

Information submitted by the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 19/11 concerning the rights of persons with disabilities

1. The situation of persons with disabilities in the field of employment, including relevant data and statistics

- According to the survey conducted by the National Statistical Office in 2007, there are a total of 1,815,630 persons with disabilities aged 15 years and over. About 35 percent of this number, or 638,994 persons with disabilities, are employed in different sectors, with the percentage of employed males about 15 percent higher than that of employed females. Approximately two-thirds of employed persons with disabilities work in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector. Persons with disabilities who are unemployed are mostly elderly persons with the age of 60 years and over. They account for about 45.5 percent of the total population of this group of 1.81 million people. The number of persons with disabilities aged 15 years and over who are employed, categorized by sector and sex, appears in the table below.

Employment by sectors	Total	Male	Female
Total	1,815,630	833,253	982,377
	638,994	360,057	278,937
Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing	419,271	237,568	181,704
Mining and quarrying	918	776	142
Manufacturing	59,846	30,386	29,460
Electricity, gas and water supply	797	756	40
Construction	24,579	21,343	3,236
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods	70,741	35,371	35,370
Hotels and restaurants	21,204	7,340	13,864
Transport, storage and communication	5,324	4,874	450
Financial intermediation	1,148	768	380
Real estate, renting and business activities	4,306	3,117	1,190
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	7,899	6,298	1,601
Education	4,541	2,237	2,303
Health and social work	3,248	1,576	1,672
Other community, social and personal service activities	10,778	6,400	4,378
Private households with employed persons	4,238	1,136	3,102
International organizations	-	-	-
Unknown sector	156	111	45
Unemployed	1,176,636	473,196	703,440
Unknown	-	-	-

Source: National Statistical Office, available at http://service.nso.go.th/nso/nso_center/project/table/file_form.jsp?pro_code=S-disable&year=2550

2. Conformity of legislative and policy framework with article 27 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) on work and employment

- The Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand B.E. 2550 (2007) guarantees in section 30 the equality of all persons and prohibits discrimination on various grounds including disabilities. Section 43 of the Constitution recognizes the right to liberty of a person to engage in an

- The available statistics show that the number of persons with disabilities having access to employment opportunities or engaging in employment in the formal sector is rather low. An organization representing persons with disabilities have identified a few obstacles to access to employment. Many employers have set a high educational requirement for the positions open to persons with disabilities. Other obstacles are inaccessibility to the physical environment of the workplace and transportation. Many employers are not ready to make modification to buildings or provide necessary facilities in the workplace for persons with disabilities while the mass transport system in cities is still largely inaccessible to persons with disabilities.
- As regards specific groups, persons with intellectual disability have special difficulty accessing employment. In most cases, employment is provided to their caregivers. They need special arrangements that allow their caregivers to work with them. Given increasing importance of job coaching, a proposal has been submitted to the National Commission on the Promotion and Development of Quality of life of Persons with Disabilities for job coaching programs for persons with intellectual disability to enhance their skills and enable them to work with other normal persons.

4. Involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the development, implementation and monitoring of legislation and policies to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities

- Organizations of persons with all types of disability are represented in the national commission established pursuant to the Promotion and Development of Quality of life of Persons with Disabilities Act B.E. 2550 (2007). The national commission, which is chaired by the Prime Minister, is responsible for the development of policies and programs aimed at promoting the quality of life of persons with disabilities as set out in the Act and the supervision of such policies and programs by relevant government agencies and private entities.
 - Organizations representing persons with disabilities have been involved in the formulation of the five-year national plan to promote the quality of life of persons with disabilities. They also participate in ministerial level committees that have been set up to carry out the activities in accordance with the national plan with the support from the National Office for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities under the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security.
 - It is the government policy to strengthen representative organizations of persons with disabilities to enable them to participate actively in matters relating to persons with disabilities. These organizations are eligible to receive funding from the fund established by the provisions of the Promotion and Development of Quality of life of Persons with Disabilities Act B.E. 2550 (2007) in support of their work to empower persons with disabilities in all aspects in accordance with the national plan. The government has also pushed for the establishment of service units nation-wide that will be managed by persons with disabilities.
-