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Research collaboration between Thailand and Japan on LCS study by

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Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to welcome you all to the opening ceremony of the first "Low Carbon Society Model Capacity Building Workshop" in Bangkok, Thailand. This workshop has been organized by Thailand Greenhouse Gas Management Organization (TGO) and Sirindhorn International Institute of Technology (SIIT), Thammasat University, in collaboration with National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES), Japan. I would like to gratefully acknowledge the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (iGES), Japan for the support to the international speakers.

I would also like to acknowledge Prof. Yuzuru Matsuoka and his research team on the guidance on low carbon society (LCS) modeling with Extended Snapshot (ExSS) tool and National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES) for the access to the Asia-Pacific Integrated Model (AIM) and Database. I would also like to acknowledge Thailand Greenhouse Gas Management Organization (TGO) on the fruitful management of the workshop.

The next sessions of this workshop will provide you the LCS research studies in Asian countries. The presentations on LCS studies will cover Japan and selected Asian countries as well as Thailand, where several LCS studies with AIM model have been done for a decade by Prof. Ram M Shrestha from Asian Institute of Technology.

The afternoon session will provide you hand-on workshop of LCS modeling and the results of national and sub-national LCS scenario development in India, Malaysia and Thailand, and one open discussion on bridge simulation scenarios and sustainable LCS policy implementation.

Approximately 74 scientists registered to attend the workshop, representing a broad background including governmental institutions, non-government organizations, universities, international organizations and private sectors.

I am sure that the workshop will bring us together in a better understanding of low carbon society development and modeling. It also will increase our efforts in solving the greenhouse gas emission problems that exist now, and in the future, for the benefits of our environment. Not only that for Thailand but also for the region as a whole.

These events are excellent opportunities for those participating to exchange and discuss ideas on LCS development and its implementation.

I should like to thank you all for attending and those who have been working to organize this workshop. Finally, may I wish you all a very warm welcome to what will be a very interesting hand-on LCS modeling workshop.