



## Summary Report

# The 1st ASEAN Conference

"Impact Assessment and Mitigation under the theme of Towards ASEAN Engagement and Sustainable Development"

23-25 November 2015

Naresuan University

Phitsanulok Province, Thailand







The Conference Summary Report  
**The 1st ASEAN Conference**

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Over the past decade, Thailand has been conducting and advocating Health Impact Assessments (HIA) as a tool to provide a set of "evidence-based recommendations" to maximize positive impacts and minimize harmful consequences of public policies on determinants to health and health systems in a concrete manner both at policy and local community levels, driving from in and across the country, and to the wider globe.

Thailand was entrusted to act as the lead agent in the HIA Coordination for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The country began organizing Asian and Pacific Regions' HIA Conferences in 2008, at which a regional commitment was made to develop the Asian and Pacific regions into a society of well-being.

The commitment was known as the "Chiang Mai Declaration", recommending a creation of an established body of knowledge, of share studies, and technical documents and support capacity building for HIA for all stakeholders and joint working mechanisms in the ASEAN Community with the ASEAN Secretariat and National ASEAN secretariats in each country serving as focal points.

In 2011, the 6th Senior Official Meeting on Health Development (SOMHD) agreed to put in place a mechanism known as the ASEAN Focal Point on Health Impact Assessment (AFPHIA), consisting of representatives from the ministries of Public Health and academics from ASEAN member countries including Thailand to lead the initiative as well as the implementation of HIA, reporting to SOMHD and the develop the TOR and framework of HIA.

On subsequent occasions throughout 2012, Thailand organized a number of workshops, entitled "HIA: A Foundation for the well-being of the ASEAN Community" and "Constructing a Caring and Sharing Community: Roles of HIA". Thailand was assigned to develop the capacity building

of HIA practitioners and academia as the way forward for a healthy ASEAN and also the movement "Health in All Policies". That is the rationale of the organization of this international conference.

Thailand's HIA experience over the past decade has shown how Impact Assessments (IA) and HIA plays an important role in conflict reduction, problem-solving and the setting of development directions. Yet this is only the beginning. When the ASEAN Community soon joins together officially, the situation will become more complex with regard to the merging of relationships, development activities and potential problems.

As Thailand is entrusted with the lead role in HIA advocacy in ASEAN, a road map has been developed. It reads as follows:

(1) Knowledge Generation and Management to support capacity development of the partner networks in HIA work at every level through technical and research, the exchange of knowledge and experience will be conducted through conferences, workshops, training programs, field work, development of data systems, and dissemination to target groups and the public on a regular basis.

(2) Collaboration Between Government, Academic, Private, and Civil Sectors etc. to create and expand more partner networks to cover the work in both area-related and issues-related manners, resulting in greater collaborations, common objectives and common interests, leading to policy recommendations for healthy public policy development in a truly participatory process.

(3) Integration to the ASEAN Blueprint. Attempts have been made to put HIA into practice and elevate APHIA to be a formal mechanism for sustainable development and action across the ASEAN region, to ensure well-being of the ASEAN Community as a whole. This is in line with the expectation for ASEAN to be "a concert of Southeast ASEAN nations, outward looking and living in peace, stability and prosperity, bonded together in partnership through dynamic development and in a community of a caring society."

Impact Assessments (IA) and Health Impact Assessments (HIA) are tools not only to create greater opportunities and processes that will allow every social sector to participate in the sharing information and caring for society, but also as a tool to develop greater knowledge development leading to much more effective cooperation mechanisms that can enhance positive outcomes and reduce negative impacts, as well as creating public policies conducive to the well-being of all sectors and the peaceful coexistence of people through sustainable development.

National Health Commission Office, Thailand  
December 2015





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Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand  
and President of the National Health  
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## **Admiral Narong Pipatanasai**

Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand and  
President of the National Health Commission, Thailand

at The 1st ASEAN Conference on  
“Impact Assessment and Mitigation under the theme of  
Towards ASEAN Engagement and Sustainable Development”

23 November 2015

Naresuan University, Phitsanulok Province, Thailand



## Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I wish to thank the international steering board of the 1st ASEAN Conference for extending the invitation to speak at this gathering of representatives from the ministries of public health and the environment of ASEAN and other international countries, representatives from the Greater Mekong Sub-Region countries and universities, and representatives from international organizations, such as the World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Asian Development Bank (ADB), International Finance Corporation (IFC), and Greenpeace International, including Impact Assessment practitioners in ASEAN countries.

