Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thailand underscores the improvement of road safety and aims to reduce road accidents by 2030 in order to support the achievement of SDG target 3.6. Having road safety as one of the key thematic areas identified for the next Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific is not just desirable but compulsory. Thailand looks forward to working closely with the ESCAP secretariat and member countries in implementing the planned programme and making the SDG target 3.6 a reality. In this light of view, I would like to introduce various initiatives implemented by the Ministry of Transport in order to tackle road safety issues in Thailand which are categorized into 3 dimensions; road users, vehicles, and road environment.

Road accidents are mainly caused by drivers. As a result, the Ministry of Transport collaborates with the Ministry of Interior and the Royal Thai Police to conduct year-round law enforcement, for safe behaviors, which includes wearing helmets, using seat belts, adhering to speed limits and obeying traffic laws. Currently, the Ministry uses GPS technology to track and monitor driving behaviors of buses and cargo trucks.

The Ministry has started enforcing the point deduction system for public transport such as taxis, motorcycle taxis, buses and cargo trucks since December 1, 2021. By combining the technology and the point deduction system, The Ministry believe that a large number of accidents caused by drivers can be greatly reduced.
In terms of vehicle aspect, the Ministry of Transport requires all vehicles to be inspected annually. In addition, the inspection requirements for public transport vehicle are stricter. One of those is that the inspection must be done at least twice a year. Furthermore, random checking points are set up along the road throughout the country to inspect public transport vehicles. This is to ensure the vehicles’ safety and pollution emission to meet the requirements. This initiative resulted in an enormous decrease in the number of accidents, especially during the long holiday season like New Year and Songkran Festival where there is a high number of travelers.

The Ministry also uses the concept of “Safe System Approach”, in which the road infrastructure should help reduce damages in events of accidents and increase driving visibility. The Ministry has developed rubber fender barriers for using on highways that formerly had flush medians to separate traffic lanes or had head-on collision cases. Crash tests from the Korea Automobile Testing & Research Institute found that when crashed at a speed of 120 kilometers per hour, the barrier prevents cars from crossing over the median. A rubber guide post is another development. It helps reduce the damage when motorcycles crash into guide posts. Lastly, Traffic Information System is used to inform road users weather information, and traffic information in advance.

I would like to inform you that the government of Thailand is committed to resolving the road safety issue by setting it as one of the national agendas and encouraging all sectors to take action. This includes technology as a tool for law enforcement, launching a campaign to raise safe driving awareness among Thais of all ages, and creating a safe road environment that meets international standards in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the area of road safety.

Lastly, I would like to play the video that summarizes the remarkable achievements in the field of road safety, consisting of the rubber fender barrier, highway improvement to support the speed limit of 120 km/h. and the Road Safety Fund.