

School Catering System Management

The Sixth National Health Assembly

Having considered the report on School Catering System Management¹:

Noting that the previous school catering system was ineffective in solving malnutrition, including both under-nutrition and over-nutrition, in terms of food quality, safety and environmental management, to facilitate good consumption behaviors among children and young people. These problems impact their health and intelligence, economic and social status, thus bringing barriers to the development of the country;

Recognizing that school catering system development, recognition of the government and related agencies, and integration in multi-sectoral implementation, are important to food quality, food safety, food security and food education;

Recognizing that improvement on fund management for the school lunch project in primary school helps solve malnutrition in children and young people;

Having agreed that local administrative organizations, educational institutes and related agencies are significant for the encouragement and support of the effective school catering system in their areas; and

Recalling the strategy on overweight problems and obesity from the Second National Health Assembly which suggested that a healthy diet should be provided in schools but the selling or serving foods with high fat, sugar and sodium in the school area should be prohibited, and stipulating rules and regulations to control such activities promoting selling of foods with high fat, sugar and sodium in schools, as strategies which could enhance the school catering system development;

Here, therefore, the following resolutions have been adopted:

¹Health Assembly 6/ Main 3

1. Request the government, through the Thai National Food Committee, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, the Office of the National Economics and Social Development Board, the Bureau of the Budget, other government organizations, the private sector, Parent Associations and Local Administrative Organizations, to push “School Catering System” as a National, Provincial and Local Agenda;

2. Appreciate the Ministry of Public Health for its department, the Bureau of Nutrition, Department of Health willing to be the lead agency coordinating with the Bureau of Health Promotion, the Bureau of Food and Water Sanitation, the Department of Health, the Food and Drug Administration, the Bureau of Food Safety Extension and Support, and the Department of Disease Control in cooperating with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, the Ministry of Industry, the Local Administrative Organizations, academic sector and people sector to develop and implement practices in accordance with “Standard of School Catering Management and Guidelines for Development to meet the Standard” and “School Food Standard”; but still need to increase primacy on food quality, food safety, food security and food education; and need to develop the system of supporting, supervising, monitoring and evaluating; together with promoting an adoption of standard implementation in every school, the progress should be reported to the National Food Committee;

3. Request the Department of Local Administration, Ministry of Interior, to develop regulations or guidelines to facilitate the implementation of the Local Administrative Organization, by stipulating criteria to manipulate the development plan on the school catering system under supervision of all jurisdictions including participation from all sectors as follows:

3.1 Planning with schools, related agencies and stakeholders to review and improve regulations hindering the quality of school lunch catering for all students, improve human resource management, knowledge, budget and materials based on information and appropriate to economic state, with consideration of food quality, food safety, food security and food education in line with beliefs, religious affiliation and local consumption culture,

3.2 Reviewing school milk in line with criteria and guidelines of the school milk program by assigning schools and their jurisdictions, public

health care units in those areas, and provincial public health offices to monitor the process of procurement, transportation, storage, distribution and quality checks,

3.3 Promoting participation of local agricultural sectors in those areas by supporting the expansion of agricultural food areas and promoting the use of safe products from them,

3.4 Promoting an adoption of a “School Catering Management Standard” and “School Catering Standard”, as developed in resolution 2, and developing mechanisms to control sanitation systems, food quality and food marketing in schools, providing adequate fruits and vegetables at schools, prohibit selling or serving foods with high fat, sugar and sodium which exceed the standard level, and encouraging food label literacy, and

3.5 Promoting participation of the community, parents, cooks, entrepreneurs, teachers, school personnel, students and young people through education and promoting student projects or group research in order to develop appropriate consumption behaviors by themselves, nutritional surveillance skills, and school catering system follow up should emphasize on the procurement and use of raw materials to meet the budget allocation;

4. Request the Ministry of Education through Office of The Basic Education Commission to collaborate with the Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, the National Health Security Office, the Thai Health Promotion Foundation, the Local Administration Organizations, the Ministry of Interior, academic agencies, communities, parents, students and young people to develop models and mechanisms for managing, monitoring and evaluating school meal quality control, appropriate to students and the local context, especially to their culture and religious principles;

5. Request the Ministry of Education through Office of The Basic Education Commission as the lead agency collaborating with the National Office of Buddhism, the Ministry of Public Health, the Local Administrative Organizations, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, the Ministry of Industry, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, the Border Patrol Police Bureau, the Royal Thai Police Headquarters, the Thai Health Promotion Foundation, academic sectors and civil society to develop information systems, including the database, knowledge sharing mechanisms, a

nutritional vigilance situation system, food safety, food quality, children's consumption behavior information and children's health related information, follow up and evaluation system, research promotion and public communication;

6. Request the Ministry of Education through Office of The Basic Education Commission to collaborate with the Local Administrative Organizations to review and improve the fund management system of school lunch programs in all primary schools so that every school will be supported with efficiency, transparency and accountability, and clearly stipulate roles and responsibilities for related organizations, as well as specifying guidelines for operating, monitoring and evaluation, focusing on food quality, food safety, food security at an adequate quantity, and food education; and

7. Request the Secretary-General of the National Health Commission to report the progress in the 8th National Health Assembly.