This is an opportune time to talk about impact assessments in this Region. ASEAN is one of the fastest growing developing regions in the world, which poses the potential for huge benefits as well as many negative impacts on people and societies, especially concerning health.

I am satisfied to hear that HIA for ASEAN post 2015 applies the "Health in All Policies" strategy. Despite the promotion of economic growth and investment in ASEAN, health and other aspects should be considered in parallel.

Thailand has applied the "Health in All Policies" strategy through a national mechanism, called the National Health Commission that facilitates the policy process with inclusive participation, and proposes policy recommendations related to health from birth, to old age, sickness and death for the well-being and happiness of all members of society.

The National Health Commission is chaired by the Prime Minister or the Deputy Prime Minister entrusted by the Prime Minister as Chairperson, the Minister of Public Health as Vice Chairperson, and an equal number of representatives from three sectors, namely the public sector from the central and local authorities, the sector comprising of professional organizations and qualified persons, and the civil sector.

This is a horizontal, cross-sector structure designed to promote the development of healthy public policy at every level in various dimensions. It is also designed to ensure that the implementation of all healthy public policies links governance by network with governance by government and governance by market.

It is also worthwhile to acknowledge that the result of the Conference will be incorporated into the work plan of the ASEAN Focal Point on Health Impact Assessment and will be submitted to the Senior Official Meeting on Health Development (SOMHD) for review. The results will not be put on the shelf, but will be advocated at the upper level.

I believe that prevention is less costly and more effective in terms of management. I am proud to be a part of the great effort to protect and preserve our environment and the quality of life of the communities through the use of the impact assessment tool. This is a big step to ensure that our future generations will enjoy the natural resources and other benefits that they have the rights to.

I hope that the 1st ASEAN Conference on "Impact Assessment and Mitigation under the theme of Towards ASEAN Engagement and Sustainable Development" will provide a wonderful platform where new findings are shared with plenty of good evidence for policy making and implementation at all levels.

On a final note, there are many interesting organizations and networks gathering here. I would like to underline the opportunity presented here to gain knowledge as well as future partners, so I encourage all participants to network during the conference. This can lead to future collaborations on the development and implementation of impact assessments in ASEAN.

The time is now propitious. I would like to declare the conference officially opened and wish you every success on the objectives of the conference. I also wish you a happy stay in Thailand.

Thank you.









The 1st follow up meeting between National Health Commission Office (NHCO) and Naresuan University on January 9th 2015 to prepare the conference at Naresuan University, Thailand



## The Road to The 1st ASEAN Conference

on "Impact Assessment  
and Mitigation  
under the theme of  
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and Sustainable Development"

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## During 2008 to 2011, from the Chiang Mai Declaration to the ASEAN Focal Point on HIA (AFPHIA)

The Chiang Mai Declaration on HIA for the Development of Healthy Societies in Asia Pacific Region, which was proposed at the 2008 Asia and Pacific Regional Health Impact Assessment Conference Organizing Committee – a result of the 2008 HIA Conference which was held in April 2009 – and was organized as the first Asia Pacific HIA Conference aiming to present and to exchange the knowledge and experience on HIA in all levels leading to the commitment of further collaborations and developments of HIA in the Asia Pacific and to assure sustainable social and economic development.

It calls to governments, civil societies, academics, development partners, private sectors, international organizations and other relevant stakeholders to bring the reflections in the Chiang Mai Declaration to the attention of other ASEAN members, in particularly the issue of HIA regional mechanism to implement ASEAN principles. Given its function as an official coordinating body in an international community, ASEAN is an appropriate body to take the lead in developing HIA mechanisms in the Southeast ASEAN Regions due to the organizational structure of ASEAN that has already set up the Secretariat body and the National Secretariat bodies.

Later, Dr. Wiput Phoolcharoen, Chair of the HIA Commission, National Health Commission Office of Thailand (NHCO), and an expert on HIA mechanisms from Laos, Malaysia and Vietnam developed the draft recommendation paper entitled "Health Impact Assessment (HIA) : A Foundation for the well-being of the ASEAN Community" and presented it to the 5th SOMHD meeting in Malaysia, 2009.

