

**INTERPOL Specialists Group on Crimes against Children**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Southeast Asia Working Party Meeting**  
19 – 21 March 2013  
*Dusit Thani Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand*

## **Opening Speech**

by

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Royal Thai Police

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**Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen, Honoured Guests and participants.**

On behalf of the Royal Thai Police, I am extremely glad to jointly open this meeting of the 1st Meeting of the Southeast Asia Working Party of the INTERPOL Specialist Group on Crimes against Children, being held today through Thursday 21 March 2013 at Dusit Thani Hotel, Bangkok.

First of all, I would like to welcome all participants representing various countries - such as INTERPOL, UNODC, representatives of international organizations, and non-government organizations – to Bangkok, the capital of Thailand. Bangkok is a popular and favorite destination in this region. I hope that everyone will have an opportunity to see our city and enjoy recreational activities, including visiting many kinds of tourist destinations within your reach in and around Bangkok.

Ladies and Gentlemen all here today, the meeting of the Southeast Asia Working Party of the INTERPOL Specialist Group on Crimes against Children is an important platform to propel the implementation of law enforcement policies. This can be done by sharing and exchanging information, news, and important data, as well as seeking cooperation amongst each other here in the region in order to combat and eradicate crimes against children.

Crimes currently threatening our children are extreme challenges for law enforcement agencies and various organizations.

Therefore, this meeting is an important platform for law enforcement agencies to find approaches and measures that will overcome these threats our children are confronting. It is our responsibility to cooperate in accomplishing this task.

**Ladies and Gentlemen all here today,**

In just a couple of years, it will be 2015 – the year when we officially enter the ASEAN Economic Community, so we need to quickly take action now. Every country experiences problems with crimes related to children. Therefore, I would like all of us to join together to brainstorm operational plans and measures to cope with the problems currently threatening us.

I truly hope that everyone here will make the most of this time we have together at this meeting in order to identify operational approaches, measures, and procedures to manage the issue of crimes related to children in our region.

I am confident that our full commitment, partnership, and cooperation will help us overcome obstacles and reach the goals we have set.

Lastly, on behalf of the Royal Thai Police, I would like to thank INTERPOL, UNODC, Australian AID, Project Childhood, which are key supporters that made this important meeting possible here today.

I would like to give my blessings to all of you joining your strengths and your hearts together today to achieve its objectives and making this meeting a success.

Now, I would like to officially open the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Southeast Asia Working Party of the INTERPOL Specialist Group on Crimes against Children.