

Crisis of antibacterial resistance and integrated problem solving

The 8th National Health Assembly,

Having considered the report on Crisis of antibacterial resistance and integrated problem solving¹,

Noted that antibacterial drugs are medications that can treat bacterial infections and are life-saving to a large number of humans and animals, that today there is a severe crisis of antibacterial drugs hitherto efficacious in the treatment, resulting in many diseases becoming harder to treat or untreatable, that the situation has worsened and that it is a common problem facing countries the world over,

Acknowledged that an unnecessary, irrational, or incorrect use of antibacterial drugs whether in general and animal hospitals, in the community, or in the agricultural sector, as well as the lack of monitoring and control of the spread of resistant bacteria, can cause a crisis of antibacterial resistance, while it is harder and almost impossible to manufacture new antibacterial drugs, which are commonly associated with higher prices and possibly greater danger,

Aware that with the knowledge to control antibacterial use in a beneficial way and curtail the spread of resistant bacteria, it is possible to alleviate the problem and that it requires an integrated problem-solving management,

Concerned that for patients suffering from bacterial infections that cannot be treated with drugs hitherto efficacious there are fewer choices open to them, affecting future treatments with higher expenditure or leading to a situation in which there is no other antibacterial drug, a situation hazardous to health and life,

Aware that the enforcement of the law, rules and regulations concerning the management of antibacterial resistance and antibacterial use is still ineffective and does not respond to the situation in a timely manner and that there is a lack of strict control of the distribution of antibacterial drugs and pharmaceutical chemicals,

See that every sector has an important duty to play in improving the situation, including the government sector, professional organizations, law enforcement authorities, health service agencies, agricultural sector, education sector, business and industrial sector, mass media, people sector, and civil society,

Noted that the Ministry of Public Health, through the Committee to Coordinate and Integrate Antimicrobial Resistance Activities, is in the process of developing Thailand's Strategy on Antimicrobial Resistance and that more components from

¹ Document NHA 8/Main 1

various agencies concerned should be added to ensure full integration and successful implementation,

View that a successful and sustainable solution will require participatory action from all sectors, a strong national integrated mechanism, serious and continuous commitment, and utilization of various branches of knowledge in the right direction, as well as the adoption of "One Health of human-animal-environment",

Has passed the following resolutions:

1. Requesting the Ministry of Public Health and Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives to submit, through the National Health Commission, to the cabinet for approval a proposal to make antibacterial resistance management a national agenda so that all agencies, organizations, and partners concerned can coordinate in an integrated, thoughtful and continuous manner;

2. Requesting the Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives and Ministry of Education to act as lead agencies to coordinate with various government agencies concerned, such as the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Finance, and Ministry of Commerce, including the people sector and health-related private sector, to undertake and put in place a national central mechanism to manage the antibacterial resistance crisis, the mechanism would have the following duties:

2.1 To integrate the development of strategic and action plans on the management of antibacterial resistance in Thailand in a continuous manner to be completed within one year,

2.2 To put in place a central information center to manage the antibacterial resistance crisis at national and provincial levels, analyze and synthesize information that can be communicated to policy makers, those that involve the prescription and dispensation of antibacterial drugs, civil society, and the general public,

2.3 To support implementation of the plan, monitor and assess its progress, including communicating such implementation in a concrete manner to all parties concerned,

3. Requesting members of the National Health Assembly to act as mechanism to monitor, support and work together to drive forward the development of strategic and action plans and ensure their implementation;

4. Requesting provincial health assemblies, together with local government organizations, other public authorities at the provincial and district levels, and civil society, involving participation of the local community, to monitor, support and work together to drive forward the work at the local level to strengthen the efforts to encourage a rational antibacterial use and prevent the spread of resistant bacteria, and to work together to create awareness in the civil society using a variety of publicity media to reach the target groups, including the surveillance of an

irrational or illegal use of antibacterial drugs, thereby ensuring that the efforts cover the prevention and treatment in humans and animals as well as their application in the agricultural sector;

