Foreword

His Excellency Mr. Chuan Leekpai
Prime Minister of Thailand

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the first Human Development Report of Thailand. The global Human Development Report, published annually by UNDP since 1990, is a valuable reference widely used and quoted by the development community in Thailand. I expect that the National Human Development Report will soon come to occupy a similar position.

This Report comes at a particularly appropriate time. It documents our achievements in the field of human development as well as the challenges that we face. The analysis of our current predicament brings together various issues in a thought provoking but sympathetic manner. This Report, however, does not stop there. It also advances a policy reform agenda for human development beyond the crisis. Here, readers will value, I believe, the timeliness and relevance of the proposals as well as the constructive nature in which they are presented.

I am pleased that this Report is the product of close co-operation between UNDP and a number of government agencies, led by the NESDB. Although this is the first National Human Development Report, it will certainly not be the last, with future editions building upon the close co-operation currently existing between UNDP and the Thai Government.

I therefore have no hesitation in recommending this Report to a broad readership. Indeed, I hope that it will contribute to a further deepening and broadening of the debate on human development, particularly in our quest to achieve sustainable development at the dawn of a new century.

Chuan Leekpai
Prime Minister