

Co-Creating Public Spaces for Healthy Cities towards Sustainable Development

Having public spaces for wellbeing that the public can access without economic and social inequality in urban areas is an important public policy that agencies and every sector should make concerted effort to drive forward. They should also provide support to develop knowledge, understanding, mechanisms and measures so that every urban area will have a plan to create public spaces through a participatory process in every stage to achieve tangible results.

The Eleventh National Health Assembly,

Having considered the report on “Co-Creating Public Spaces for Healthy Cities towards Sustainable Development”¹;

Acknowledging that having good public spaces inspires more physical and psychological activities and reduces risks arising from sedentary behavior. Moreover, support towards creation of good public spaces helps to reduce inequality in accessing and creating opportunities for common use of public spaces for sustainable good quality of life;

Realizing that having public spaces for good health is an important element of wellbeing;

Appreciating that local government organizations, communities and private entities, places of worship, relevant public agencies, and civil society networks in several regions have initiated creation of public spaces for wellbeing and created opportunities for equal access to public spaces;

Anticipating that mechanisms, measures, and tools conducive to sharing and common utilization of public spaces have been used and integrated to the decision to create public spaces for wellbeing through a participatory process in every stage, and with systematic planning in such a way that various agencies and sectors can offer/share/allow the use of space that gives rise to wellbeing activities, in order to be able to create public spaces extensively both in communities and cities;

Deeming that in creating good public spaces that respond to the requirements and needs of local people, opportunities should be created for utilization of spaces that will bring about public activities that are accessible to people from every group and every status. Also, there

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should be a process to define activities that are appropriate and flexible through a participatory process in every stage, as well as development of knowledge and study/research on an approach for creation of good public spaces that is favorable to implementation in local areas and in sectors involved, including the public, private, and civil society sectors together with community.

Has passed the following resolutions:

1. Requesting local government organizations of all types, together with provincial health assembly networks, regional public health centers, sub-district community organization councils, academic institutes, formal and non-formal educational institutions, children and youth councils, relevant agencies and networks from government state-enterprise, private and civil society sectors, to prepare an action plan and budgetary support to create safe public spaces through a participatory process in every stage that is consistent with the direction of the National Strategy (2018-2037) and sustainable development in a tangible manner, as well as to create healthcare awareness in the general public;

2. Requesting Regional Health Commission for People, District Committees for the Development of Quality of Life, Regional Committees for the Development of Quality of Life, and the Integrated Provincial Strategy Delivery Committee (IPSDC), provincial health assembly committees, community organizations, including other mechanisms, other agencies and sectors concerned to attach importance to and provide support to drive the plan toward implementation in a concrete and sustainable manner;

3. Requesting the Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board to coordinate with the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, the Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry of Interior, other ministries and agencies concerned, to link, integrate, drive forward, and promote understanding in creating public spaces for healthy cities, including improving laws on land use to promote the creation of public spaces for healthy cities in an equitable manner, that is consistent with the direction of the National Strategy (2018-2037) and Sustainable Development Goals;

4. Requesting the Department of Public Works and Town & Country Planning, Ministry of Interior and local government organizations of all types to be the lead agency to:

4.1 Coordinate with the Department of Local Administration, Ministry of Interior, the Treasury Department, Ministry of Finance, and the Marine Department, Ministry of Transport including other state agencies, state enterprise and private sector to provide support toward the development of practical guidelines through town planning and building design measures that are conducive to creation of public spaces for healthy cities for the development of quality of life of people in communities and towns through public participation and law improvement on land use of state agencies;

4.2 Collaborate with educational institutions and professional organizations concerned to prepare various forms of media and manuals to disseminate guidelines for putting town planning measures and tools into transparent action to result in land utilization as public spaces for healthy cities, through a participatory approach in every stage of every sector;

5. Requesting the Department of Local Administration to be the lead agency, and together with local government organizations of all types to develop indicators and plans for creating public spaces for healthy cities towards sustainable development, to be used for consideration of efficiency appraisal and award of local government organizations and requesting these agencies and other partners concerned to consider providing budgetary support as well as other available funds to develop and create model spaces;

6. Requesting the Department of the Treasury, Ministry of Finance, and land-owning agencies to define criteria and a guideline for consideration in allowing the public and private sectors to use or rent the land, and requiring the agencies requesting to use or rent the land for the purpose of creating public spaces for healthy cities on the said land, as well as monitoring the consequences thereof;

7. Requesting the Department of Lands, Interior Ministry, together with the Thai Chamber of Commerce, the Federation of Thai Industries, and the Thai Bankers' Association, to set criteria, action guidelines and agreements on private land use to create public spaces for healthy cities, as well as to consider setting incentive measures;

8. Requesting the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning, Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment, and other agencies concerned, including local government organizations of all types, to consider providing support for using funding from the Environment Fund to organize any activity that is conducive to sustainable development of public spaces, within the framework defined in the Enhancement and Conservation of National Environment Quality Act, B.E. 2535 (1992) and for other purposes in the future;

9. Requesting the Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI), the Office of the National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT), the Thai Research Fund (TRF), and the Health System Research Institute (HSRI), together with educational institutions and professional organizations to support action to study and conduct research on the development of mechanisms, economic tools, tax measures and monetary/fiscal measures and others relevant measures for creation of practical public spaces for healthy cities;

10. Requesting the Thai Health Promotion Foundation (ThaiHealth), together with local government organizations of all types coordinate with other agencies and partners concerned, land-owning state agencies, including state-owned and private enterprises to:

10.1 Support the creation of knowledge management, designs, forms, processes, activities and management systems, including procedures and good practice guidelines for local

government organizations of all types, the private sector and state agencies to foster cooperation to create public spaces for wellbeing;

10.2 Support efforts to drive forward a participatory process in every stage, organize campaign messages, publicize and carry out public relations activities to lead to creation of good public spaces, by coordinating with subcommittees under the National Committee for Sustainable Development to communicate, create understanding and concrete connection to develop public spaces for healthy cities to correspond with sustainable development under sufficiency economy philosophy;

10.3 Support and create incentives for the community, civil society and private sectors in initiating the creation of public spaces for wellbeing, together with local government organizations of all types;

11. Requesting Creative Economy Agency (Public Organization), local government organizations of all types, the Thai Chamber of Commerce, the Thai Real Estate Association, the Thai Condominium Association, educational institutions, professional organizations, agencies involved in creating urban environments, and related partner networks to promote, support, transfer knowledge, develop body of knowledge, and promote innovations, tools, and mechanisms for creating public spaces for healthy cities through a participatory process in all stages in a good governance manner with a universal design whereby people of all groups, including people with disabilities and disadvantages, can access and use them with ease;

12. Requesting the Secretary-General of the National Health Commission to report the progress to the 13th National Health Assembly.