5. Requesting agencies responsible for various aspects of legal control regarding resistant bacteria and antibacterial drugs, e. g. the Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, and local government organizations, to jointly enforce and improve laws, rules and regulations concerned to handle the antibacterial resistance crisis throughout the product life cycle² of drugs used for humans and animals, and chemicals used with plants;

6. Requesting the Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thai Health Promotion Foundation, National Health Security Office, and other agencies concerned, including the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Interior, and Department of Public Relations, to support the people sector network, health and agriculture-related NGOs, and quality drugstore networks in creating awareness and strengthening the people sector and farmers through training, development of self-care packages, rational antibacterial use, awareness of drug advertisement, and use of alternative herbal drugs.

7. Requesting the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Public Health, and professional councils to develop curriculums or provide learning programs, from basic to tertiary education, on health, prevention and health promotion, including greater knowledge about health, to reduce illnesses and promote self-care for basic treatment without resorting to antibacterial drugs and, in case of necessary drug use, to equip the public with a knowledge of resistant bacteria and rational antibacterial use.

8. Requesting agencies responsible for coordinating and supporting R&D, e.g. National Research Council of Thailand, Thailand Research Fund, Health Systems Research Institute, and tertiary education institutes, to work together to come up with important R&D agenda relating to antibacterial resistance management, including providing R&D budgetary support, and publicizing the findings to every target group.

9. Requesting the Ministry of Public Health and Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives to develop work systems in healthcare establishments and in the agricultural sector, including personnel, places and resources to accelerate and support the management of the antibacterial resistance problem:

9.1 Government agencies with healthcare establishments and the Ministry of Public Health as agency supervising private healthcare establishments, together

² A product life cycle refers to the import of ready-made drugs or pharmaceutical chemicals, their manufacturing, registration and review of pharmacopeias, control of drug distribution, access, and consumption, including the disposal of mixtures or residues of antibacterials into the environment.

with The Healthcare Accreditation Institute (Public Organization), to undertake the work and disclose information concerned,

9.2 Government agencies with animal healthcare establishments and the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives as agency supervising private animal healthcare establishments to undertake the work and disclose information concerned,

9.3 The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives and government agencies concerned with the life cycle of husbandry, fishing and farming to put in place a system catering for the production process and disclose information concerned;

10. Requesting health-related professional councils, health-related professional organizations, and the education sector, with the support of the Ministry of Public Health and Ministry of Education,

10.1 To develop practice guidelines for antibacterial use at various levels, focusing particularly on diagnosis and treatment of infectious diseases and to disseminate such guidelines through various channels to reach all target groups, including encouraging health personnel to utilize these guidelines in their practices,

10.2 To create awareness in health personnel of the importance of appropriate selection of antibacterial drugs and the effects of undue antibacterial use,

10.3 To enhance and develop the capacity of health workforce in every field³ whose work involves infectious diseases and to provide appropriate incentives to health workforce responsible for control of infectious diseases,

10.4 To provide academic and empirical information support to health personnel and the public to encourage a reasonable use of antibacterial drugs,

10.5 To support attempts to improve curriculums in every field of health science, focusing on creating an awareness in graduates about antibacterial resistance problems, an aptitude for rational use of antibacterial drugs, and ability for rational antibacterial use;

11. Requesting antibacterial-related business organizations to develop practice guidelines for the organizations and their personnel on the manufacturing, importation, sale, advertisement or drug sale promotion with a view to reducing the antibacterial resistance problem. Such guidelines should be implemented and followed stringently. The agencies concerned are requested put in place a system for monitoring and surveillance on those organizations and personnel on a regular and continuous basis;

12. Requesting the Secretary-General of the National Health Commission to report the progress to the 10th National Health Assembly.

³ Health workforce refers to an individual or group of individuals playing a role in health promotion, healthcare, disease prevention, and physical rehabilitation, including health personnel, health professionals, support personnel, traditional Thai medicine personnel, folk medicine personnel, and alternative medicine personnel, various kinds of health volunteers, health leaders, health networks, and people whose work has involve health