



February 13, 2018

Mr. Apisak Tantivorawong  
Minister of Finance  
Government of Thailand

Dear Minister Tantivorawong,

I am writing with regards to Thailand's intent to join the Open Government Partnership (OGP). The OGP Steering Committee and Support Unit welcome the Thai government's interest in joining the partnership.

Since the delivery of the letter of intent in February 2016, OGP Support Unit staff have been in communication with the officials at the Comptroller General's Department, that the Ministry of Finance designated as points of contact for OGP. In our engagement following the submission of the letter of intent, we raised the importance of completing the process of consultations for the first national action plan only after the next Thai general election in order to ensure buy-in and support for OGP from the elected government. We also agreed that in the interim period the focus could be on awareness raising and capacity building for which the Support Unit and OGP partners have extended assistance.

I would like to inform you of a September 2017 decision made by OGP's Steering Committee which now requires a renewed formal approach from the Thai Government to join OGP. The Steering Committee approved the implementation of a 'Values Check' assessment in determining eligibility. As per this decision, countries interested in joining OGP need to meet the [four eligibility criteria](#) on access to information, fiscal openness, asset disclosure and civil liberties, and additionally, pass a 'Values Check' before they can participate in OGP. This is to ensure that new countries joining OGP adhere to the democratic governance norms and values set forth in the Open Government Declaration and have the space for civil society to operate which is a prerequisite for OGP's success in any country. The values check utilizes information from [Varieties of Democracy's Dataset on Democracy](#) to determine if the necessary space for civil society exists in countries interested in joining OGP. Unfortunately, at this time, Thailand does not meet the values check, and is therefore currently ineligible to join the partnership. Details of the assessment and Thailand's score can be found on the [OGP Eligibility database](#).

Consequently, we encourage you and your colleagues in government to strive to meet the current eligibility requirements so Thailand can continue the process towards eventual membership following the general elections which we understand have been scheduled for November 2018.

The OGP Support Unit and Steering Committee stand ready to support you and your government in whatever way would be useful during this process. Please do not hesitate to contact the OGP Support Unit if you require any assistance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Pradhan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" that loops around the start of the name.

Sanjay Pradhan  
Chief Executive Officer  
Open Government Partnership