

ADDRESS BY MR. NUMYOOT SONGTHANAPITAK PRESIDENT EDUCATION SOCIETY OF THAILAND.

President of Education Society of Thailand in his brief address extended a very warm welcome to all the delegates, observers and guests. He emphasized the importance of education and the important role teachers are expected to play in educating the nation. He said it was a great honor that the conference had chosen Bangkok as the venue for such an important conference on education.

ADDRESS BY MR. NORIYUKI SUZUK GENERAL SECRETARY ITUC ASIA/PACIFIC

Mr. Suzuki addressed the conference and conveyed warm fraternal greetings from the workers of the world.

According to him the world financial crisis has changed the world creating more unemployment, poverty and impacting on workers lives badly. The present global crisis has framed present situation and made MDG on reducing poverty difficult to realize. He criticized the neo-liberal trading policy as a main cause of creating poverty among societies which in turn have affected the poorest of the nations the hardest.

He also stated the need in this situation for institutional reform, especially education institutions, to bring about quality education. Trade Unions can play an important role in this situation and need democratic environment to realize its goals. Trade Unions should raise its voice collectively to become a stronger force, internationally and nationally. The previous conference in Jakarta was the start of the EIAP reformation through initiatives such as building networks, promoting gender equality and social dialogue with sector wide workers organizations.

He concluded with a message of solidarity.

ADDRESS BY Dr. CHINNAPAT BHUMIRAT PERMANENT SECRETARY OF EDUCATION-THAILAND

He welcomed all to Thailand extending warm greetings to the participants and delegates to the Regional Conference.

In his brief address he disclosed that Thailand was trying to reform its educational system for the students to acquire desirable values. Moreover, Thailand also put additional budget for education which will include providing text books and other educational materials and facilitate equal access to education from kindergarten to collegiate.

Teachers are recognized as important players in the development and realize their contributions by building capacity. Special attention is given to English, Science, and IT. Education can make the world a better place to live. He wished the conference a success.

