

Second National Health Assembly

Agenda Item 3.10

16 November 2009

National Alcohol Policy Strategies

The Second National Health Assembly,

Having considered the report on National Alcohol Policy Strategies;

Taking cognizance of the First National Health Assembly Resolution on Strategies on Managing Problems Deriving from Alcoholic Beverages¹ and *of* the effects of alcoholic beverage consumption on health in all its dimensions, the economic and social effects, in particular, long-term effects on the future of the nation, posing barriers to human and social development;

Aware that the situation of alcoholic beverage consumption and the severity of the problem in Thailand are causes for concern;

Understanding that alcoholic beverage consumption has more negative effects in terms of economic benefits than what the society receives, having serious repercussions on other people and society as a whole, as well as being a cause of injuries, disabilities, and deaths that could affect quality of life as well as economic and social of individual and country levels leading to poverty problems and finally inequity in the community;

Aware that the problems deriving from alcoholic beverage consumption can be prevented and controlled by alcohol policy measures² which are balanced and embrace all kinds of measures covering control, consumption, reduction of consumption risks, and rehabilitation of those afflicted with the problem and that such measures are aimed at the general public and vulnerable groups including young people;

Acknowledging that the alcohol policy measures are effective and yield optimal results to Thai society, such as tax and price measures, restricted access to alcohol, control or banning of advertisement, and serious regulations on drinking-driving behaviors, while measures with little results and effectiveness are providing health education to young people, self-regulation by operators of alcohol industry in the absence of legal provisions for penalty, and alternative activities to alcohol consumption;

Appreciative of the development of the alcohol policy movement in Thailand over the years, including the National Alcoholic Beverage Control Act B.E. 2551 (2008), under which there shall be a National Alcoholic Beverage Policy Committee, National Alcoholic Beverage Control Committee, Provincial Alcoholic Beverage Control Committees, and Bangkok Alcoholic Beverage Control Committee, serving as mechanisms to deal with the problems deriving from alcoholic beverage consumption;

Aware of the necessity to build common commitment of the Thai society in dealing with the problems deriving from alcoholic beverage consumption, especially making use of the National Alcohol Policy Strategies, so as to strengthen the process to deal with such problems,

Hereby adopts the following resolutions:

¹ Alcoholic beverage, according to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Act B.E. 2551 (2008), means “liquor in accordance with law governing liquor. In this regard, it shall not include drugs, psychotropic substances, and narcotic drugs prescribed by the applicable laws.” Liquor, under the Liquor Act B.E. 2493 (1950), means “all objects or mixtures with alcohol that can be ingested just like liquor water or that cannot be ingested by itself but when mixed with water or liquid can be ingested just like liquor water.”

² Alcohol policy means “any effort and measure by the government as well as private sectors to reduce and prevent problems related to alcoholic beverage consumption.”

1. Adopting the National Alcohol Policy Strategies as presented in the Annex following the Resolution.
2. Requesting the National Health Commission to consider and submit the National Alcohol Policy Strategies to the cabinet for approval and for assignment to the agencies concerned for further action, especially to the National Alcoholic Beverage Control Committee to develop plans of action in light of submit the National Alcohol Policy Strategies.
3. Requesting the National Alcoholic Beverage Control Committee
 - 3.1 Join hands with government agencies, Thai Health Promotion Foundation, Local Administrative Organization, civil society and partner networks concerned to support the work and participate actively in the management of the problems deriving from alcoholic beverage consumption, and the monitoring of the implementation of the National Alcohol Policy Strategies as well as developing plans of action in every possible way.
 - 3.2 Join hands with the National Committee on Supporting and Developing Quality of Life of the Disabilities to study a possibility of collecting additional fee or of allocating budget from alcohol sin taxes for the supports on implementation of the National Alcohol Policy Strategies and on the Fund for Supporting and Developing Quality of Life of the Disabilities