

PRESS RELEASE

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Thailand Makes History as Host of the 2026 IMF–World Bank Group Annual Meetings

Releases “Bangkok Dialogue Notes”: Thailand’s Reflections and Contributions to the Global Dialogue

Champions Its Role as a “Trusted Connector,” Turning International Cooperation into Opportunities for People

The 2026 Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group, held from 12 to 18 October 2026 at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Center (QSNCC), marked a major success, with more than 19,000 participants registered through the official IMF-World Bank Group registration system, the highest figure in the history of the Annual Meetings. Thailand received widespread praise for its hosting capabilities and the organization of this major global gathering from the IMF, the World Bank Group, and senior representatives from around the world.

Dr. Ekniti Nitithanprapas, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, unveiled the “Bangkok Dialogue Notes,” which bring together reflections from the discussions and perspectives that Thailand contributed to the global dialogue as host country. The Notes invite reflection on Thailand’s role as a “Trusted Connector” and pose a central question: How do we build resilience at home while remaining constructively connected—to tackle shared global challenges and create opportunities for people?

The Bangkok Dialogue Notes are neither negotiated international outcomes nor formal policy recommendations. Rather, they bring together emerging reflections from exchanges among policymakers, international institutions, businesses, and thought leaders, providing a starting point for practical cooperation and delivery.

Dr. Ekniti highlighted that the world is undergoing profound transformations, driven by geopolitical tensions, technological disruption, climate change, and demographic shifts. Yet fragmentation is taking place not only between countries, but also within them. The gains from technology, trade, and investment are increasingly uneven. Leading firms may gain access to new technologies and markets more quickly than small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), while some communities still lack the tools and capabilities needed to seize opportunities in a changing economy.

“True resilience comes not from isolation, but from trusted connections that help societies withstand challenges and create opportunities for people. The question is therefore not simply whether countries should become more open or more self-reliant,

but how we build better connections with the world that genuinely strengthen our economies and our people,” Dr. Ekniti said.

In this context, resilience must be reimagined. It is not only about securing supply chains, protecting infrastructure, or accumulating buffers. It is also about enabling vulnerable people and businesses to withstand today’s shocks, helping them adapt to a changing economy, and building the skills and capabilities they will need to thrive in a different tomorrow.

Five Emerging Reflections from Bangkok

The Bangkok Dialogue Notes bring together five emerging reflections that consistently surfaced across the discussions.

1. Resilience must be built around people. Helping people and businesses absorb immediate shocks is only the beginning. Resilience must also enable them to navigate transition through lifelong learning, pathways into work, and social protection, while building the capabilities they will need for tomorrow. Importantly, resilience should be built not only for people, but also with them, enabling communities to participate in shaping their own futures.

2. Fragmentation occurs within countries as well as between them. International cooperation will not remain politically sustainable unless global connections generate visible and broadly shared local benefits. Openness and international partnerships must create tangible improvements in people’s lives and businesses. Building trust across borders therefore begins with strengthening trust at home.

3. The quality of a connection is measured by what remains locally. The success of trade, investment, technology, and international cooperation should not be judged solely by the volume of financial flows or transactions they generate. It should also be measured by what they leave behind: workforce skills, stronger domestic firms, knowledge, productive capacity, and more resilient communities.

4. Practical cooperation can help rebuild multilateralism. Regional and functional cooperation can provide practical opportunities for countries to address shared challenges, identify solutions that work, and gradually rebuild confidence. Successful cooperation can then serve as a foundation for wider international rules and partnerships, strengthening the multilateral system from the ground up.

5. Middle powers can serve as Trusted Connectors—with multilateral development banks as partners. Middle powers can bridge regions and build coalitions around shared challenges. International financial institutions, including the IMF and the World Bank, can help advance these efforts. Multilateral development banks (MDBs), such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, can support common standards, viable projects, risk-sharing arrangements, and solutions that can be scaled across countries.

From Reflections to Action Through Four Strategic Pillars

Dr. Ekniti added that these reflections connect directly with the four pillars of Thailand's Host Country Programme, all of which explore a common question: How can global and regional connections become trusted connections that strengthen resilience while creating opportunities for people and communities?

