

**JTTRI International Seminar on  
"Railway and Area Development in Thailand"  
Mr. Sekiguchi's speech**

Dear Mr. Sorapong Paitoonphong, Director-General, Department of Rail Transport, MOT-Thailand, Yasuhiro Okanishi, Director-General for International Affairs, MLIT-Japan, Arkhom Termpittayapaisith, Former Minister of Transport, Thailand and participants, thank you very much for inviting me today.

I am Noboru Sekiguchi, Minister of Chief of the Economic Section, Embassy of Japan in Thailand.

I would like to say a few words about the seminar on behalf of the Embassy of Japan in Thailand.

In the past few years, the development of public transportation is rapidly progressing in Thailand. Japan is also supporting the Thai government's efforts through support from JICA.

Especially in Bangkok, the Blue Line subway has finally become a circular line. Numerous other urban railway development projects are currently underway, and the structure of Bangkok as a "City" is undergoing a rapid transformation.

On the other hand, people in Bangkok has suffered from serious automobile congestion and air pollution.

In order to solve these problems, it is necessary to shift people's transportation modes from automobiles, which are the current mainstream, to railways, which have high transportation efficiency and low environmental impact, through the development of urban railways.

In order to make this urban railway development more effective, it is essential to strategically develop railways in conjunction with the related area development.

Strategic railway development integrated with the related area development will increase the profitability of the railway business by increasing the number of railway users, ensure the sustainability of the railway business, improve the convenience of people's lives, and develop the whole area along the railway.

Japan has many know-how and experience in this field. I am pleased to be able to share Japan's knowledge with the governments, private enterprises, and experts of both Thailand and Japan, and contribute to the development of Thailand, through this seminar.

Then, another recent keyword is "Smart City".

Three cities from Thailand, Bangkok, Chonburi and Phuket, have been registered in the "ASEAN Smart City Networks" launched at ASEAN Summit in 2018.

Thailand, where railway development is progressing rapidly, should aim for increasing Smart Cities, where various services are provided and in that sense are advanced.

For example, with regard to the Smart City Plan around Bangsue stations, based on the plan supported by JICA, the project is working to achieve smart mobility, smart energy, and environmental considerations for people.

Therefore, Bangkok could be one of the good cases for a cutting-edge urban development.

The Japanese government intends to continue to cooperate with Thailand in railway development, urban development along rail lines, and smart cities.

Railway and Area development will take decades to be implemented.

The 130th anniversary of Thailand-Japan cooperation is three years ago, and Japan-Thailand relations have already been well established. Nevertheless, we truly believe that this field will become a new and stout pillar of Japan-Thailand cooperation and that the ties between the two countries will be further deepened by the seminar held today.

Finally, I would like to wish for the success of this seminar and the further successful activities of all participants today.

Thank you very much.