

Unofficial Translation

**First National Health Assembly
Agenda 3.8**

**Revised Draft Resolution 1/8
12 December 2008**

Equal Access to Necessary Public Health Services

The First National Health Assembly

Having considered the report on Equal Access to Necessary Public Health Services,

Aware of the prescriptions of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand, B.E. 2550 **Chapter 3: Rights and Liberties of an Individual** Part 9 **Article 51**, which guarantees for the people equal access to public services including health services and **Article 80**, which stipulates that the state shall promote, support and develop a health system which emphasizes the strengthening of good health and leads to a state of sustained well-being for the people as well as provide and encourage thoroughly distributed public health service for the people in a standard and efficient fashion and promote the private sector and communities to participate in good health development and public health service provision. Persons responsible for these duties and performing them in accordance with professional and ethical standards shall be protected by law, which is in accordance with the principle of equality and the right to not be unjustly discriminated upon on grounds of differences. The right to human dignity is upheld by Article 30 and Article 4 of the Constitution, which realizes the responsibility of state agencies, as accorded by Articles 26 and 27 of the Constitution, in drafting, enforcing and interpreting laws in a manner which provides assurance and protection for the rights of the person as mentioned above.

Promoting the principle of providing all persons in Thailand with health security and equal access to essential public health services so as to establish national health security,

Aware of Thailand's commitment as a state party to international human rights declarations and treaties,

Aware that the Thai population does not enjoy equal access to basic public health services,

The National Health Assembly hereby issues the following resolutions:

1. Request all related organizations especially Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Labour; in particular the Social Security Office, and National Health Security Office as well as other agencies such as the National Security Council and the Immigration Bureau to:

1.1 Provide various forms of nation-wide quality public health services which are in line with the needs of the general public and specific groups such as ethnic groups and/or hill tribe groups. A sustainable and adequate budget or fiscal system will be set up to support hospitals and clinics to providing equal access to universal health care for all, especially stateless persons, alien workers and accompanying persons as well as Thai persons not having the 13 digit I.D. code and awaiting status confirmation, who are meanwhile devoid of any health security.

This will be done in accordance with Cabinet resolution dated 18 January, 2005 on Strategies to Deal with Issues Concerning the Status and Rights of the Person and implemented in parallel with capacity building for all levels of public health personnel throughout the entire system to develop service quality and instill in them positive attitude towards their clients.

1.2 Encourage local bodies and communities to participate in the provision of public health services, in coordinating as well as in developing community capacities and mechanisms to create well-being and function as a mechanism to provide mutual assistance in basic healthcare.

1.3 Advocate the people's participation in all levels of the health security system through proportional representation at national/regional/provincial and local as well as hospital and clinic levels.

1.4 Advocate the setting up of forums or co-operation frameworks on regional well-being by establishing joint health care missions with neighboring countries to provide solution for lack of access to essential public health services for alien workers both in Thailand and in neighboring countries.

1.5 Press government agencies responsible for alien worker registration to undertake the task efficiently and to have the registration system cover all alien workers so that they may enjoy the benefits of the national health security system.

1.6 Press local administration organizations to search for and provide assistance to stateless persons residing in Thailand and Thai persons not having the 13 digit I.D. code to provide them with access to the universal health care system.

1.7 Support public health system development at all levels, especially primary health care, by pressing for concrete plans for the next 10 years, more appropriate distribution of public health personnel, budgetary support and monitoring of plan implementation.

1.8 Improve the efficiency of the health security system and its management by having the 3 responsible agencies; namely the National Health Security Office (NHSO), the Social Security Office of the Ministry of Labour and the Comptroller General's Office of the Ministry of Finance jointly draw up a national health security system reform plan every 5 years and conduct implementation reviews every year to reduce discrepancy and provide more efficiency among the 3 health security systems with concrete targets and clear timeframes.

1.9 Establish positive and legal measures in relation to medical expenses for illnesses resulting from risky behavior such as injuries from drunk driving or the use of drugs, which create adverse effects for both the patient himself and others.

1.10 Press for developments in the health care system, the distribution of public health personnel and the referral system.

1.11 Support local agencies or primary health care units to provide verification for apparent disabilities in cases where medical verification is not needed. If medical diagnosis is necessary, the patient will be referred to a major service unit to be further diagnosed and registered.

2. Calling upon local administration organizations, educational institutions, private sector organizations, National Health Assembly member parties and state media to:

2.1 Disseminate information and create a process for the people to be informed about their healthcare rights and responsibilities and their right to access basic health services.

2.2 Disseminate information that every member of the population has the duty to report to competent officers and abide by regulations relating to access to health assurance. Furthermore, they have the responsibility to care for their own health as well as the health of their family, to prevent disease and to follow recommendations.

2.3 Commit to supporting every level of health care provision by collaborating with the National Health Security Office in setting up *Tambon* funds and allowing the people's sector mechanism to participate in the development of community plans to jointly provide solutions.

2.4 Have local agencies collaborate with hospitals and clinics in providing health care and support for disabled persons at home.

3. Calling for the National Health Commission to:

3.1 Provide supervision and monitoring mechanisms to create fairness and equity in access to necessary basic public health services by assigning neutral agencies or civil society to take charge of implementation tasks and reporting on the progress to the National Health Assembly every 2 years.

3.2 Co-ordinate and press responsible agencies to provide health care services which are various and in line with the needs of the general public and specific groups.

3.3 Liaise with relevant agencies such as the National Security Council (NSC) and the Immigration Bureau to jointly set up the system/format for necessary public health services, facilitating convenient and safe access to quality health care for stateless persons residing in Thailand.