

**Transforming Health Professional Education
To Meet Health Needs in Thailand**

The 5th National Health Assembly

Having considered the report on the reform of health professional education in order to meet the health needs in Thailand¹,

Realizing that the current system of education for health professionals in Thailand still lacks integration and harmonization with the dynamic of the health and social system, that this affects the ability of the system to produce health personnel who are knowledgeable, have a good attitude, and have the necessary skills and the ability to provide health services well, and that health professionals should also be virtuous and have respect for human dignity, have the skills and cooperative attitude needed for teamwork, a capacity for life-long learning in their work, as well as the leadership skills to initiate change in the dynamic of the health system and society, all of which are important skills in the globalized 21st century,

realizing that curricular development or adjustments to the teaching system for health professionals in only one particular field without collaboration with other fields and other related sectors of society is not sufficient for improvement to health professional education or for the greatest public benefit, so the curricular development or adjustment for health professionals in any field needs to link with the dynamics of the health system, society and public health needs,

Concerned about how the health system and the health service system will be affected by the process of producing health professionals in the private and public sector, the coming together of the ASEAN community, and the policy goal for Thailand to become the healthcare hub of the region,

Concerned about the inequity in management of health professional education: students from poor families in rural areas have fewer opportunities despite most expenses being funded through taxes,

Appreciating the development of support mechanisms at the local community level which enable health professionals to work efficiently and happily and covers the process of selecting students, the duration of study, as well as the post-graduation period of finding employment in the health system,

Appreciating the consistent efforts of educational institutions, the Health Professional Council, the Ministry of Public Health, Office of the Higher Education Commission, Ministry of Education, and related alliance networks which extensively participated in the development, improvement, approval of standards of health professional education, creation of innovative procedures in education management, and academic education processes for the support of the reform of the health professional education system,

¹ Document: Health Assembly 5/ Main 4

Appreciating the educational institutions in many areas that attempt to develop and improve new forms of education by learning from experience in education administration both within the country and abroad, with the intention to produce health professionals who have knowledge, competency, and healthcare-related problem-solving skills that meet the needs of the health service system in each area,

Has, therefore, passed the following resolutions:

1. Requesting the National Health Workforce Commission to appoint a special subcommittee, with the following components and responsibilities:

1.1 A subcommittee consisting of representatives from every sector, including education institutes, colleges, universities that produce health personnel, and those who employ health personnel, in both the public and private sectors, including civil society organizations, local administrative organizations, student representatives, representatives of professional councils or organizations, and experts, in the appropriate proportion;

1.2 A subcommittee to provide a strategic plan in line with the process of selection, production, planning and development of health personnel leading to reform of health professional education in line with the policy of service quality at every level, based on mobilization of wisdom, experience, innovation, extensive participation, and use of empirical evidence, with the work to be completed within one year, and to submit the draft strategic plan for approval to the National Health Assembly or issue-based assembly as appropriate. The strategic plan should cover important issues such as cooperation building between producers of health professionals and healthcare users in the health service system within the context of the ASEAN community; knowledge management; exchange of examples including good experiences between health personnel in various fields; an increased body of knowledge of management; conflict management; important health laws, promotion of education innovation; creation of public mind; respect for dignity; humanized service; equality and justice in education management and distribution of health personnel; support for research and application of the findings to help solve health problems of the public, etc.

2. Requesting local government organizations under the Ministry of Interior to support the selection and offering of scholarships to local personnel to study health programs in conjunction with education institutes in keeping with the context of the community and to set up positions and mechanisms to ensure that they will return to work in their localities.

3. Requesting the Secretary-General of the National Health Commission Office to report progress to the 7th National Health Assembly.