



## PRESS RELEASE

## UN Secretary-General Visits Thailand, Calls for Action on Climate Change

**Bangkok (10 December 2007)** – United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon paid an official visit to Thailand today, during which he discussed mutual issues of concern including climate change, UN-Thailand cooperation and the situation in Myanmar with Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont and cabinet ministers.

During the visit, the Secretary-General delivered a keynote address on climate change in which he called on developing countries to do their part in addressing the challenge.

“The developing world needs to stop viewing climate change solely as an environmental issue, and begin approaching it as a development concern,” the Secretary-General said. “Our changing climate is a result of unsustainable development practices. And it is a serious threat to human progress everywhere, including right here in Asia.”

Mr. Ban made the official visit to Thailand on his way to attending the UN Climate Change Conference in Bali, Indonesia.

As well as climate change, the meeting with Prime Minister Surayud focused on strengthening the partnership between Thailand and the United Nations, particularly in the field of sustainable development. Other topics of discussion included peace and security, ASEAN-UN cooperation, migration, and UN reform.

Both parties agreed on the vital need for concrete outcomes at the Bali conference, and the Prime Minister requested that the UN cooperate with Thailand on the development of renewable and clean energy. The Prime Minister also reiterated Thailand's readiness to play an active role in the global partnership for development that aims to help developing countries.

At a joint press conference immediately after the meeting, Mr. Ban urged the authorities in Myanmar to fully respect the principles and rules of the United Nations Charter by engaging with the international community, democratizing and promoting human rights. December 10 was also international Human Rights Day.

The Secretary-General was asked about international action on Myanmar, and he said, “I know that the international community is very impatient, and our patience is running out.” He said that he would continue in his firm commitment to promote further dialogue in Myanmar.

Following the bilateral meeting, the Secretary-General and Mrs. Ban Soon-taek had an hour-long audience with Their Majesties the King and Queen of Thailand. The couple also had an opportunity to visit the royal projects at Chitralada Palace, where they visited an experimental fuel production plant. The Secretary General extended the good wishes of the United Nations to His Majesty on the occasion of his 80th birthday anniversary.

It was Mr. Ban's first visit to the Asia-Pacific region since becoming Secretary-General almost a year ago.