



Ref: IASU/074/10

20 October 2010

Dear Sir/Madame,

**Invitation to Development Cooperation Seminar
'Social Protection: Towards Universal Coverage in Thailand'
Friday, 5 November 2010 at Grand Millennium Hotel Sukhumvit**

The National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB) and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Thailand will co-organise the ***Development Cooperation Seminar on 'Social Protection: Towards Universal Coverage in Thailand'*** on Friday, 5 November 2010 from 08.30 to 12.30 hrs. in the Ballroom of Grand Millennium Hotel Sukhumvit.

In response to the global economic crisis, the Global Initiative for a Universal Social Protection Floor was developed in 2009 to promote national social protection strategies towards a minimum-level access to social services and income security for all. At the national level, Thailand has made remarkable progress in providing social protection schemes, but still faces several challenges, including policy coherence and consistency across social protection schemes and coverage extension to all vulnerable groups.

Within the framework of the international debate on universal access to social protection, the seminar aims to review the current social protection system in Thailand by acknowledging the achievements in the country and analysing the existing gaps and challenges in reaching universal coverage in Thailand. The seminar will deliver policy recommendations on the way forward in Thailand to achieve the goal of a welfare society by 2017.

Development Cooperation Seminars (DCS) were initiated in early 2009 and hosted by the Royal Thai Government and the United Nations system and are fora for debate and discussion among different stakeholders on priority/emerging development issues in Thailand. They bring together partners from the Royal Thai Government, UN system, academic, civil society and international partners to generate policy recommendations and to identify innovative solutions and ideas.

On behalf of the co-organisers, I am pleased to invite you or your representative to attend this seminar. The provisional agenda and concept note are enclosed for your reference.

It would be much appreciated if you could kindly confirm your/your representative's participation by completing the enclosed Reply Form and sending it back to us **by 29 October 2010.** The working language of the seminar will be Thai with simultaneous translation into English.

Yours sincerely,

Gwi-Yeop Son
UN Resident Coordinator

- Encls. 1. Provisional Agenda
2. Concept Note
3. Reply Form