

Toward 2065 – Thailand Net Emissions Goal!

Edito of H.E Thierry MATHOU, Ambassador of France to Thailand

This event aims at opening the discussion between European and French entities with Thai Institutions and the private sector, to address a major challenge of this century: **reducing greenhouse gas / or carbon equivalent emissions to limit global warming.**

I would like to thank Khun Kulit SOMBATSIRI, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Energy of the Royal Government of Thailand and H.E David Daly, Ambassador of the European Union to Thailand, for contributing to the opening of this event.

Over the last months, the frequent exchanges between the Business France Agency and the Ministries of Energy, Environment and Transports, enabled the elaboration of this event. The participation of representatives from a large variety of ministries, offices, agencies as well as corporates and associations guarantee the quality of the exchanges taking place during this event. They include ONEP (Office of Natural Resources and Environment Policy and Planning, EPPO (Energy Policy and Planning Office), OTP (Office of Transport and Traffic Policy and Planning), TGO (Thailand Greenhouses gas organization) FTI (Federation of Thai Industries), The Carbon Market Club, PTT Global and Chemical Public Co, Arun Plus Co. Ltd (affiliated to PTT Group) and EVAT (Electric Vehicle Association of Thailand)

ASEAN is one of the regions the most affected by climate change, with three countries (Myanmar, the Philippines and Thailand) among those that have suffered the greatest fatalities and economic losses because of climate related disasters. In Thailand, we are more familiar with droughts and unusual rainy forecast, but climate change also recently caused a severe heat wave in India and Pakistan, impacting more than a billion people. Climate change has been for a long time identified as a phenomenon to be endured in the future. But it is happening now, and its major contributor has been officially and indubitably designed in the report published last august 2021 by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC); **greenhouse gas produced by human activities** has been designed as the main contributor of global warming. **It is a global threat, which must be delt with global efforts.**

These international efforts are expressed in the Paris Agreement, adopted in December 2015, as the results of the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP 21). The central objective of this

agreement is to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping the increase in global temperature well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to continue efforts to further limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius. It defines targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by each of the signatories of the agreement.

France hosted the COP 21 and was strongly involved in the adoption of the Paris Agreement. France's commitment to greenhouse gas emission reduction is showcased today by its pledge to reach **carbon neutrality by 2050**. By then, France greenhouse gas emissions shall be inferior to the quantities of greenhouse gases that can be absorbed on the French territory: by the ecosystems managed by human beings (forests, meadows, agricultural soils, etc.) as well as by specific industrial processes (CCUS – Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage). This implies that France emissions should be at least **below 2 Tons of carbon equivalent, per year, per capita**. However, on average, today's French emissions reach about 10 tons of CO₂ per year, per capita. Thus, we only have 28 years left, to divide our emissions by 5, to transition from an intensive carbon emission economy, industry, and lifestyle to a sustainable system.

To do so, the French Government elaborated a **National Low Carbon Strategy** (NLCS) in the framework of the **National Adaptation to climate change plan**. Industrial decarbonation is one of the main pillars of this roadmap. The particularly high carbon emissions reduction objectives which have been set for the industrial sector showcases France's decision to seize decarbonation as an opportunity for strengthening its industry, its employment, and its competitiveness.

France 2030" investment plan was unveiled by President Macron on October 12, 2021, it aims to support the transformation of sectors of excellence in the French economy in the automotive, aerospace, digital, green industry, biotechnology, culture, and healthcare. It will be worth €30 billion over five years, of which €8 billion for the energy sector, in view to develop innovative solutions, to become leader in green hydrogen and to decarbonize France's industry by reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 35% compared with 2015.

In this context, French industrial companies are at the forefront of the carbon emission reduction strategy of the country, and I am glad to welcome during this event the representatives of three French industrial companies, that will present their company's strategy and commitments.

- Mr. Manish PANT, East Asia and Japan President of Schneider Electric

- Mr. Pascal LAROCHE, Country Chair & General Manager of TotalEnergies Thailand
- and Mr. Florent HERSON, Thailand-Asean Division Vice President of FORVIA

Along with these 3 companies, key managers of four other French companies will present their expertise in the workshops during the second part of this event. I am pleased to point out that the composition of the French delegation reflects the numerous industrial sectors that can contribute to carbon emission reduction, from energy production, energy efficiency, electrical appliance, construction material to transportation solutions.

Thailand is a major economy in Southeast Asia. Its industrial transition started in the 90's, and while the country current average emission per capita per year only reaches around **3.7 Tons of CO₂, equivalent**, the country must now tackle the challenge of reducing its carbon and GHG emissions **while maintaining its growth**.

I am convinced that Thailand and France will be able to seize the opportunity to build an environment that future generations will not have to fear. I hope this event will be an opportunity to strengthen the French and Thailand relationship and to show France's commitment to support Thailand's economic development in a socially inclusive and environmentally responsible way.

H.E. Thierry MATHOU – Ambassador of France to Thailand