

Keynote Address by

Mr. Nathachak Pattamasingh Na Ayudhaya

Inspector General

**For Thailand's Effort in combatting cybercrime and sharing
experience**

**In the 11th China-ASEAN Prosecutors-General
Conference**

**"Enhancing capabilities and cooperation in Addressing
Cybercrime"**

14th-15th August 2018

At the Rizqun International Hotel, Bandar Seri Begawan

Excellencies, Distinguished Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Office of the Attorney General of Thailand, I would like to express my appreciation to the Attorney-General's Chambers, Brunei Darussalam, for hosting this truly meaningful conference. As all of us already knew that this conference is a unique forum that has become a very significant mechanism for us to promote the capacity-building of prosecutors on combating crimes, strengthening our good relationship, which lead to great cooperation among us. It is encouraging to see prosecutors from different jurisdictions within ASEAN region gathering in this conference, which could serve as an excellent platform for networking, exchanging ideas and experiences in the job performance among fellow prosecutors. This will lead us to the accomplishment of the common objectives for all prosecutors to combat crimes in order that people can live safely and peacefully in this world.

As the theme of this Conference is “Cybercrime”, we cannot deny that we are living in a fast-changing world and cyberspace, which have various means and coverage. These include information technology or means to describe anything associated with the Internet, and the diverse Internet culture, somehow, becomes one of basic needs for our living. Nowadays, we read news through our mobile phones. We listen to music and watch movie through the internet. We transfer money through application with a touch of finger. We use maps from the internet to reach our destination. Even many businesses, they have started to accept unregulated digital money or virtual currency so called cryptocurrency. Clearly, the cyberspace becomes an important part of our life.

Unfortunately, with the rapid development of cyber technology, the pattern of crimes commission has become

increasingly complex, especially such crime is often perpetrated by organized criminal groups that have very high level of intelligence. The sophistication of such crime commission has been intended to outpace criminal justice system to respond. The rapid development and expansion of cybercrime that we have been experiencing has become serious threats to sustainable development of our countries, which in turn brings about the global insecurity in many forms. As mentioned, since the internet has become an important part of our daily activities and make our lives become much easier, criminals take an advantage of this convenience to engage in many kinds of cybercrimes, ranging from misdemeanor to felony offenses such as internet scam, fraud, defamation as well as to undermine financial systems through money laundering, just to name a few. Also, there are many concrete evidence showing that criminals use cyber technology to facilitate their wrongdoing. For example, they

use social network application or websites to buy, sell or smuggle illegal products, and also use social network to conduct terrorist activities.

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In the case of Thailand, as the country is moving towards Digital Economy and Society, we have faced a growing number of cybercrime cases as well. We realize this immediate threat to our country. In response, we have taken a number of actions to tackle this matter. In terms of legislation, Thailand amended the Computer Related Crime Act, which came into force in the beginning of 2017, with addition of the offenses based on the sending of unsolicited messages or spam. However, such amendment of the Computer-Related Crime Act focuses more on dishonest or deceptive manner of the criminal in putting fraudulent

information on the internet rather than using the internet as a tool to commit other crimes. For example, the offence of defamation which the court used to sentence the convicts has been carefully amended so that the act of defamation on internet is no longer an offence under the Computer Related Crime Act.

In addition, the amendment also provides opportunities for the court to render a variety of orders to redress the victim and also issue the Site Blocking Order in various circumstances. The Court can render the Site Blocking Order on many offences including the offense related to intellectual property or other laws that violate public order or morality. Obviously, this amendment makes the prevention and suppression of computer-related offenses more effective.

We have also implemented more measures to prevent children from being exposed to the risk of exploitation in cyberspace. Domestic legislation related to possession of child pornography has been amended by imposing stricter punishment. More importantly, our law enforcement agencies are fully aware of the issue and are strongly committed to preventing such unlawful acts.

In addition, The Office of Attorney General of Thailand realizes that enhancing awareness of competent authorities on the existence and impacts of the cybercrime is very important. Recently, we organized many seminars and workshops for training competent authorities from many agencies to equip them with new information about various forms of cybercrime such as romance scam, child pornography, bully on internet, crypto currency, and at the same time update them with newly amended legislation which

they can use to combat such crime. Also, we sent many competent prosecutors to attend several international workshops and conferences related to cybercrime to update current situation, learn and exchange experiences with others.

Despite the existence of modern law on cybercrime, Thailand, however, still faces a number of challenges. These include the issue of reputation, for example, the business sector is often reluctant to disclose the fact that they are victims of cybercrime as they want to maintain their reputation. The Internet service providers are also not willing to cooperate in providing information needed for investigation. These underscore the need for closer cooperation among all stakeholders at all levels, especially in the areas of exchanging of information and best practices with a view to deepening mutual understanding and raising public awareness.

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Since the Attorney General of Thailand is the Central Authority for Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters as well as the Extradition. We have gained a lot of experiences working with all of you for our international cooperation. We have learned that the international cooperation cannot be established solely by legal instruments. Whether the international cooperation to combat the crimes that has transnational in nature including cybercrime will be achieved or not, depends on all the personnel involved in the justice system of each country to take serious actions. We, the prosecutors, as one of the key agencies in the justice system, should perceive that it is our mandatory duties to assist, promote, support and take part in all kinds of activities relating to international cooperation with an aim to eradicating cybercrime.

I am convinced that the more international cooperation is rendered, the more efficiency of crime eradication will be. In other words, partnership across jurisdictions could play a vital role in suppressing cybercrimes.

Allow me to share a recent successful international cooperation case. I would like to touch upon a very important and globally known case related to cybercrime, which is the arrest of the AlphaBay website administrator succeeded in Thailand. The arrest resulted from collective efforts from various sectors. With great cooperation, this arrest eventually led to the closure of the Alphabay website, a center for illegal trade, hiding in the Dark Web, and seizure of asset worth millions US Dollars.

Lastly, I am confident that this conference will bring about fruitful conclusions and recommendations, which will in turn benefit all prosecutors in doing our jobs more effectively. I wish

this conference success and continues to provide capacity building, strengthen relationship for prosecutors in this region and achieve the goal of combating all types of crimes, especially cybercrime which is the theme of this year.

I thank you for your attention.
