

## Urban Health Systems: Participatory development of health service systems

The 8<sup>th</sup> National Health Assembly,  
Having considered the report on "Urban Health Systems: Participatory development of health service systems",<sup>1</sup>

*Concerned* about the health of people living in urban areas in light of the evolution happening in Thai society, which is based upon diverse economic, social and demographic changes, living in crowdedness under the greater complexity of the population structure, including latent population and migrant workers who increasingly migrate into urban areas, especially after the advent of the ASEAN Community in 2015. All such factors will have an impact on the way of life, livelihood and environment undergoing from the rural to urban community at a fast and continuous pace, with possible consequences on access to health care of an unequitable and unfair nature,

*Noted* that the management of urban health services goes on in a complex context involving diverse players from the public, private and other sectors, including local government organizations that play a role in health care and increasingly provide health services to the people living in urban areas on a regular basis,

*Acknowledged* that the management towards the participatory development of health service systems in urban areas and in Bangkok Metropolitan are beset with a number of constraints, such as different policies and directions of implementation by each agency responsible for the areas, the infrastructure of health service systems, encompassing the number, quality and professional standards of the health workforce, readiness of all available resources such as information systems, medical and health technologies, overall design of health service systems, referral and medical emergency systems, administration and reimbursement of health budgets, lack of serious and continuous coordination among agencies involved within and between sectors, lack of lead agencies responsible for overall urban health service systems despite the presence of administrative zoning created by legislature, etc. All these factors lead to fragmentation in the overall development of urban health service systems due to unclear direction, with a consequence that the people living in urban areas inevitably find themselves at a greater health risk,

*Aware* that to strengthen the urban health service systems by way of the integration of local wisdom in health service provision, and to ensure that health needs and challenges would be addressed effectively, it is necessary to have in place lead agencies and participation of all sectors concerned,

Has passed the following resolutions;

1. Requesting the Ministry of Public Health by way of Bureau of Policy and Strategy to be the lead agency, together with Department of Local Administration, Ministry of Interior, Education institutes on health , Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, Bureau of the Budget, Comptroller General's Department, Ministry of Finance, Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board, National Health Security Office, Social Security Office, Ministry of

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<sup>1</sup> Document NHA 8/Main 3

Labor, Provincial Administration Organization Council of Thailand, National Municipal League of Thailand, Subdistrict Administration Organization Association of Thailand, Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, and civil society sector, to take the following actions:

1.1 Submit a proposal to the National Health Commission to establish, within six months, a national committee for the development of national strategic plan on urban health service systems with participation from the public, private and civil society sectors,

1.2 Support the National Committee for the Development of National Strategic Plan on Urban Health Service Systems in drafting a plan which focuses on strong primary care services with participation from the public, private and civil society sectors, taking into consideration all components related to health systems as follows: 1) health service delivery, 2) health workforce, 3) health information systems, 4) essential medical products, vaccines and technologies, 5) health financing, and 6) leadership and governance, the objectives being to provide quality, safe, and efficient health services, accessible to the people with satisfactory coverage and equity, and to protect them against financial bankruptcy resulting from illnesses. The draft national strategic plan is to be completed within one year after the effective appointment of the committee under 1.1 and to be submitted to the National Health Commission, who will subsequently submit it to the cabinet,

1.3 Support the establishment of committees to drive the strategy on urban health service systems at national level, health zone level (12 zones), Bangkok Metropolitan zone level, and provincial level, equipped with components from the public, private and civil society sectors, through various mechanisms appropriate to the local contexts;

2. Requesting the partner networks of the health assembly to participate in the development of urban health service systems, focusing on the participation of the people's sector in the creation and development of urban health service systems and raising awareness on health promotion, disease prevention, and rehabilitation in every age group, so that healthcare for individuals (self-care), families and communities would be enhanced through various mechanisms appropriate to the local contexts;

3. Requesting agencies concerned with research and development (R&D), with the Health Systems Research Institute (HSRI) as lead agency, together with National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT), Thailand Research Fund (TRF), and education institutes, to support R&D on urban health systems in a systematic manner, covering all dimensions of urban health system development;

4. Requesting the Ministry of Public Health to be the lead agency, together with National Health Security Office, Comptroller General's Department, Social Security Office, Bureau of the Budget, and local government organizations to support studies on efficient health financing mechanisms in favor of urban health service systems and to cover all stakeholders in every sector including service providers, service purchasers and service recipients;

5. Requesting the Secretary-General of the National Health Commission to report the progress to the 10<sup>th</sup> National Health Assembly.