

OPENING REMARKS

by

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Seminar on Development of Environmental and Emission Standards of VOCs

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Dr. Monthip Sriratana Tabucanon, Director-General, Pollution Control Department,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure and honour for me to be given this opportunity to say a few words, on behalf of the Japan International Cooperation Agency, on this important occasion of the opening of the Seminar on Development of Environmental and Emission Standards of VOCs, organised by the Pollution Control Department of Thailand and JICA.

First of all, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to the Pollution Control Department of Thailand and the JICA expert team for the preparation of this seminar. The purpose of the seminar is to present the scope of work and activities of this Thailand and Japan technical cooperation project on development of environmental and emission standards for VOCs and to exchange views and opinions from the authorities concerned in Thailand, other related stakeholders, and academic institutes.

Please let me explain the background of this project briefly. As many of you know, Thailand and Japan have been implementing many technical cooperation projects for social and economic development in Thailand. Among others, the environmental issue is considered one of the key themes in our technical cooperation under the recognition that the need to address development issues will arise as Thailand society matures in its rapid economic growth.

With regard to assistance in environmental issues in Thailand, JICA has been implementing technical cooperation projects in many areas, such as acid-rain mitigation measures, research activities on various areas including air pollution, water pollution, solid waste, and so on. Among these environmental problems, JICA considers that air pollution, especially VOCs emission from industry and vehicles, is one of the biggest environmental problems in Thailand.

Accordingly, JICA has dispatched a Japanese expert team to develop VOCs Standards, by enhancing the capacity of VOCs monitoring, compiling a VOCS emission inventory, and modelling and evaluating the health risk for the Pollution Control Department (PCD) and MONRE, in close collaboration with JICA's other project on Capacity Building on Environmental Research implemented in The Environmental Research and Training Center(ERTC).

We think these two projects are remarkable since they are trying to establish a good linkage between research and development for VOCs monitoring and analysis, which is undertaken by the ERTC, and regular monitoring and standards setting by the PCD.

Social arrangement for the environment, such as setting standards, should be developed by considering appropriate scientific bases. In this viewpoint, the attempts of these projects are worth noting.

It is also indispensable for us to share views and exchange opinions among stakeholders and the public in developing appropriate standards. This is why we welcome views and opinions from all people concerned in this seminar. Today, we have more than 100 participants from many authorities from the Thai Government and related organisations. I hope we will have a lively discussion and share views on countermeasures against VOCs air contamination and future cooperation in this issue in Thailand.

We also have Mr. Kida, a guest speaker from the Ministry of Environment in Japan. Mr. Kida will share with us the experiences of Japan in VOCs management, which I believe will be useful knowledge in Thailand.

I would like to conclude my speech by expressing once again my heartfelt thanks to all the persons participating in this seminar. I hope that we can create a close relationship in our future collaboration in the field of environment.

Thank you for your attention.