In July 2011, the 6th SOMHD meeting in Naypitaw, Myanmar, saw the Republic of the Union of Myanmar agree that Thailand should lead the initiative as well as the implementation of HIA and report it to SOMHD and ASEAN member states who will then nominate the focal point on HIA and submit it to the ASEAN Secretariat by the 25th August 2011. Thailand will develop the TOR and framework of HIA and convene the capacity building workshop on HIA.



The Asia Pacific Health Impact Assessment Conference 2008  
22nd-24th April 2009, Chiang Mai province, Thailand



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## During 2012-2014, form meetings of understanding to establish the concept of a HIA Curriculum

Health Impact Assessment or HIA was introduced to ASEAN since 2010 and adopted by The 6th Senior Officials Meeting in Health Department of ASEAN (SOMHD) in 2011. Thailand has been entrusted as the leader of the ASEAN Focal Point on HIA (AFPHIA) to develop TOR and framework of HIA. Given the assignment on February 13-14, 2012, the HIA Commission Thailand chaired by Dr Wiput Phoolcharoen, MD., MPH, and the National Health Commission Office of Thailand (NHCO) held the 1st HIA for ASEAN Workshop, "Understanding Health Impact Assessment (HIA): A Foundation for the Well-being of the ASEAN Community" in Phuket, Thailand.

The Meeting was attended by members from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam and also representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Health Organization South-East Asia Regional Office (WHO SEARO), National Health Commission Thailand and Thailand's Ministry of Public Health. The meeting agreed on the draft of the Framework from the "Health Impact Assessment (HIA): A Foundation for the Well-being of the ASEAN Community" and the draft of the term of reference for ASEAN Focal Points on HIA to develop a proposal of HIA issues on climate change and disaster management in ASEAN including its action plans.

Thailand was assigned to report the meeting outcome from the 1st HIA for ASEAN Workshop to the 7th SOMHD in March 2012 at Cebu, Philippines. The meeting agreed on the HIA framework and remarked on the need for the inter-sectoral nature of cooperation to implement the activities. In addition, the TOR will provide internal coordination mechanisms for implementation of the identified activities under the framework that does not specify the creation of a new subsidiary body under SOMHD. Thailand will revise the TOR and call it to the next workshop. The formation of AFPHIA was endorsed by ASEAN in 2012. The members were composed of representatives from the Ministry of Public Health and Academics from the universities involved.

Thailand held the 2nd Workshop of ASEAN Focal Point on HIA (AFPHIA), "Constructing a Caring and Sharing Community: Roles of HIA" in Bangkok, Thailand from 4 – 6 October, 2012. The Meeting was attended by delegates from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, and the ASEAN Secretariat. The meeting made agreements on the HIA work plans, and important guidance and concept notes which was considered a good starting point for working together. The cross-sectoral collaboration, especially in the cross border issues to develop HIA from project levels to system based levels, was submitted to the 8th SOMHD, after a postponement of the AFPHIA meeting that rested tentatively on Thailand's dynamic domestic political situation in December 2013.

According to the 9th SOMHD of ASEAN in June 2014, Thailand was assigned to take responsibility for capacity building among HIA practitioners and academics. To achieve this assignment and to encourage the exchange of knowledge, technical information and experiences among several sectors, the National Health Commission of Thailand (NCHO) chaired by the prime minister announced the 1/2015 resolution on February 20st, 2015 to convene the 1st ASEAN Conference on Impact Assessment under the theme "Impact Assessment and Mitigation: Towards ASEAN Engagement and Sustainable Development" from 23 - 25 November, 2015 in Phisanulok Province, Thailand.

(1) The 1st Workshop of ASEAN Focal Point on HIA (AFPHIA) entitle "Understanding Health Impact Assessment (HIA) : A Foundation for the Well-being of the ASEAN Community" on February, 13-14, 2012 at Phuket province, Thailand

(2) The 2nd Workshop of ASEAN Focal Point on HIA (AFPHIA) entitle "Constructing a Caring and Sharing Community : Role of HIA" on October, 4-6, 2012 at Bangkok, Thailand

(3) The 6th International Conference on Public Health among GMS Countries: Health Service System for a Borderless Community: Human Resource Development for a District Health System" on November, 6-7, 2014 at Pullman Hotel, Khon Kaen province, Thailand



This is the Duo Meetings combining the 1st ASEAN Conference on Impact Assessment and Mitigation and AFPHIA meeting. AFPHIA will take an important role to generate and compile plans for further action of the ASEAN as well as collaborate among ASEAN member countries. This will be critical for correct political and policy movements in ASEAN. The result of the conference will need to be considered, scrutinized, and then finally culminated into action plans for the AFPHIA in the next 5 years.

