According to WHO Global Report on Road Safety in 2018, at 32.7 road fatalities per 100,000 population, Thailand placed the ninth highest in the world and the highest in ASEAN. The report showed that motorcycles were the leading cause of road traffic accident with children and youth being the most vulnerable group.

Realizing our shortcoming, Thailand has been continuously working towards improving our road safety situation. In order to tackle such cross-cutting issue, relevant government agencies have joined forces with determination to bring the number the road fatalities down. Ministry of Transport, as one of the core agencies, has been working on improving both road infrastructures and road user behavior in order to create safer driving environment for all Thai citizens.

To improve road user behavior, we have placed highest importance in raising road safety awareness especially in vulnerable age group. Many campaigns have been lunched in elementary schools across country every year to educate children on safe road behavior. Criteria for driver’s license has also been reviewed and improved. More practical aspects such as emergency situation evaluation and response are now being incorporated into driver’s compulsory curriculum.

Concurrently, the emphasis to comply with UN regulation on vehicle standard has been underscored. Domestic regulations issued in accordance with UN Regulation have been constantly rolled out for implementation. In line with this, vehicle inspection is also being tighten across the country under Department of Land Transport’s supervision.

We also realize the significance of utilizing technology and evidence-based data in monitoring road user behavior. Both heavy trucks and buses in Thailand are equipped with GPS tracking from which data is collected and used to monitor driver’s behavior such as speed and driving hours. We aim to utilize available data in road crash prevention.

Aside from improving road user behavior, safer road infrastructure is one of the priorities of Ministry of Transport. New initiatives are implemented in order to set proper design standard
for future highways and rural roads across Thailand. As a collaboration between Department of Land Transport, Department of Highways and Department of Rural Roads, Rubber Fender Barrier (RFB) is installed in 94 roads across the countries to reduce the impact caused by road crash. National highways are also being improved for safer driving environment by incorporating intelligent transport system and improving traffic signs.

Most importantly, Ministry of Transport realizes the role of public transport in improving road safety. In our effort to make to society be less reliant on private transport, we also strive to improve accessibility as well as interconnectivity across different mode of public transport.

Thailand is committed to continuously improve our road safety situation. According to Thailand Injury Data Collaboration Center (IIDC), our effort has been reflected in declining road fatalities rate in the past three year. With the new regional action plan, we aim to demonstrate more improvement and make the best use of new initiative and knowledge shared among member states during the next decade to come.

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