Pillar 1: Trusted Digital Futures — Technology That People Can Use and Trust

Building a trusted digital future requires more than investing in infrastructure or developing increasingly powerful AI models. Technology must help people improve their daily lives and become more capable.

Small AI—practical, affordable applications for everyday use—can improve access to healthcare and education, help small businesses make better decisions, raise productivity, and create more and better jobs.

Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) can also enable governments to deliver targeted support and connect SMEs to markets and finance. Responsible financial data-sharing can further enable cash-flow-based lending.

In Thailand, the Connect the Dots initiative, developed through a whole-of-government approach, provides an overarching framework for preventing and combating digital financial crime. This has been extended through the Bangkok Blueprint, highlighting the importance of cross-border cooperation to combat financial scams and strengthen trust in digital financial systems.

Ultimately, the measure of AI is not only how powerful it becomes, but how widely it helps people and businesses become more capable.

Pillar 2: Trade, Investment and Geoeconomic Fragmentation — More Options and Stronger Local Capabilities

Resilience in a fragmented world should come from diversification rather than decoupling.

Countries need more options across suppliers, markets, technologies, and trading partners so that they can better withstand disruptions. At the same time, international investment should create quality jobs, strengthen SMEs, develop workforce skills, and foster innovation within domestic economies.

Regional cooperation will become increasingly important. ASEAN can demonstrate this through deeper services integration, cross-border payments, and the ASEAN Power Grid.

Resilience requires more options, not more walls—and global capital should strengthen local capability.

Pillar 3: Climate Transition and Adaptation — Reducing Risk and Bringing Finance to Those Who Need It

The transition to a green economy is not only about environmental sustainability. It is also about economic security.

Clean energy, stronger electricity grids, and more efficient transport systems can reduce dependence on volatile fossil fuels. Meanwhile, regional financial arrangements can complement global efforts to finance climate transition and adaptation.

Effective adaptation also requires local buy-in. People and businesses must understand the risks they face, recognize the benefits of taking action, and participate in developing solutions. This requires reliable information, appropriate financing, and resources that reach those most exposed to climate risks.

Climate risk is global. Resilience must be built locally—but it can be financed and enabled collectively.

Pillar 4: Demographic Shift and Longevity — Adding Opportunity and Security to Longer Lives

Longer lives should become a source of opportunity rather than vulnerability.

This requires societies to rethink education, work, healthcare, savings, and social protection across the life course. International cooperation can also support the sharing of knowledge and innovation, helping societies adapt to demographic change.

The goal is not only to add years to life, but to add opportunity and security to those years.

Thailand's Contributions to the Global Dialogue and the Way Forward

In response to these shared global challenges, Thailand designed its Host Country Programme not simply as a series of events, but as a connected set of platforms that reinforced one another.

The Host Country Dialogues, leadership engagements, thematic pavilions, the Bangkok Blueprint, and youth programmes extended discussions beyond formal meeting rooms, connecting global policy debates with practical experience.

One distinctive contribution was the Royal Pavilion, which invited participants to reflect on the enduring development principles of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej the Great, particularly His Majesty's approach to development and the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy.

These principles remain highly relevant to today’s discussions on resilience, people-centered development, and sustainability. They emphasize that lasting development must begin with understanding local conditions, reaching people and communities, and building solutions with them.

One central lesson is that resilience cannot be imposed from above or delivered through finance and technology alone. It must be built from within—grounded in local conditions, shaped by people’s participation, and supported by the knowledge, tools, and opportunities that enable communities to strengthen their own resilience.

Dr. Ekniti concluded:

“Thailand’s contribution to the 2026 IMF–World Bank Group Annual Meetings has gone beyond being a good host. We have invited the world to reflect, share lessons from each country’s development experience, and explore ways to address the economic and social challenges we face together. What matters next is connecting cooperation from the regional to the global level, from the global level to individual countries, and from countries to the resilience of communities and people.”

The Bangkok Dialogue Notes therefore mark not an endpoint, but a starting point—from shared reflection towards practical cooperation and delivery. They reflect Thailand’s contribution to the global dialogue and its commitment to turning trusted connections into stronger local capabilities and tangible opportunities for people.

Official recordings, publications and proceedings are available at
<https://www.am2026thailand.go.th> and on Facebook: AM2026 Thailand
(<https://www.facebook.com/AM2026THAILAND>).

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