

REPORT ON THAILAND'S PROGRESS OF ACCESSION TO THE 1958 AGREEMENT

Transmitted by the representative of Thailand

On behalf of Thailand, it is my honor to be here and have an opportunity to inform WP.29 of what has been done and a work progress to become a Contracting Party to the 1958 Agreement.

Department of Land Transport (DLT) initiated a 10-year plan on Vehicle Type-Approval System Establishment Plan (2000-2009) five years ago. Since then, a lot of efforts have been put continuously from all related sectors through 3 working groups targeting to set up a sustainable vehicle type-approval system, to improve vehicle regulations through the systematic and internationalized approach, and to consider participating in WP29. Above all, we would like to ensure that vehicles are safer for both our people and our environment and can compete with the world standard.

Now, it comes to the second half of the plan. We have been collaborating closely with other agencies from the government and the industry. Realizing the benefits that the regulation harmonization would bring to Thailand as a whole, the industry has played a vital role in supporting the government work. As a result, the works of 3 working groups are expedited and in satisfying progress. Type-Approval scheme for passenger vehicles, pick-up trucks, and motorcycles were drafted and are now under reviewing process. Existing regulations are also being revised and new regulations are being drafted in line with UN/ECE Regulations. To broaden our vision, we have participated in many international forums, for instance APEC meeting and JASIC Asia Government/Industry meeting in regional level, and WP 29 in global level. We have gained better understanding and enhanced our experiences in harmonization and mutual recognition. Unquestionably, harmonization and mutual recognition is the World's trend to go and we can see nowhere else rather than WP29 1958 Agreement. From Thailand's point of view, becoming a Contracting Party to the 1958 Agreement is a very important step but not yet the last one. Certainly it is not just by name or signature but it does come with more works and greater responsibility, which we must be aware of and prepared. We will continue improving our national regulations and carefully considering participation in other international agreements/cooperation by taking into account of country readiness of the government and the industry.

In conclusion, we are very pleased to inform you that through a lot of hard work, finally a proposal to accede to 1958 Agreement was submitted to Ministry of Transport earlier this year. Now it is scheduled for the cabinet consideration. We hope that Thailand should be able to officially become a Contracting Party to 1958 Agreement in the near future. Thank you for your attention.
