



The Thai government attaches great importance to promoting gender equality and has encouraged all sectors of society to be aware of the significant roles of women in national development.

Labor Minister Police General Adul Sangsingkeo said that the Ministry of Labor is preparing to hold an event to mark International Women's Day 2018, which will take place on 8 March at the Miracle Grand Convention Hotel in Bangkok.

The theme for the event this year is "Thai Womens Labor Force Moving toward the Digital Economy. It also aims to underline the importance of working women. At this event, Her Royal Highness Princess Soamsawali will graciously present plaques of honor to 29 outstanding women in various fields.

The event will also feature a talk show on the topic "Opportunities for Thai Women to Move toward the Digital Economy, an exhibition on outstanding women, and a display of products made by outstanding women in previous years.

The Labor Minister said that 37.79 million people in Thailand currently constitute the labor force, with 37.07 million employed. Out of this number, 16.89 million are women. He said that the International Labor Organization attaches great importance to womens labor, which is a major factor for economic drive and poverty reduction. There is an indication that gender equality has strong, positive impacts on Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita.

The Government has implemented various policies and measures to enhance the potential of Thai women. For instance, Thailand promulgated the 2015 Gender Equality Act, which became effective on 9 September 2015, to protect everyone from gender-based discrimination.

As women have become a major force for the development of the country, there is a need to strengthen the awareness of gender equality and human dignity, as well as the roles of Thai women, on a continual basis.

Thailand has celebrated International Women's Day since 1995. The current 12th National Economic and Social Development Plan focuses on reducing social inequality, in addition to promoting inclusive

development. This will provide further opportunities for women to participate even more equally in national development.