

**Speech by H.E. Mr. Marc Thill, Luxembourg National Day Reception, Bangkok, 25 June 2012**

Your Excellency Thepkamol Devakula, Privy Counsellor,  
Your Excellency General Teeradej Meepien, President of the Senate,

Mr. Kasem Comsatyadham, First Vice President of the Supreme Administrative Court,

Excellencies, dear colleagues,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Leif Letzebuerger Matbirger,

Dear friends,

*Khopkhun maak thii maa wannii khap.*

Thank you very much for joining me tonight in this magnificent venue for the traditional celebration of the Luxembourg National Day.

Since the celebration of our last National Day, a year ago, Thailand had general elections, which led to the formation of a new, strong government. We all hope that this government will be able to spare to the country and its people a repetition of the violent and tragic events which unfortunately occurred during previous years.

Last year we also witnessed the tremendous floods, the whole country was confronted with, parts of Bangkok included. We were amazed to see the resilience and solidarity of the Thai people in the face of such hardship and we were happy to contribute a little bit to the rebuilding efforts by a contribution to the Thai Red Cross. In this context, I would also like to seize the opportunity and stress that the Embassy of Luxembourg is modestly but regularly supporting vulnerable people in need in Thailand, Bangkok included,

through its cooperation with non-governmental organisations which are active in social and educational fields.

The last twelve months have unfortunately continued to be very challenging for Europe and the Eurozone. But the European Union and the Eurozone managed to adopt a string of very important measures and decisions in order to deal with the sovereign debt crisis in some of its Member States and to improve economic governance. We are confident that the Head of states and government will take in less than a week at their meeting at the end of June the right decisions in order to return to growth and job creation, thus creating the conditions to finally find a way out of the crisis.

On the bilateral side, I'm glad to state that the relations between Luxembourg and Thailand remain excellent. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Asselborn recently met his counterpart Dr. Surapong and both expressed their shared determination to further strengthen those relations mainly in economic and financial matters as well as through mutual support within international forums and organisations. Thailand also remains, by far, the most popular Asian destination for tourists from Luxembourg and I am especially happy to note that each year more and more visitors from Thailand discover Luxembourg and its many charms. I cordially invite all those of you, who have not yet visited Luxembourg, to do so. You will be pleasantly surprised to see how fast this Embassy can issue Schengen visas.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Please allow me to say a few words to my compatriots, living here in Thailand and present tonight, and to give thus to

all of you the opportunity to listen briefly to one of the most secretly kept languages in the world.

Ech sinn frou, dass dir den Owend zu esouvill komm sidd vir zesummen Grossherzogsgeburtsdag ze feiern. D'Ambassade zu Bangkok ass an bleift vir ierch do. Zeckt nie eis ze kontakteiren wa mir eppes vir ierch machen kënnen.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We will now listen to the Royal Anthem of Thailand and, afterwards, I will invite you to join me in a toast for the good health and happiness of His Majesty King Bumipol Adulyadej.

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Long life to His Majesty the King!

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We will now listen to the National Anthem of Luxembourg and toast to the good health and long life of His Royal Highness Grand-Duke Henri and to the prosperity of the relationship between Thailand and Luxembourg.

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Vive den Grand-Duc!

Merci. Thank you.