



First National Seminar on Green Growth Policy Tools for Low Carbon Development in Thailand

23 – 24 February 2011, UN Convention Center Bangkok, Thailand

Background Note

Navigating towards an inclusive and sustainable development path while also adapting to the challenges posed by resource scarcity, environmental degradation and climate change are enormous tasks. Governments across the Asia and Pacific region have recognized the need to improve the environmental sustainability of their economic growth patterns and adopted the Green Growth approach at the MCED 2005. In light of this, the Government of Thailand has recognized the need to adjust their economy to effectively mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change while still pursuing economic growth and improving the standards of living of their citizens.

The British Government is keen to support countries taking ambitious actions to combat climate change through driving advances in green technology and innovation. However, to do so, they recognize the need to build the capacity and empower the next generation of policy-makers, entrepreneurs and scientists on how to chart a path for Green Growth and how to invest in new green businesses, clean technologies and infrastructure that can drive Thailand towards greater environmental sustainability.

In this regard, the British Embassy in partnership with ESCAP and in collaboration with the National Economic and Social Development Board, and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand is hosting the first of a series of two-day national seminars on green growth policy tools for low carbon development in Thailand. The seminar will act as a useful platform for dialogue with the senior officials and decision makers from Royal Thai Government on possible options for mitigation and adaption to climate change while improving the environmental sustainability of the economic growth patterns of the country. Materials utilized during the course will include expert presentations, group discussions, Green Growth e-learning training modules developed by ESCAP with support from the KOICA and inputs from the British Government, including earlier supported study on the *Economics of Climate Change in Southeast Asia* produced by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) also supported by the British Government.

Recognizing that capacity development is a process in itself, this will assist building individual, organizational and institutional understanding of the Green Growth concept and available policy tools. It is also expected that further areas for collaborative capacity development will be identified for future training of trainers' workshops, which will aid and empower policy makers to develop appropriate strategies, roadmaps and policies to facilitate environmentally sustainable economic growth in Thailand. Training of trainers seminars are tailored to suit the needs of middle-level managers and government officials, as well as representatives from academia, the private sector and non-governmental organizations who would be closely involved in development of relevant policies and strategies.