In the same year, NHCO, HIA Commission and HIA consortium collaborated with the Public Health among Greater Mekong Sub-Regional Countries (GMSPH) to develop a HIA curriculum concept through the 6th International Health Conference on Public Health among Greater Mekong Sub-Regional Countries under the theme "Health Service System in a Borderless Community" in September 2014 at Raja Orchid room, Pullman Hotel in Khon Khaen province, Thailand. The HIA Commission Thailand chaired by Dr Wiput Phoolcharean and The National Health Commission Office (NHCO) attended the meeting, representing the deans of Public Health, Thailand. The deans had an agreement to appoint a committee to collaborate with The NHCO to study the possibility of cooperation among Thailand and universities in ASEAN to develop a HIA curriculum.

The NHCO also organized a concurrent Session under the title "Development of HIA in Thailand: past, present and future" where Dr Wiput Phoolcharean gave a speech on "Public Health Service in a Borderless Community for the conference".

## In 2015, The Phases of Conference Preparation - Find a Strategic Partner

To strengthen technical collaborations on impact assessments and build capacity of researchers and authorities, the National Health Commission Office (NHCO) signed a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Environmental Quality Promotion (DEQP), the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and Naresuan University (NU) with objectives to strengthen following collaborations by namely; 1) developing mitigation technology studies; 2) applying research and academic studies into implementation; and 3) convening international technical conference. The MOU was signed on 27 March 2013 and lasts 5 years, ending in 2018.

From the MoU, NHCO proposed to the National Health Commission, chaired by Prime Minister, that they to hold the 1st ASEAN conference on "Impact Assessment and Mitigation under the theme of Towards ASEAN Engagement and Sustainable Development" on November 23 -25, 2015 at the Akatosarod Building, Naresuan University in Phitsanulok, Thailand. Later, The Nation Health Commission gave the resolution on no. 1/2015 on 20 February 2015 to convene the conference.

This conference had an aim to propose a human resource development plan for AFPHIA, an empowerment plan for community HIA in ASEAN and dialogue and initiate standardization and of HIA in ASEAN and curriculum for the Greater Mekong Sub region (GMS) Public Health Academic Institute. It also aimed to build up a capacity of ASEAN member states and other regions on impact assessment particularly HIA through an exchange of knowledge, research, technical information and working experience to establish a collaborative network of HIA practitioners, academics, authorities and civil societies in order to collectively lay the foundation of the HIA and impact assessment system in ASEAN as well as other regions. This will be submitted as operation plan for the 11th SOMHD.



- (1) The signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the National Health Commission Office (NHCO), the Department of Environmental Quality Promotion (DEQP), the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and Naresuan University (NU), on 27th March 2013
- (2) The 2nd follow up meeting between National Health Commission Office (NHCO) and Naresuan University on July 21st 2015 to prepare the conference at Naresuan University, Thailand
- (3) The meeting between Mrs. Kannikar Bunteongit, Deputy Secretary General, National Health Commission, Thailand and Dr.Suriya Wongkongkathep, M.D. Duputy Permanent Secretary of ministry of Public Health on 7th July 2015 to discuss about collaboration for the conference.
- (4) The meeting between Mrs. Kannikar Bunteongit, Deputy Secretary General, National Health Commission, Thailand and Dr.Richard Brown, Programme Officer (Border Health) of WHO Thailand on 4th June 2015 to discuss about collaboration for the conference.



- (1) Ms. Nadia Rasheed, Health and Development Regional Team Leader, United Nations Development Programme, Asia Pacific Centre (UNDP)
- (2) Ms. Rodora T. Babaran, Director Socio-Cultural Cooperation, Directorate ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Department, ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN Secretariat Representative
- (3) Assoc. Prof. Dr. Wongsu Laohasiriwong, Greater Mekong Sub region Public Health Academic Network
- (4) Dr. Nima Asgari, Acting Director of World Health Organization (WHO), Thailand
- (5) Dr. Jirots Sindhvananda, Senior Advisory on International Medicine, Advisory level chief Health technical office, Ministry of Public Health

