RESS Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Pollution Control Department

92 Soi PhahonYothin 7, PhahonYothin Rd., Phayathai, Phayathai Bangkok 10400
Tel.0 2298 2000 Fax.0 2298 2002 www.pcd.go.th

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POLLUTION CONTROL DEPARTMENT

Prime Minister invited the leaders of Lao PDR and Myanmar to discuss transboundary Haze and $PM_{2.5}$ and proposes 5 CLEAR Sky Strategies in order to immediately resolve transboundary Haze problems in three countries.

On 7^{th} April 2023, Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha was the chairperson of the online meeting with the leaders of Lao PDR and Myanmar to discuss resolution of transboundary haze and $PM_{2.5}$ pollution problems. Mr. Sonexay Siphandone, Prime Minister of Lao PDR, and General Min Aung Hlaing, Prime Minister of Myanmar, participated in the meeting to exchange information and experiences on managing transboundary haze and $PM_{2.5}$ problems including urgent and sustainable resolution.

Prime Minister has proposed the "CLEAR Sky Strategy" to solve transboundary haze problem that occurs at present, which are :

- 1. C (Continued Commitment): To continue reducing hot spot in accordance with the Chiang Rai Action Plan of 2017.
- **2.** L (Leveraging Mechanisms): Thailand will promote cooperation at all levels through the relevant Joint Border Committees, as well as to bring up this issue to discuss at the 42nd ASEAN Summit in May 2023 in Indonesia.
- **3.** E (Experience Sharing): To exchange information and experiences to control transboundary haze and PM_{25} pollution problems.
- **4.** A (Air Quality Network): To promote cooperation in monitoring air quality with relevant networks in the subregion countries.
- **5.** R (Effective Response): Prime Minister has proposed the senior officials of three countries to meet and discuss in the afternoon in order to extend the results of this meeting.

This meeting was initiated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment in order to propose the leaders of all three countries to discuss how to solve the urgent problem of transboundary haze that has impacts on health and well-being of people. It is necessary to solve this problem urgently through cooperation among relevant countries.

At the same day in the afternoon, Mr. Jatuporn Buruspat, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment assigned Dr. Chayanun Pukdeechit, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, to be the chairperson of the Senior Officials Meeting of the three countries. Dr. Pinsak Suraswadi, Director General of Pollution Control Department, Ms. Usana Peeranan, Director General of ASEAN Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and representatives from the East Asia Department, MOFA attended the meeting as Thai Delegation at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and online meeting with delegation from Lao PDR and Myanmar.

All three countries agreed to drive the Clear Sky Strategy, by formulating joint action plan among Thailand, Lao PDR, and Myanmar to solve transboundary haze problem. In this regard, Thailand is ready to provide academic knowledge to use satellite technology monitor and measure hot spots and share experience in managing agriculture in highland areas with Lao PDR and Myanmar.