

Strategies for Universal Access to Medicines:

A case study of participatory healthy public policy in Thailand

by

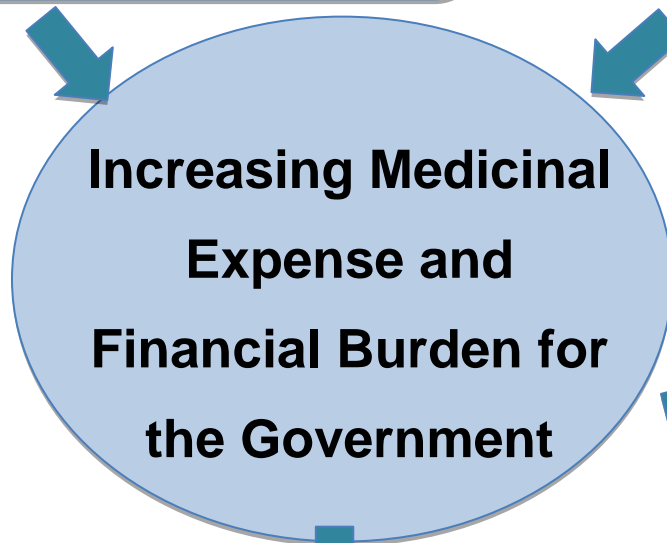
Dr. Siriwat Tiptaradol: Ministry of Public Health
Dr. Amphon Jindawatthana, Dr. Tipicha Posayanonda
National Health Commission Office, Thailand



Situation Thailand is Facing

**Irrational Use of Medicines
(Prescriptions from Doctors)**

**No Appropriate Control
of Medicine Prices**



**Patented Medicines
with High Prices**

**Overuse of Medicines
(especially Civil Servants
Medical Benefits Scheme)**

**Many people cannot access
to essential medicines**



Government Use of Patents (2006-2007)
(Compulsory Licenses)
*for ARV drugs, anti-platelet aggregation
and anti-cancer agents*



**More people get access to medicines and
benefits from this measure.**



This measure is not the only way.
**“National Strategy” developed by all
stakeholders for increasing access to
medicines is needed.**

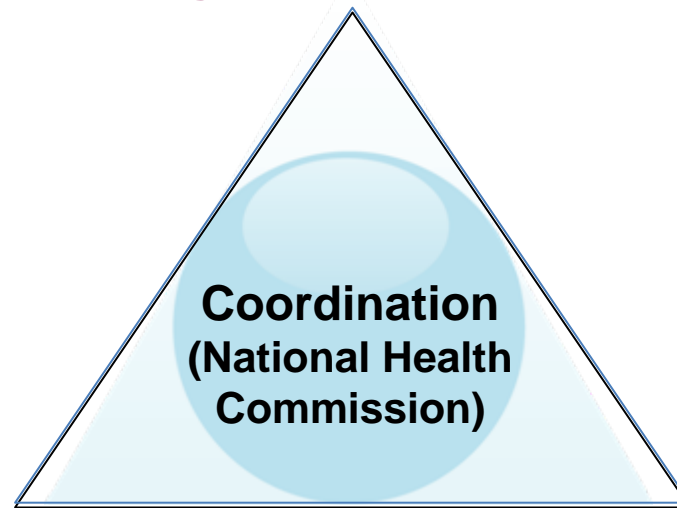


Concept of Participation from the National Health Act 2007: “The Triangle that Moves the Mountain Strategy”

Creation of Relevant Knowledge (K)

/ Professional knowledge in health / Other technical knowledge

**Social
Movement (S)**
/ Civil society
/ Private sector
/ Media
/ Traditional knowledge
etc.



**Political
Involvement (P)**
/ Politicians
/ Local administrative
organizations
/ Government services
/ etc.

“Health is wellbeing: physical, mental, spiritual and environmental health -
Holistic in balance”



First National Health Assembly in 2008

Agenda:

“Universal Access to Medicines in Thailand”

Active participation with all stakeholders for the development of national strategies for access to medicines

Adopted in consensus:

“National Strategies for Universal Access to Medicines”



“National Strategies for Universal Access to Medicines”

- 1) Coordinating partner networks for access to medicines**
- 2) Supporting patients to get access to medicines and participate in health care and health promotion**
- 3) Promoting medicine prices corresponded with the cost of living**
- 4) Developing local pharmaceutical industry**
- 5) Making use of legal provisions and/or reducing barriers deriving thereof**
- 6) Rational use of medicines**
- 7) Research and development of new medicines**

“Cabinet Endorsement”



Goals

1. Thailand has essential medicines available for general use in a timely and self-reliant manner and for public good.

2. People enjoy good health and can rely on themselves for basic medical care, local health wisdom, Thai traditional and alternative medicines.

(The plan of action for the adopted strategies is now being developed by the Committee, Sub-committees and Working groups composed of all stakeholders involved.)



Lessons Learned

“Active public participation, inter-sectoral collaboration and partnership are keywords to success of policy development as these make all in society agree with the developed policy and feel the policy really belongs to them.”



Future Challenge

“How to ensure the implementation by all related organizations of these strategies and plan which are being developed by participatory process”



Thank You

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