Good afternoon distinguished panelists, delegates, ladies, and gentlemen.

Today, I shall convey my ideas regarding the importance of partnerships in advancing towards the sustainable development goals here in Southeast Asia.

As we know economic development and livelihood stability depend on the security of natural resource capitals. However, the risk of global warming and its collective damages profoundly affects our livelihoods, overall wellbeing, and significantly jeopardizes the security of natural resources, with Southeast Asia standing prominently among the most vulnerable regions to these adverse effects.

Therefore, there is an urgent need to fully adopt the sustainable development goals in order to ensure a safe, healthy, and sustainable environment for all. However, the realization of the SDGs is difficult to achieve without cooperation and partnership.

This is precisely where the significance of SDG17 emerges; it is a cross-cutting goal that emphasizes the need for multi-sectoral partnerships and calls for the mobilization of social co-learning/creation of knowledge across cross-cultural dimensions, hard and soft technology, and financial resources to enhance existing actions on global warming mitigation.

As we know, Southeast Asia features complex and diverse cultures, societies, economies, and technologies. Although we are in the same region, we have common but differentiated responsibilities in achieving the common global goals and local sustainable development strategies. The goal we may share is balancing our economic, environmental, and social needs, to ensure sustainable prosperity for current and future generations, such as through the cultivation of low-carbon societies, logistics, and economies.
However, due to our differences in values and belief sets, technologies, economics, and politics, each region has different pathways to implement their respective environmental responsibilities. In order to deliver the SDGs in Southeast Asia, we do need partnerships and collaboration to bring diverse communities together and collectively move towards the goals and create a common pathway of foresight and understanding on socioecological issues.

Nevertheless, it is important to note that there is no silver bullet to achieving the sustainable development goals in Southeast Asia. Sustainable development encompasses a broad spectrum of deeply intertwined issues including economic growth, environmental protection, social equity, and many more. Due to the complex and dynamic interconnections between these issues, addressing them requires a holistic approach, as impacting one sector can result in ripple effects across other sectors as well as the local development agendas of the Southeast Asian regions. Hence, to reach our common leverage point, there is a need to develop tools and mechanisms to bridge the know-how gaps of existing and future capabilities as well as the limitations of all partnerships, while making sure that no one in Southeast Asia is left behind.

Furthermore, the collaboration between governments, businesses, civil societies, local communities, academia, and international organizations must be facilitated, as each stakeholder is vital in contributing resources, knowledge, and efforts to help develop more effective strategies to limit carbon emissions from the energy, transportation, agricultural, and industrial sectors.

Southeast Asian countries must constantly commit to improving their economic and social performances through coordinated approaches, to increase the chances of successfully achieving the SDGs by the year 2030.