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**Review of NHA Resolution on Management of Smog Haze Affecting Health**

The 8<sup>th</sup> National Health Assembly,  
Having considered the report on "Management of hazes affecting health"<sup>o</sup>,

*Aware* that the environmental crisis, especially the smoke haze situation, has a wide-ranging health impact on people of all ages, male and female, and on climate change, that the smog problem comes from many sources and causes, such as forest and agricultural areas, burning in the open land, and dust emission from the transport and industrial sectors, not to mention haze floating across from neighboring countries, that the situation reflects the complexity of the issue and requires a management system that can respond to it appropriately, that the management system requires planning, setting of strategies appropriate to the geographical, environmental and social contexts at the regional, provincial, district, and village/community levels, together with the technical system, information system, support system and participation from all sectors, as well as institutional mechanisms, rules and regulations and practical guidelines that can facilitate the operation and mobilization to solve the problem in a clear and successful manner, and that the 5<sup>th</sup> National Health Assembly unanimously adopted the issue of management of smoghaze affecting health as a public policy to be jointly driven by many sectors,

*Concerned* with the smog haze situation, as it is found that the number of particulates exceeding the standard level is likely to increase continuously, with health, social and economic impacts, that the smog haze problem is likely to develop into a social conflict between such groups as urban people, rural people, farmers, industrial sectors, agencies and community, as well as becoming a cross-border problem,

*Noting* that preventing and solving smog haze problems is related to the economic, social, cultural, and legal structures, that an effective approach needs to take account of the issue in all dimensions, starting from individual and community awareness to the roles and duties of agencies concerned, that efforts must be made to improve work structures, power structures, rights and public participation, that all this cannot be completed easily in a short time but will need a long-term system design. The National Forest Fire and Smog Haze Management Committee was appointed in accordance with the NHA resolution and has now been replaced by National Command Center for smog haze prevention and solving with a focus on integrating the work between public agencies and on prevention and monitoring especially during the smog haze crisis,

*Worried* about lack of participation from all sectors at every level, lack of integration of the work between the government sector, people sector, local government sector, civil society sector and agencies concerned and lack of connection in the problem-solving at policy and operational levels. Furthermore the existing mechanisms cannot solve the problem, leaving the situation unresolved against the target envisaged,

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<sup>o</sup> Document NHA 8/Main 5

*Appreciating* the efforts by various agencies concerned and the people sector in collectively driving the measures on smog haze prevention to be part of the public policy on health,

*Seeing* that the former NHA resolution has not covered the prevention and monitoring at the local level during the smog haze crisis and rehabilitation after the event of smog haze and forest fires. Lack of public participation and lack of distribution of power and integration in local partner agencies in the management of natural resources and environment are not included in the resolution. All these issues are important keys to success. Although the problem comes from many sources, the focus should be on the main cause of the problem which is the burning practice in many areas, e.g. forest and agricultural areas. However impacts from the industrial and transport sectors should also be taken in account. There must be working mechanisms designed to integrate problem-solving activities systematically and continually both short-term and long-term, and that it is appropriated to review the NHA resolution on the management of smog haze affecting health in line with the conditions and contexts of the situation that has changed,

Hereby has passed the following resolutions;

1. Requesting the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment to appoint a committee and a working group with the support of the National Health Commission as follows:

1.1 Committee on coordination and cooperation to support sustainable management of smog haze and forest fires, with a representative of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment as chairperson and the Department of Environmental Quality Promotion as secretary, while other committee members are representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Public Health, Royal Forest Department, Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, Pollution Control Department, Office of Environmental Fund, Department of Local Administration, National Health Commission Office, Community Organizations Development Institute (Public Organization), higher education institutes, Foundation for Sustainable Development, Right Livelihood Foundation, and representatives from the business private sector, community and local sector, charged with the following responsibilities:

1.1.1 To coordinate in the system development and integration of plans on management of smog hazes and forest fires at regional and national levels, to develop plans and projects to support the work of provincial and local working groups in a concrete manner, and to coordinate and report the work progress to the national and regional Command Centers to Prevent and Solve Smog Haze Problems,

1.1.2 To coordinate in the development of proactive action plans on prevention, contingency action and development in a participatory and sustainable manner in risk areas at provincial level and support the creation of learning centers on the management of smog hazes and forest fires in an integrated manner designed to expand the work and serve as a mechanism for transfer of knowledge to the community and mass media,

1.1.3 To support the integration of agencies which work related to the geographical information system to collectively develop the system in order to make every sector can access information and use it in the management, monitoring and evaluation of their work. This responsibility has the Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency (Public Organization) as the lead agency,

