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### Health Literacy for NCDs Prevention and Management

This public policy intends to bring to drive Thai society in which people in the country are equipped with health literacy, away from NCDs, through the following actions: develop a health information management and dissemination system, promote socially responsible enterprises, develop a list of core health benefits package, advocate a health literacy policy through national and local mechanisms and funds, and promote research in health systems for NCDs prevention and management at every level.

The Eleventh National Health Assembly,

Having considered the report on “Health Literacy for NCDs Prevention and Management”<sup>1</sup>.

*Acknowledging that* NCDs are important problems affecting individuals, community and society with regard to health, productivity and overall economy of the country,

*Aware that* it is necessary to promote health literacy in the Thai population to prevent and better manage NCDs.

*Appreciating* the work of public and private agencies concerned attaching importance to NCDs control, prevention, and management, as well as to health literacy promotion and support for the Thai general public.

*Concerned about* in the current situation, health information is found increasingly in the public domain with incorrect contents, especially communication through social networks. This situation thus increasingly affects the public behavior toward health management and NCDs on a continuing basis.

*Acknowledging and concerned that* the growth of business industry together with its public relation and advertisement, influence consumers and lifestyle behaviors of people in society. Without proper multi-sectoral cooperation mechanisms to promote health literacy to the people and social responsibility in business operators, NCDs could become more serious and harder to control in the long run, thus affecting everyone in the future.

*Concerned that* in the past and even today there have been problems of translating the central policy into local action, for example, misunderstood instruction and the assigned work process being unsuitable to the local context, likely to result in poor performance, and possibly difficult to reach the expected objective. In addition, different budget/financial management from diverse public agencies which work on public health especially health promotion and disease control and prevention is another problem. Varied health funds namely National Health Security Fund, Social Security Fund, Civil Servants Medical Benefits Scheme under the supervision of the Comptroller General’s Department, and Medical Funds under local government organizations have different management affecting the performance and efficiency of the personnel concerned.

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<sup>1</sup> NHA 11/Main 1

*Seeing that* it is very necessary for every sector in society to participate in the control, prevention and management of NCDs, focusing on the promotion of health literacy for the public, enabling them to find and get access to the information needed, verify and understand the information obtained, and appropriately act on it as the situation requires,

**Has passed the following resolutions:**

1. Requesting the Ministry of Public Health, by the Disease Control Department, together with Thai Health Promotion Foundation, to act as lead agencies in coordinating with every national and local partner network concerned to develop health management and health information dissemination systems for NCDs prevention and management, through the development of networks, support and monitoring mechanisms, development of laws and regulations concerned and their reinforcement, thus enabling the generation and dissemination of health information to prevent and manage NCDs in a correct, efficient and easy-to-access manner with due regard to every age groups, including people with disabilities, elderly people, and to develop management and complaint-dealing system, together with plans and assessment indicators, and to develop measurement tools for various agencies concerned to use in their work at every level;

2. Requesting the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Commerce and private sector concerned to act as lead agencies, together with other national and local partner networks in every sector, to develop ways and means to promote and enable enterprises to reduce NCD risks through tax, monetary, fiscal and other mechanisms, including encouraging operators to create brands/services that reflect beneficial values and are geared toward protect consumer protection;

3. Requesting the Ministry of Public Health, by the Department of Health, to act as lead agency, together with other national and local partner networks from every sector concerned, to drive forward the policy to promote health literacy through committees on the quality of life development policy at the local level and family doctor teams, together with local health fund committees and Bangkok health fund committees, to bring about comprehensive health literacy development in individuals of every age group, including the elderly, people with disabilities, vulnerable groups, community, organization and society that have an influence on public behaviors in every age group in the area of NCDs prevention and management;

4. Requesting the Ministry of Public Health, by the Office of Permanent Secretary for Public Health, and the National Health Security Office, to act as lead agencies, together with the Social Security Office, the Comptroller General's Department, Ministry of Finance, and Medical Funds under local government authorities, to develop a list of main benefit packages on health promotion and prevention for every fund covering all products and services in the society that strengthen capacity of people on self-care. These products and services can be owned by public, private and local government organizations. In addition, the lead agencies and partners are requested to advance public health literacy in controlling, preventing and managing NCDs as well as revising laws and prescribing ways and means to integrate forms of disbursement from each fund in a consistent manner;

5. Requesting the Health Systems Research Institute, together with national and local partner networks from every sector concerned, to plan studies and research on health systems regarding NCDs, develop policies, innovations, instruments, sets of knowledge, and assessment in health literacy for NCDs prevention and management and promote the translation of research findings into action;

6. Requesting the Secretary-General of the National Health Commission to report the progress to the 13<sup>th</sup> National Health Assembly.