Still no country in this region is yet to implement this declaration completely and a very few countries started the comprehensive efforts to meet the requirement of the declaration.

The decision of UNESCAP on this important decade became in reality by the requests of organizations of People with Disability of many countries in the region. Regional NGO Network for the Promotion of this

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Decade was formed by those organizations of people with disabilities and disability-related organizations and started the region-wide annual campaign to create and enhance public awareness of the Decade since it's beginning of the Decade in the year 1983.

Our campaign served as an avenue for the community of organizations off/for persons with disabilities to demonstrate our capability to influence the challenges and systems that will advance our cause. Furthermore, the involvement of governments in the campaign has led governments to focus more attention to the plight of people with disabilities.

The previous Campaigns were held in Okinawa, Manila, Jakarta, Auckland, Seoul, Hong Kong and Kuala Lumpur. Now in Bangkok, we are again providing people with disabilities, their families, administrators, professionals and volunteers the opportunity to exchange views and discuss issues for the regional co-operation for the promotion of the Decade.

Congratulations and appreciations to the organizing committee of the campaign 2000 for their excellent preparations. Likewise I would like to convey our appreciation to UNESCAP, the Government of Thailand and Government of the member countries of ESCAP, especially Japanese Government, for supporting this campaign.

We look forward to the Campaign in Vietnam in 2001 and the end-year of the Decade in Japan in 2002. Let us continue working together for an accessible and barrier-free Asia and the Pacific.

Thank Your Highness.