1.1.4 To support action research designed to change monoculture practice to environmentally friendly agricultural production appropriate to reduce smog haze and forest fires in the agricultural and forest areas, taking into account economic capability and impacts on the way of life, culture and local wisdom, livelihood of the people. A result of the research should lead to policy recommendations, regulations, and laws for sustainable problem-solving and submit them to the cabinet for consideration. This responsibility has Thailand Institute of Scientific and Technological Research (TISTR), Thailand Research Fund (TRF), and National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT) as lead agencies in support of research and innovation, e.g. turning agricultural leftovers into value-added items,

1.1.5 To develop plans and projects on cooperation with public, private and civil society agencies designed to mobilize support and seek solutions and assistance in terms of budget, knowledge and material to support the mechanisms in 1.1, and to prevent and solve immediate problems and develop the management system in a systematic long-term manner,

1.1.6 To promote and disseminate knowledge, awareness and skills to children, youth, people and private sector about how to cooperate in solving local smog haze and forest fire problems in an appropriate manner. To coordinate with the Ministry of Education in the implementation and with the Department of Public Relations in the dissemination of knowledge,

1.1.7 To support the agencies concerned together with technical institutes and the education-related sector in the drafting, improvement, and development of rules, regulations and laws, as well as setting up funds, to solve smog haze and forest fire problems and submit them to the cabinet for consideration,

1.1.8. To promote and support the surveillance and monitoring systems of health impacts caused by smog hazes and forest fires and to enhance the knowledge and capability of healthcare provision in the event of smog haze, especially in remote areas;

1.2 The provincial working group to drive the community power to solve haze and forest fire problems in every province concerned, with the provincial governor as chairperson and the director of the provincial office of natural resources and environment as secretary, while other members are consist of agencies to be proposed by the Committee on Coordination and Cooperation to support sustainable management of hazes and forest fires, representatives of the provincial health assembly, NGOs on environmental conservation, local education institutes, community and local agencies, and networks concerned in a suitable number, to do the following tasks:

1.2.2 To coordinate, integrate and link action plans of provincial agencies concerned designed to support the solving of haze and forest fire problems, and to report the work done to provincial command centers to prevent and solve haze and forest fire problems,

1.2.2 To support community organizations, councils of community organizations, forest community networks, environmental community networks, basin networks, local government organizations, networks and volunteer groups of various agencies and mechanisms concerned with developing provincial proactive action plans on prevention, contingency action and sustainable development in risk areas in a concrete manner, including setting up learning centers on the management of hazes and forest fires in an integrated manner designed to expand the work and serve as a mechanism for transfer of knowledge to the community and public media at every level,

1.2.3 To support and facilitate the development of participatory action plans at the community, Tambon, district and provincial levels, both short-term and long-term, including setting them as provincial indicators,

1.2.4 To support the setting of measures designed to reduce burning in community areas, manage fuels in public and private forest land and agricultural areas, as well as managing and utilizing agricultural left-overs in a concrete manner as is technically appropriate,

1.2.5 To enhance knowledge, skills and awareness in people in every public and private sector in the province about how to give cooperation in solving local haze and forest fire problems in an appropriate manner at the provincial level,

1.2.6 To coordinate and enable the private sector to set clear measures and create innovations so that agricultural left-overs can be best utilized;

2. Requesting the agencies concerned to consider taking the following actions:

2.1 The Department of Local Administration to appoint and support the working groups on cooperation to support local government organizations and local agencies, community organizations and networks in the development of laws, rules, regulations and agreements at the community level so that a system is put in place to manage and prevent local smog hazes and forest fires, including a system to take care of volunteers and manage land and forest resources in conjunction with other public agencies in an integrated manner, with local education institutes, representatives of community organizations, local community, local agencies, non-profit organizations, Community Organizations Development Institute (Public Organization), Department of Environmental Quality Promotion, other agencies and networks concerned as members of the working group,

2.2 The Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Bureau of the Budget, and Office of the Auditor General of Thailand to join hands in the development and improvement of the budgeting system and the auditing system for government budget and non-budget spending designed to facilitate the solving of smog haze and forest fire problems as set out in the work plan in a timely, cost-effective and efficient manner in line with the budgeting practice, to be completed before the next budgetary year,

2.3 The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment to be the lead agency together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in supporting and creating cooperation at state level and cooperation between working groups of the people sector in ASEAN countries so that there will be an exchange of information, knowledge, experiences and ways to develop plans to prevent and solve smog haze and forest fire problems in ASEAN countries;

3. Requesting the Secretary-General of the National Health Commission to report the progress to the 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> National Health Assemblies.