



Report on the National South-South Structure Workshop

23 April 2009

at Royal Princess Hotel, Larnluang

Bangkok, Thailand

**Department of Health
Ministry of Public Health
Thailand**

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Introduction

The National South-South Structure Workshop, Thailand was organized by the Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health on 23 April 2009 at the Royal Princess Hotel, Larnluang, Bangkok with the financial support from the Partners in Population and Development (PPD). The program of the Workshop is in *Annex 1*. The participants of the Workshop were representatives from involved organizations:- GOs, NGOs, research institutions, civil societies, the parliament and international organizations, working in the fields of reproductive health, population and development and journalists. The list of participants is in *Annex 2*.

Objectives

The objectives of the Workshop were:-

1. To inform the participants of the mission and programs of PPD and the formation of a National Task Force for South-South Cooperation in Thailand.
2. To strengthen the cooperation among involved organizations in order to exchange information and support activities on south-south cooperation on population and development.
3. To equip the participants with the information on Thailand's progress towards the MDGs and the Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV.

Opening Session

The Workshop was opened by Dr. Narongsakdi Aungkasuvapala, Director-General of the Department of Health and PPD Board Member. He delivered the welcome address and mentioned that Thailand is one of the founding members of PPD and has great success in population and family planning. As a result, UNFPA has named Thailand a "Center of Excellence" in family planning, which provides training programs and observation and study tours on the fields of family planning, reproductive health and population development for other countries. He also noted that there are many organizations i.e. GOs, NGOs, research institutions, civil societies, international organizations and parliament involved in reproductive health, population and development. Thus, a partnership among these organizations should be strengthened in order to share our knowledge, experiences, information and

provide technical assistance to PPD member countries and to other developing countries as well for the S-S cooperation in population and development.

The Director-General thanked PPD for the financial support for this Workshop and also thanked Mr. Rabbi Royan, Senior Technical Adviser on Population and Development who represented Mr. Najib Assifi, Deputy Regional Director and UNFPA Representative, resources persons from the Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board and from Bureau of Health Promotion, Department of Health and to all participants for attending this workshop.

After that, the address by Mr. Najib Assifi, Deputy Regional Director and UNFPA Representative, Thailand was delivered by Mr. Rabbi Royan, Senior Technical Adviser on Population and Development, UNFPA Thailand.

Mr. Najib has recognized that Thailand has been a model country and has been played and continues to play in sharing its knowledge and experiences with other South countries. He believed countries that have been successful could support countries that have been less successful through S-S cooperation to ensure that ICPD agenda moves ahead for countries' mutual benefits. In this Workshop, Thailand and PPD are working closely together to strengthen national support structure for better S-S cooperation in the area of population, reproductive health and gender.

Mr. Najib noted that under the Strategic Plan, 2008 – 2011, UNFPA has a clear commitment to strengthen S-S cooperation so that through a well functioning S-S mechanism, countries will be better able to implement the ICPD. In fact, UNFPA collaborate with PPD and also work directly with program countries to promote S-S cooperation.

Later on, Mr. Harry Jooseery, Executive Director, PPD welcomed the participants and informed that PPD is an intergovernmental organization and was established within the framework of ICPD in 1994 with the vision to galvanize the effort to address the ICPD Plan of Actions which clearly oscillated connections among many interrelated factors, namely: - human development, empowerment of women, health, population, and economic growth.

He also stated the South has the rich of resources, technologies, innovative programs and knowledge and Thailand has lots of knowledge that can share with neighbors and become S-S cooperation in the region. PPD wishes to create an effective national support structure in Thailand to galvanize effort to promote S-S

cooperation with the involvement of all stakeholders. PPD hopes Thailand takes initiatives to share its expertise and help PPD run its mandate to bring changes in the developing countries through S-S cooperation.

In the new strategic business plan, the next four years, PPD will focus on advocacy, capacity building, exchange of experiences and good practices. PPD will ensure that developing countries, despite their low resource base, are able to fully utilize the comparative advantage and become leader in respective fields. PPD will continue to build institutional and individual capacities, continue advocacy for better access to family planning services. There is no smarter investment with such high economic return than investment in health and lives of women.

After the opening ceremony, Dr, Narongsakdi Aungkasuvapala, Director-General of the Department of Health and Mr. Harry Jooseery, PPD Executive Director were interviewed by the media persons regarding the Partners in Population and Development and the role of Thailand in South-South collaboration, etc.

Paper Presentation

The first presentation was the Progress of Implementation on Thailand Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by Ms. Paranee Watana, Director of Social Data-based and Indicator Development, Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB). NESDB is the focal point for the preparation of MDGs report. Ms. Watana gave detailed information on how Thailand worked on all MDGs except the MDG 8 – Develop a Global Partnership for Development which is under the responsibility of the international organization to assess.

Since MDGs 1 to 7 for Thailand were achieved, the MDGs Plus were set with the consensus of the involved organizations in order to solve the problems in some specific areas. For example, the Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger by halving, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people living in extreme poverty; Thailand has reduced the proportion of poor people from 33.7% in 1990 to 8.5% in 2007. So the MDG 1 Plus was set to decrease the proportion of population below poverty line in the Northeast and three southernmost provinces to 4% by 2009.