## In 2015, The Phases of Conference Preparation: Establishing the International Steering Board and Other Sub Committees

In June, 2015, the National Health Commission (NCHO) had an order no.4/2015 to establish the International Steering Board for "The 1st ASEAN Conference on Impact Assessment and Mitigation: Towards ASEAN Engagement and Sustainable Development" appointed by Dr. Wiput Phoolcharoen, the chair of Health Impact Assessment Commission, who would also be the chair of the international steering board of the aforementioned conference and composition as follows:

1. Chairman of HIA Commission Thailand
2. ASEAN Secretariat Representative
3. World Health Organization Representative (WHO)
4. Director of East Asia and Pacific, International Finance Corporation (IFC), and World Bank Group or Representative
5. Council Members of the Mekong River Commission or Representative (MRC)
6. South East Asia Greenpeace Representative (GP)
7. Greater Mekong Sub-region Public Health Academic Network Representative (GMSPH)
8. United Nations Development Program Representative (UNDP)
9. Permanent Secretary of Ministry of National Resources and Environment or Representative
10. Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Energy or Representative
11. Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Public Health or Representative
12. Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Industry or Representative member
13. President of Thailand Nursing and Midwifery Council or Representative
14. Manager of Thai Health Promotion Foundation or Representative
15. Secretary-General of National Health Commission
16. Deputy Dean of Naresuan University

Later, Dr. Wiput Phoolcharoen as chair of the international steering board appointed another 3 sets of sub-committees. The sub-committees are as follows:

1. The Organizing committee with Dr. Wiput Phoolcharoen as Chairman
2. The Scientific Committee chaired by Prof. Dr. Pornchai Sithisarankul, MD., Head, Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Chulalongkorn University.
3. The Local Committee chaired by the Deputy Dean of Naresuan University



On Wednesday 19th August 2015, NHCO held the 1st Meeting of the International Steering Board for "The 1st ASEAN Conference on Impact Assessment and Mitigation: Towards ASEAN Engagement and Sustainable Development" at Miracle Grand Convention Hotel, in Bangkok, Thailand. The Meeting was attended by the International Steering Board members from ASEAN Secretariat Representative (via Skype video link), W Thailand, the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific United Nations Development Programme, Greenpeace Southeast Asia Thailand, Nursing and Midwifery Council Thailand, the Greater Mekong Sub region Public Health Academic Network, the Ministry of Public Health Thailand, the Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment Thailand, the Ministry of Energy Thailand, the Ministry of Industry Thailand and the National Health Commission Office of Thailand.

The meeting agreed on agenda, conference preparation progress and the probability of the conference outcome including the suggestions and recommendations as follows:

1. Highlight the importance to aligning the conference's theme with relevant priorities and goals in the ASEAN Post 2015 Health Development Agenda endorsed by the 12th ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting on last September 2014 in Ha Noi. The meeting was informed that environmental health & health impact assessment are included as one of priorities under Cluster 2, "Responding to all hazards and emerging threats" of the ASEAN Post 2015 Health Development Agenda. Also seeks clarification on the output of the conference and the plan after the 1st ASEAN conference to be recommended to the AFPHIA for further discussion in the regional health conference.

2. There should be broader media or public communications to other ASEAN countries besides national and local media. Communication is important and how to communicate successfully with all communities in Southeast Asia countries is imperative. Communication to other communities from the 1st ASEAN conference communication is based online, with a website focusing on academia. One solution is to communicate to people by translating the first round of any conference into their own language. When, during the first days, some communities cannot attend, we must find a way to communicate with them so the first movement can be understood and we can move together in unison. It's very important to use not only many languages when we communicate, but how to select some the more important languages for the next movement and how to communicate the movement to countries so they understand we need power of the people to push on policy change.

3. An introduction and brief overview of key concepts for each panel and parallel session on the website is needed for those who are new or not familiar for HIA/IA so they may participate in the conference and understand and decide which sessions they should join.

4. More concern for the longer term outcomes that we would like to see from the conference. Each meeting is a really personal opportunity even though it's quite strongly focused in research activities. It's also opportunity to really ensure linkages of sectors, particularly on how to bring actors in health sectors together with other sectors e.g. environmental sector.

Later, on September 14 - 16, 2015, Dr. Wiput Phoolcharoan as chair of the international steering board and Chair of HIA Commission, reported ASEAN's HIA progression and the way forward focus on this conference to the 10th Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development – SOMHD at Dalat City, Lam Dong Province in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the meeting agree on the progress of HIA in ASEAN particularly the 1st ASEAN Conference on Impact Assessment under the theme of Impact Assessment and Mitigation together with the 1st AFPHIA meeting in November 2015 have an aim to propose a human resource development plan for ASEAN's HIA and advocate "Health in All Policies", the empowerment plan for community HIA in ASEAN. This will be submitted as operation plan for the 11th SOMHD.



