Welcome Address  
By  
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Acting Director, Public Policy Development Office  

International Conference on Happiness and Public Policy  
18-19 July 2007  
United Nations Conference Center  
Bangkok, Thailand

Your Excellency, Deputy Prime Minister Paiboon Wattanasiritham;  
Your Excellency,  
Minister of Home and Cultural Affairs of Bhutan, Lyonpo Jigme Thinley;  
Secretary-General to the Cabinet, Rongphol Charoenphandhu;  
Secretary of UNESCAP, Mr. Kim Hak-Su;  
Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,  

On behalf of the Public Policy Development Office, it is indeed my great honored to welcome you to this International Conference on “Happiness and Public Policy” in Bangkok.

We are here today to participate in this conference to discuss very important issues relating to a paradigm shift in development, a shift that entails new approaches in development measurement and implications to public policies that would bring happiness to people and societies all over the world.

This Conference is very timely in the sense that the happiness issue has become a topic of interest internationally and is increasingly concerned among academia, policy makers, NGOs, and politicians. Many
participants who are working on this subject are from different parts of
the world and may not know each other before. This conference is therefore
a good opportunity for us all to meet and share our ideas and our
works. For many months during the preparation period of the
conference, I look forward to this meaningful task and foresee new
challenges before us. Today, it is time that the conference has become
a reality and we all are now meeting in person. Many of distinguished
guests and participants have traveled long distance from different parts
of the world to Thailand in order to contribute to this important
conference, for which I am very grateful. The Public Policy
Development Office is a new office and it is our great honor to have all
of you as partners in this endeavor. I am indeed very glad that this
Happiness International Conference can take place finally, and I very
appreciate cooperation from all partner organizations and participants
here. I am sure that this kind of conference, being organized for the
first time in Thailand, will have significant contributions to the progress
of the research on happiness itself, as well as to the national and
international development, and to the people of the world at large.

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Once again, I would like to express my deep gratitude to you all for your
presence here today. I hope you enjoy your stay in Thailand and will be
happy with the conference results.

Thank you.