Country Statement
By Thai delegate

(Mr. Pathom Sawanpanyalert, Deputy Permanent secretary, Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation) at the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation, Third Session, Item 2: Collaborative actions to harness technologies during pandemics

19 August 2020, 09.30 – 11.00 hrs., Bangkok, Thailand

Excellency,
Mr. Chairman/ Madame Chair,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thailand, is one of the leading country to detect COVID-19 case outside China, as early as January 2020. The total number of cases remains at around 3,381 to be exact as of 18 August 2020, with 58 deaths, and 3,194 recovered cases. For more than a month, new cases are at single digits, and the country is free from domestic cases for 85 consecutive days. As of 18 August 2020, 215 countries are affected by COVID-19 with total number of 22,049,426 cases, 777,439 deaths and 14,791,859 recovered cases.

Thailand’s success in controlling spread of COVID-19 owes to following factors: our universal public healthcare coverage system; prompt and coordinated management of the crisis; the collaboration from Thai people, and the global collaboration.

Thailand’s public health system offers accessible and affordable medical treatment, combining with community health volunteers who monitor and communicate COVID-19 knowledge for locals. An emergency decree plays vital role in coordinating the management of the crisis and enforcing necessary restrictions of physical distancing; closure of public places, work from home, and restriction of international flights, among
many others. Thai people are courageous and very cooperative in complying with stay-at-home, wearing face masks, and physical distancing observation.

Center for COVID-19 Situation Administration” or CCSA has been set up and chaired by the Prime Minister. However, Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation (MHESI) by The National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT), is designated as “Emergency Operation Center on Medical Innovation, Research and Development”, to support all activities regarding research, development and innovation, and to provide prompt and comprehensive situation analysis at national level.

For the ambitious actions, Thailand will deliver collaborative actions through the four proposed policy measures, namely,

1) During the crisis, support R&D and innovation activities as well as skills development as part of emergency measures and recovery packages.

2) After the crisis, strengthen the budgetary commitments to support R&D, innovation, and human resource development activities.

3) Support a systems approach to policy-making that includes natural sciences, engineering, social science and humanities as well as promoting cross-ministries collaboration and public-private partnership.

4) Ensure international cooperation and coordinated policy responses. In particular, support for research and development of vaccines and medicines and ensure inclusive access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all as well as building resilience system to cope with national and global health risks and crises in the future

Thank you so much.