

**Supportive System and Structure for Walking and Cycling in Daily Living**

The 5<sup>th</sup> National Health Assembly, having considered the report on Supportive System and Structure for Walking and Cycling in Daily Living<sup>1</sup>,

*Realizing* that inadequate physical exercise contributes to overweight and obesity and is a main cause of sickness and death from chronic non-communicable diseases and that a choice of motorized transport for short-distance travel instead of walking and cycling accounts for an unnecessary increased fuel use, a major cause of Thailand's imbalance of trade, as well as increased emission of greenhouse gases, and that every group of people has difficulty in using walkways,

*Concerned* about national economic losses as a result of sickness and death from chronic non-communicable diseases, pollution and accidents, imbalance of trade, loss of travel time, climate change, social losses due to lower quality of life, and the community spirit,

*Appreciating* the past efforts of various government agencies and people's organizations in promoting walking and cycling for short-distance travel instead of using motorized vehicles even though their efficiency is still rather limited,

*Noting* that policies, laws, and various measures concerned are not up to date and not efficiently enforced and that there are no provisions that directly and indirectly promote walking and cycling,

*Seeing* that to make Thai society better lend itself to walking and cycling in daily living it is necessary for all sectors concerned to be involved in the integrative management of the matter, to generate and disseminate knowledge, launch awareness-creating campaigns and promote the system and support for walking and cycling in daily living, as well as developing and enforcing legal measures in a serious manner with a view to ensuring a sustainable transport system and development of a healthy city,

Has, therefore, passed the following resolutions:

1. Requesting the National health Commission to bring the matter to the cabinet to consider the issue of having a support and structure for walking and cycling in daily living and to assign the following agencies to consider taking appropriate action:

1.1 The Prime Minister's Office to adopt a policy making walking and cycling a major mode for short-distance travel and coordinate with other public agencies in its implementation;

1.2 The Ministry of Transport to promote connecting walking and cycling with the public transport systems and to make the issue of being considerate to all groups of pedestrians and cyclists part of the driving license tests;

1.3 The Ministry of Interior and local government organizations to amend ministerial regulations issued under the Control Building Act and bylaws requiring owners of large public buildings and public buildings, including public bus terminals, to make available safe and convenient parking spaces for bicycles;

1.4 The Department of Local Administration to make walking and cycling an agenda for local government organizations to put in place an infrastructure suitable and safe for walking and use of wheelchairs by people with disabilities, to set speed limit zones for motor vehicles in the community, disseminate information and launch campaigns on a regular basis to stimulate public awareness on walking and cycling in daily living;

1.5 The Ministry of Education to require its education institutes to have courses and develop skills on correct and safe walking and cycling on a continuing basis to students, including promoting walking and cycling to schools through the involvement of students, their

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<sup>1</sup> Document Health Assembly 5/Main1

parents and the community as well as providing walking and cycling facilities within the education institutes;

1.6 The Ministry of Industry to promote business operators and industries that manufacture goods and provide services relating to walking and cycling as well as promoting the use of quality tools and equipments that facilitate the travel of people with disabilities;

1.7 The Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Tourism and Sports, and Thai Health Promotion Foundation to campaign for the general public to walk and cycle in daily living and support activities designed to promote walking and cycling on a continuing basis;

1.8 The Ministry of Energy to have a policy and measures promoting non-motorized transport, i.e. walking and cycling as well as using tools and equipments that facilitate the travel of people with disabilities;

1.9 The Ministry of Tourism and Sports, and Tourism Authority of Thailand to support cycling tourism and encourage accommodation operators to prepare bicycles for tourists;

In all this, agencies concerned in 1.1-1.9 shall get the work done by 2015.

2. Requesting the Thai Health Promotion Foundation to support participation for a system and structure for walking and cycling in daily living as follows;

2.1 Support the development of strategies for “Supportive System and Structure for Walking and Cycling in Daily Living” with a participatory approach, for which there will be a working group composed of individuals concerned with walking and cycling from the civil society, public agencies, local government organizations, and relevant private sector who will consider the proposed strategies, using the Annex<sup>2</sup> following the main document as a starting point,

2.2 Support the public hearing process for such strategies and submit the findings to the Health Assembly for Specific Issues for adoption by the end of 2013.

3. Request Thailand Cycling Club to lead the coordination with other partners related to walking and cycling and health partners to create a network to work together to promote walking and cycling in daily living and participate in the development of strategies as mentioned in 2.1, as well as providing advice, recommendation, academic support and study tours in the areas of operation.

4. Requesting the Secretary-General of National Health Commission to report progress to the 7<sup>th</sup> National Health Assembly.

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<sup>2</sup> Document Health Assembly 5/Main 1/Annex 1