The 10th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development (ASEAN SOMHD) on September 14-16, 2015 at Dalat City, Lam Dong Province in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

## In 2015, The Phases of Conference Preparation: Find An Academic Strategic Partner

On September 25 - 27, 2015, the NHCO, HIA Commission, and HIA Consortium of Thailand as co-host of the 7th International Conference on Public Health among Greater Mekong Sub-Regional Countries (GMSPH) on International Collaboration of Public Health and Research in Evidence-Base Health Policy Making at Imperial Hotel-HUE, Hue City, Thua Thien, Hue Province in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. It was an annual conference organized by the Greater Mekong Sub-Region Public Health Academic Network, where the Faculty of Public Health from HUE University of Medicine and Pharmacy was assigned to host the conference this year.

The goals of the conference were to expand academic collaboration networks and organization within teams to gather evidence-based policy for health development for people in the ASEAN region. The scientific evidence presented at the conference will be used for the policy making decision, document development in Vietnam as well as other countries and the Greater Mekong Sub-regional countries especially, to produce evidence for policy making for ASEAN countries, especially within the contract of establishment of ASEAN economic communities at the end of this year or early next year. The next step after the conference will be the establishment of official documentation, official documents to be shared during the pre-conference workshop for the 8th conference to be organized in 2016 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia which will also be submitted to the National Health Authority of the countries involved in the process.

After the activities, representatives from NHCO and Dr. Wiput Phoolcharean, Chairman of HIA Commission and representatives from HIA Consortium, were invited to meet with Professor Cao Ngoc Thanh Rector of Hue University of Medicine, Pharmacy and Assoc. Prof. Nguyen Vu Quoc Huy Vice-rector of Hue University of Medicine and Pharmacy and a group of academics from the university, to discuss the official collaboration in applying the HIA tool to develop academic works with universities to enhance academic study and research that meet the needs of the society as well as to be used in policy levels.

(1) Keynote Speech By Dr. Amphon Jindawatthana, M.D. Secretary General National Health Commission, Thailand entitled How Public Health people contribute to GMS Development at The 7th International Conference on Public Health among Greater Mekong Sub-Regional Countries at Imperial Hotel Hue City Vietnam, 26th September 2015

(2) The exhibition announce the 1st ASEAN Conference on Impact Assessment and mitigation under the theme of toward ASEAN engagement and sustainable development during 23rd - 25th November 2015, Thailand

(3) Dr. Wiput Phoolcharean, M.D. Chair of Health Impact Assessment Commission, Thailand Presented "Health Impact Assessment: Deliberative Foundation for Health in All Policy" at The GMS Public Health Network's Leadership Meeting at Hue University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Hue City, Vietnam, 25th September 2015

(4) The meeting between Dr. Wiput Phoolcharean, The representative from HIA Commission and HIA Consortium Thailand with Professor Cao Ngoc Thanh, Rector of Hue University of Medicine and Pharmacy and Assoc. Prof. Nguyen Vu Quoc Huy Vice-rector of Hue University of Medicine and Pharmacy to discuss about scientific collaboration.







## Conference Opening to Collaborate for the Buildup of Concrete HIA in ASEAN



The National Health Commission Office of Thailand (NHCO) have cooperated with the ASEAN Secretariat and 23 international and in-country agencies such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the International Finance Corporation (IFC), Public Health institutes among Greater Mekong Sub-Regional Countries and Greenpeace International, along with Impact Assessment practitioners in ASEAN countries to hold the 1st ASEAN Conference on "Impact Assessment and Mitigation under the theme of Towards ASEAN Engagement and Sustainable Development" during 23-25 November 2015 at Naresuan University, Phitsanulok Province, Thailand.



Many interested departments have joined the conference, including representatives from the Ministry of Public Health in ASEAN, Dean of the Faculty of Public Health of the countries in the group of Greater Mekong, Representatives of international organizations, including government, academic communities and private sector practitioners to assess the impact of the ASEAN countries, as well as the Phitsanulok provincial governor, Phitsanulok Tourism Authority of Thailand, and over 600 other attendees.





