

Unofficial Translation

**First National Health Assembly
Agenda 3.12**

Resolution 1.12 13 December 2008

Public Policy for the Wellbeing of Informal Sector Workers

The First National Health Assembly,

Having reviewed the report on Public Policy for the Wellbeing of Informal Sector Workers,

Aware that the wellbeing of informal workers is beneficial to the country and society as a whole since their job security, quality of life and pride in human dignity are bound to have a direct effect on increased productivity, greater economic value of the nation and better social security,

Anxious and concerned that important problems facing informal workers, namely, lack of job security, unfair labour compensation, risky and health-hazardous work, lack of access to social security funds and other state services as well as inability to exercise the collective bargaining rights are in essence the outcomes of the lack of policies and laws to provide protection and create social security for informal workers,

Understanding and adhering to the spirit of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand, B.E. 2550 (2007), Articles 44, 64 and 84(7) prescribing principles for labour protection for all worker groups, Article 51 providing health protection, Article 78(2) and (3) focusing on decentralizing powers to local government organizations, and Article 80(2) and (4) specifying the roles of local government organizations in promoting, supporting and developing the health system as well as other provisions in related legislation,

Hereby passes the following resolutions:

1. Agencies concerned, especially the Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, Ministry of Public Health, and National Health Security Office are urged to:

1.1 Work together to define “informal workers” and promote the development of the database of informal workers to serve as the basis for policy development and implementation, with the Ministry of Interior as a focal point responsible for coordinating with other partners;

1.2 Develop and enhance potential networks for occupational safety, health and environment between networks and technical agencies, such as the Department of Disease Control, Department of Labour Protection and Welfare, and Department of Skill Development, in order to be able to provide technical support for health personnel, local government organizations and informal worker groups;

- 1.3 Promote and raise work safety awareness for informal worker groups, including employers and owners of business establishments; and provide for the creation of labour complaints and counseling centres in order to obtain information on occupational safety, health and environment;
2. Agencies concerned are urged to promote the development of appropriate public health service system for informal workers by:
 - 2.1 Providing budgetary support and developing health personnel at every level so as to have a proper understanding of occupational safety, health and environment and be able to provide occupational safety and health services to informal workers from the primary to referral levels;
 - 2.2 Integrating the work between primary health care units, local government organizations and the Ministry of Labour in providing health care and services for informal workers; and creating a participatory process involving informal workers and the community in the promotion of health for informal workers.
3. Local government organizations are urged to develop a policy on health management for informal workers by:
 - 3.1 Promoting processes that promote knowledge generation and better understanding among local government organizations toward informal workers in every dimension;
 - 3.2 Coordinating with other State agencies in developing and enhancing knowledge and skills that contribute to their capacity building and work efficiency including occupational safety and health;
 - 3.3 Supporting the creation of occupational risk insurance funds in the community specifying the sources of the funds and appropriate management; and supporting the co-payment of affordable contributions, while the funds are to be managed by all parties concerned, i.e. informal workers, employers, village funds and local government organizations, to take care of risks faced by informal workers in all aspects, including occupational health and safety, improvement of working conditions, price guarantee for products, and loans to improve the production process and working conditions leading to greater safety and better quality of life;
 - 3.4 Providing budgetary support or allocating resources for the work and management of occupational safety and health for informal workers.
4. The National Health Commission is urged to set up mechanisms to monitor the drafting of laws concerned with the protection and creation of social security for informal workers as well as enforcement of the existing laws, such as the Ministerial Regulation on Protection of Homeworkers (2004) and Ministerial Regulation on Protection of Agricultural Workers (2004) and report to the Second National Health Assembly.
