

*Unofficial Translation*

**First National Health Assembly  
Agenda 3.2**

**Resolution 1.2  
13 December 2008**

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**Universal Access to Essential Medicines for Thai People**

The First National Health Assembly,

Having considered the report on Universal Access to Essential Medicines for Thai People,

*Aware* that as medicines are moral goods, the country needs to have sufficient essential medicines available for public use in a well-distributed, timely and self-reliant manner, allowing all Thai people to have access to medicine,

*Taking note* that many people and patients cannot have access to essential medicines because the government has limited resources regarding budgetary support for supplying sufficient essential medicines to meet the demand, that the prices of patented medicines are too high for most people to pay, that although the patent system reflects the law's good intention to promote research and development as well as *technology transfer* the practice so far does not show that it is the case, especially with regard to technology transfer, and that providing long term monopolies will result in restricted access to medicines,

*Concerned* that the medicinal expenses in Thailand have gone up over the past several years, that the rate of such expenses between 2000 and 2005 increased by 13–20%, whereas the overall economic growth rate was only 2.2-7.1%, thus reflecting the country's higher medicinal spending than the overall economic growth, that the increased rate of medicinal use in Thailand is also contrary to the size of the pharmaceutical market at the international level which witnessed an increased rate decrease from 11.7 % in 2000 to 6.8 % in 2005, and that Thailand has no clear drug price policy, no efficient drug price control system, and no regulatory body to ensure that drug prices are reasonable and fair and reflect their real costs, resulting in pharmaceutical companies setting the prices of drugs, which in general are higher than real selling prices,

*Aware* that there are policies and laws which allow all people in remote areas and the poor to have an opportunity to use essential medicines at low prices, such as the National Drug Policies of 1981 and 1993, the 1981 Regulation of the Ministry of Public Health on Procurement of Drugs by the Budgets of Government Agencies under the Ministry of Public Health, dated 1 October 1981, Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights Agreements (TRIPs), The 1979 Patent Act and the Patent System, and Paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration,

**Hereby passes the following resolutions:**

1. To adopt the Strategies for Universal Access to Medicines for Thai People, as annexed to this resolution;
  2. To call upon the National Health Commission to:
    - 2.1 Submit the Strategies for Universal Access to Medicines for Thai People to the Cabinet for approval and for further instructions to develop operational plans in line with the Strategies,
    - 2.2 Put in place a mechanism to draft operation plans with participation from relevant agencies,
    - 2.3 Monitor the progress of the implementation of the operational plan,
    - 2.4 Co-ordinate with relevant agencies to implement urgent strategies or strategies which need to be put to practice immediately.
    - 2.5 Report to the Third National Health Assembly the results of the implementation of the Strategies for Universal Access to Medicines for Thai People.
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