

## Thailand Millennium Development Goals



Recently (4<sup>th</sup> February 2011) the Senate's Public Health committee has jointly organized a seminar on Millennium Development Goals – MDGS in collaboration with the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) at the Committee meeting room, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Parliament Building 2.

Mrs. Suthasri Wongsamarn, Deputy Secretary-General, OEC was invited to be a guest speaker on Millennium Development Goals: Access for All Children to Primary School Level. She said that at present, Thai educational system faces all problems ranging from students themselves to teachers, shortage of teachers in some subjects and educational institutions as well as inefficient management. The Ministry of Education has consequently, in its Education Reform in the Second Decade Policy, outlined strategies in 4 M which are : 1 Quality Development for Modern Thai, 2 Development for Modern teachers, 3 Modern educational institutions and learning sources and 4 Modern management.

She stated further that the OEC, as the organization responsible for formulating national education policies and plan, has adopted the following educational guidelines: 1) The Government should review the restricted educational guidelines which limit the right of the disadvantaged students and special educational needed students and exclude them from the system; 2) To modify the roles of the Ministry of Education as facilitator and decentralize to other administrations and communities by increasing their roles and responsibilities in education; 3) Integration of works among all responsible administrations concerning multi professions; 4) Exchange of Data and Information technology supporting the opportunities of education improvement; 5) Selection system, surveillance system, supporting system and guideline system must be set for sustainable educational access; 6) Parallel educational system for learners who are not able to attend normal education and new learning track; 7) Promoting incentives and good value for vocational schools, resolving violence problems and laying down working foundation and promoting all careers in every educational levels; 8) Improvement of curriculum, assessment and evaluation of learners and credit transfer credits for disadvantaged students and special needed students; 9) Improvement of assurance of educational quality and the standards of executives/ teachers' evaluation; 10) Improvement of provision and resources to increase opportunities of education access for disadvantaged and special needed persons; and 11) Gold card system for disadvantaged children.

The priorities of the Ministry of Education in 2011-2012 fiscal years are the followings: improvement of curricula and the skills of teachers and learners in Sciences and Mathematics; speedup of preparation of new generation of teachers and teachers' institutions; setting up the Tambol (sub-district) good school, 15-year free education scheme and educational vouchers etc. Mrs. Suthasri finally concluded that the success of education requires cooperation from all sectors in the society which will help Thai people access to the lifelong learning with quality.