The 1st ASEAN Focal Point on HIA (AFPHIA) meeting on November 24-25, 2015 at Naresuan University, Phitsanulok Province, Thailand

The opening ceremony, starting with a dance show in Tarawadee style, a unique dancing style of Phitsanulok, followed by a welcoming speech by Professor Dr.Sujin Jinahyon, President of Naresuan University, Thailand and a Conference report by Dr. Wiput Phoolcharoen, Chair of the International Steering Board for The Conference. Admiral Narong Pipatanasai, Deputy prime minister and President of the National Health Commission presided over the opening of the conference and the closing speech was by Dr. Ampol Jindawattana, M.D. Secretary General National Health Commission, Thailand.

This International Conference of the ASEAN was a Duo Meeting between the first ASEAN Conference on Impact Assessment and Mitigation and the ASEAN Focal Point on HIA.

Throughout the 3 days this conference was held for, the exchange knowledge and experience sharing between academics and other sectors was promoted. The difference and the progress in the implementation of health impact assessments of each country in ASEAN to be more complete and make basic of development and jointly develop curriculum for teaching manpower training to all sectors to prepare for the ASEAN context of changes that occur quickly.



## The output and outcome from this international conference as follows:

1. The HIA has been perceived as a mandate of ASEAN. We conceived that in the midst of ASEAN diversification of people orientation, Health Impact assessment have addressed their function to be inter-linkage for socio-cultural difference along the line of rapid economic development and political security. HIA has been demonstrated to be means towards caring and sharing community.

2. The evidence from the conference has shown that shared responsibility and accountability among relevant sectors is needed. Thus, the investment, government and community have to be incorporated through the Impact Assessment Process to drive the sound development together.

3. Memorandum of Understanding between National Health Commission Office, Thailand and Hue University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Vietnam on HIA Cooperation.

4. The Hue University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Vietnam will hold the 2nd ASEAN Conference on "Health Impact Assessment and Mitigation" back to back with the 2nd AFPHIA meeting in 2017.

5. Based on the output of the conference and contribution from the ASEAN member countries' representatives, the HIA would be implement:

- Community-led impact assessment through model development such as Model Development between Thailand and Myanmar.
- Model development on harmonization or integration of HIA into ASEAN universities curriculum in selected universities, such as through the on-going initiative of Thailand & Vietnam with Hue University.
- Enhance ASEAN knowledge and experience sharing on HIA



(1) **Mr. Sudhi R. Mukherjee**, Senior Environmental Specialist – Asia Pacific International Finance Corporation (IFC)

(2) **Mr. Robert Bos**, Senior advisor of International Water Association

(3) **Mr. Chea Leng**, Member of Regional Technical Working Group on EIA, Deputy Office Chief, Department of EIA, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia

(4) **Mr. Yongping Zhai**, Technical Advisor (Energy), Asian Development Bank (ADB)

(5) **Mr. Vison Tepasarn**, Vice President C.P. Leader Ship Institute, Leadership Development Charoen Pokphand Group (CP) Co.,LTD.,Thailand



(1,2,3) The signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Hue University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Vietnam and National Health Commission Office (NHCO), Thailand on HIA Cooperation on November 25th, 2015 at Naresuan University in Phitsanulok province, Thailand

(4,5) The meeting discussed collaboration between NHCO, Thailand and HUE UMP, Vietnam were attended by Dr.Amphon Jindawatthana, M.D Secretary General National Health Commission, Thailand Dr.Wiput Phoolcharoen, M.D. Chair of Health Impact Assessment Commission, Thailand Professor Cao Ngoc Thanh, Rector of Hue University of Medicine and Pharmacy and colleagues.



## From Thailand to Vietnam and the next step of HIA in ASEAN region

National Health Commission Office of Thailand and Hue University of Medicine and Pharmacy (HUE UMP) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on November 25, 2015 at Naresuan University in Phitsanulok province, Thailand with the aims to jointly develop a health impact assessment curriculum and push forward an application of HIA in research studies that conform to the actual social context into a policy level in order for better sustainable development of the country. Moreover, Hue HMP also agreed to host the 2nd ASEAN conference which will be held in 2016.

In 2016, The HIA Commission, The HIA Consortium of Thailand and National Health Commission Office of Thailand started the research collaboration and had the mutual interests in the following issues; Trans-pacific partnership on the issue of access to medicine, Water management on the issues of hydro-power and adaptation from climate change, Urban health including traffic injury, Universal Health Coverage.





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