

**Thailand Focus 2019**

**Welcome Address**

**Dr. Pakorn Peetathawatchai**

**President, The Stock Exchange of Thailand**

**August 28, 2019 (09:20 – 09:25 hrs.)**

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Minister of Finance, Dr. Uttama Savanayana,  
Deputy Secretary - General to the Prime Minister for Political Affairs,  
Dr. Kobsak Pootrakool,  
Secretary-General of the Securities and Exchange Commission,  
Khun Ruenvadee Suwanmongkol  
Chairman of The Stock Exchange of Thailand, Dr. Chaiyawat Wibulswasdi

Distinguished guests,  
Ladies and gentlemen

- It is an honor to welcome all of you to Thailand Focus 2019.
- This year conference is more special from any other years in that, it is the first country showcase to global investors after the election. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to our keynote speakers all panelists and our media partner, Bloomberg, for being a part of this annual gathering and exciting event.

Ladies and gentlemen

- Now that the elected government is in office, it is the right time to illustrate to the world how Thailand will become the place that everyone can happily live, grow, and prosper.
- As the Thai capital market has always been the integral part that drives Thai and regional economies, I would like to highlight three important characteristics that Thai capital market has. First, the “**resiliency**” of Thai capital market and the “**growth**” potential of our leading listed companies.
- Second, Thai capital market as a “**connector**” for CLMV and ASEAN economies and together become a “**partnership platform**” for all.

- Third, the expansion of the capital market to provide “**accessibility**” for SMEs and startups.

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### **[Section 1: “Resilience” of Thai capital market and its “growth” potential]**

- On my first point, the Thai capital market has been the main source of funding throughout period of opportunities and challenges. Since the 1997 Asian Financial Crisis and through periods of economic uncertainties, political situations, and structural challenges, Thai market has grown by twenty-times with an average daily trading value of 1.7 billion US dollars now.
- The current market capitalization of SET is reaching around 550 billion US dollars or 102% of Thailand’s GDP. This proves the capabilities of our listed companies, intermediaries, and investors that together contribute a significant growth to the economy.
- Our unique value proposition through product offerings such as Well-being index and Thailand Sustainability index, together with ASEAN’s highest number of listed companies in Dow Jones Sustainability indices are evidences of how well diverse Thai capital market really is.

### **[Section 2: Connect CLMV and ASEAN region and together become a “partnership platform” for all]**

- On my second point, as Thai capital market platform, our aspiration is to truly become an **integrated opportunities platform** for global investors.
- To achieve the aspiration, SET aims to connect with international markets through new products and services such as, REITs, infrastructure funds and depository receipts.
- In additional, Thai capital market ecosystem also needs to adapt to the challenges and tap into new opportunities given disruptive technologies, greater focus on sustainability, and regulatory changes by improving ecosystem’s efficiency and collectively enabling new business opportunities for everyone through traditional and **digital asset platform**.

### **[Section 3: Enhance “accessibility” for SMEs and startups]**

- On my final point, I would like to introduce **the development of our roles** that aim to engage with many stakeholders to drive new growth engine of Thai economy forward.
- SET believes in empowering **SMEs** through capital market platform **not only to funding but also “integrated total solutions”** from business matching to operational supports, through a collaboration with our partners in both public and private sectors.
- The collaboration will uplift the capabilities of SMEs and startups to grow and eventually become new economic engine for Thailand.
- I strongly believe that all these **three characteristics of Thai capital market** that are resilience and growth potential, “partnership platform” that connect to CLMV and ASEAN, and finally funding access to SMEs and startups, will build a strong foundation and propel Thai economy to the next level.
- Thank you very much. I wish you a very success and enjoyable event during the next three days.

### **[Ending section]**

Ladies and gentlemen,

- Please join me in welcoming His Excellency, the Minister of Finance, Dr. Uttama Savanayana to deliver his opening remarks.