

Emerging Infectious Diseases

The Second National Health Assembly

Having reviewed the report on emerging infectious diseases,

Realizing that emerging infectious diseases are a public health problem, a public threat, and a possible threat to national security. Such problems have tended to increase in terms of severity. If there is not an efficient strategy to manage the problem of emerging infectious diseases and such diseases are spreading, they will negatively affect the people's health, environment, as well as causing serious damage to social, economic, and national security;

Acknowledging that managing emerging infectious diseases in an integrated way and involving participation of all sectors of society is a key mechanism to solve the problem and needs to be developed immediately. This is complied with objectives of Chapter 5 of the Statute on the National Health System B.E 2552 (2009) – “Prevention and control of diseases and health-threatening factors” – which states that the State is to have unifying measures to prevent and control diseases and health-threatening factors in an interconnected and coordinating manner at every level; and the community is to be strong and able to participate in the prevention and control of diseases and health-threatening factors at the local level.

Concerned that monitoring, being vigilant for the emergence of new infectious diseases, and management of problems regarding such diseases are not efficient enough. Also, public communication regarding the emergence of new infectious diseases still lacks a clear national and community strategies for periods prior to, during, and after a disease has become an epidemic.

Hereby adopts the following resolutions:

1. Requesting the National Health Commission to establish a national committee composing of related agencies including the Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Labour, other public agencies, private sector, academic organizations, local government organizations, and civil society. These agencies and organizations are to be

encouraged to participate in preparing a strategic plan for an integrated approach to the management of emerging infectious diseases. Ministry of Public Health together with Ministry of Interior are requested to be the secretariat team and the plan is to be finished within 1 year.

The strategic plan should comprise of the following elements:

- Development of a collaborative mechanism among relevant agencies, including the civil society
- Preparing for monitoring, prevention, and control of diseases in animals and humans
- Inculcation of the conscience to prevent emerging infectious diseases
- Development of and preparing public health services for crises from pandemic of emerging infectious diseases
- Research, knowledge management and database preparation, and coordination with relevant technical and operational agencies
- Detection and screening to address biological warfare
- Review, amendment and enforcement of laws and regulations
- Management of domestic and wild animals
- Communication to the public at both national and community levels on emerging infectious diseases
- Development of sanitary works, efficient disease monitoring and control

2. Requesting the committee established according to 1. to propose recommendations for an establishment of a national mechanism to efficiently manage the emerging infectious diseases in a continuous and participatory manner, as well as to ensure an implementation according to the strategic plan stated in 1. The committee has an authority to take actions during emergency situations of pandemic of emerging infectious diseases

3. Requesting the committee established according to 1. to propose a strategic plan for management of emerging infectious diseases with an integrated approach, as well as the mechanism established according to 2., to the National Health Commission to consider and submit the plan and mechanism to the cabinet for approval.