The participants also gave comments and suggestions regarding the data used since there are many sources and the data are different. For example, the Maternal Mortality Ratio, there is some discrepancy between the data from Ministry of Public Health and WHO. Since there are many organizations responsible for the MDGs, NESDB will invite all stakeholders to the meeting on MDGs again.

The second presentation was Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) by Dr. Somsak Patarakulwanich, Director of Bureau of Health Promotion, Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health. For the implementation of the PMTCT, AZT, Navirapine and 3TC were used in the program and the transmission rates from mother to child according to the regimen were varied. It was found that the HIV transmission rates were 8.7% for using only AZT, 3.7% for AZT and Navirapine and 3.0% for AZT, Navirapine and 3TC. However, CD 4 count will indicate that two or three drugs are used. If CD4 count is less than 200, the patient will receive AZT, Navirapine and 3TC. At present, the PMTCT system is provided in every district hospital and counseling can be provided in the health centers as well.

Dr. Patarakulwanich noted that to prevent mother to child transmission of HIV, a four-prong strategy is promoted. The first prong is the HIV negative mothers and this group should be assisted to stay negative by providing them with care and information on reproductive health, risk communication, and counseling. The second prong is HIV infected women. This group should be provided with appropriate counseling and suggestion to avoid pregnancy by using contraceptives and receive antiretroviral drug. The third prong is the HIV positive pregnant women that have to receive anti-HIV medicines and other interventions to lower the risk that HIV will transmit to their babies. The last prong is HIV positive mothers and families that have to receive health promotion, family planning, care, support, treatment and also child development monitoring .

The next presentation was PPD Mission and Programs for South-South Cooperation by Mr. Harry Jooseery, Executive Director of PPD. Mr. Jooseery informed the participants about the vision of PPD that is to drive the global reproductive health agenda to attain sustainable development by 2040 and also the PPD mission to address sexual and reproductive health, reproductive rights and population and development. MDGs can't be achieved without addressing ICPD goals. It is important to integrate both ICPD and MDGs. PPD has a strategic direction to strengthen South-South collaboration and this workshop was intended to make the participants' awareness and understand the concept and need of South-South collaboration at the national level.

Lastly, Mr. Jooseery gave the participants the concept of creation of National Task Force on South-South Cooperation in Thailand. The National Task Force will coordinate among the members and create a synergy to promote South-South Collaboration among developing countries by sharing information, expertise, and knowledge. The National Task Force should consist of 15 members

from organizations working in the field of reproductive health, population and development and the duration will be two years. The Department of Health will act as a secretary of the Task Force and it will meet quarterly and produce quarterly report and submit to the Chair of PPD, to the Ministry of Public Health, and to the Executive Director.

Conclusion

The workshop was successfully organized with the financial support from the PPD. The participants from relevant GOs, NGOs, UN organization, the parliament, and media had a chance to know each other and learned a lot from the presentations on the Progress of Implementation on Thailand Millennium Development Goals, the Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV, and the mission and programs of PPD. The concept of formation of a National Task Force for South-South Cooperation in Thailand was also introduced. The Department of Health will act as a secretary and proceed to form a National Task Force for South-South Cooperation soon.

National South-South Support Structure Workshop, Thailand
23rd April, 2009
Rajdamnern Room, Royal Princess Hotel
Bangkok, Thailand
PROGRAM

Time	Activities	Responsibilities
8:30	Registration	Reproductive Health Division, Department of Health
9:00	Opening Ceremony	
	<p>Welcome address:</p> <p>Dr. Narongsakdi Aungkasuvapala Director-General, Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health and Member, PPD Board, The Royal Thai Government</p> <p>Address by the Special Guests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Najib Assifi Deputy Director Asia and Pacific Regional Office of UNFPA Thailand • Mr. Harry Jooseery Executive Director Partners in Population and Development (PPD) <p>Vote of thanks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Kittipong Saejeng Partners Country Coordinator (PCC) & Director, Reproductive Health Division Department of Health 	

Time	Activities	Responsibilities
10:00	Press Briefing Honorable Director-General Department of Health and PPD Executive Director	Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health
10:30	PAPER PRESENTATION	
	The Progress of Implementation on Thailand Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)	Ms. Paranee Watana Director, Social Data-based and Indicator Development Office, National Economic and Social Development Board
	Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV	Dr. Somsak Patarakulwanich Director, Bureau of Health Promotion, Department of Health
	PPD Mission and Programs for South-South Cooperation	Mr. Harry Jooseery Executive Director, PPD
12:00	Discussion	
12:30	Lunch	

Time	Activities	Responsibilities
13:30	National Support Structure for South-South Cooperation in Thailand. A Proposal	Mr. Harry Jooseery Executive Director, PPD
14:00	Discussion	
14:15	Constitution of the National Task Force (NTF) on South-South Cooperation, and Way Forward	PPD Executive Director and PCC, Thailand
14:45	Wrap up and Closing	PCC, Thailand

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