

Intervention
on Thai Universal Health Coverage
for the Meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs of
the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA)
by Hon. Mrs. Suwannee Sirivejchapun
Member of the National Legislative Assembly
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Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Mr. Chairperson,

On behalf of the Thai Delegation, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to us since our arrival in Tehran.

Thailand is world-renowned for its medical and healthcare services. May I therefore share experiences in universal health coverage from Thailand which promotes the social security and well-being for all people.

Thailand has been given high priority to the health coverage not only for Thai nationality but also migrant workers and their accompanying person in accordance with Goal 3 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We have concentrated on creating universal health coverage, originally known as the 30 baht scheme for all Thai people including health insurance card for both legal and illegal migrant workers. All individuals equitably access to healthcare service systems as they required together with a good quality in healthcare service.

The universal healthcare in Thailand is provided through three programs: the civil service welfare system for civil servants and their families, Social Health Insurance Scheme for private employees, and the Universal Coverage Scheme (UCS) theoretically available to all other Thai nationals.

The universal health coverage in Thailand has been established since 1970. It is one important policy of Thai government to promote health equity and quality for all people. Thailand successfully achieved a universal health coverage

system in 2002 by expanding the investment of basic health infrastructure at all levels and increasing healthcare personnel. The government hospitals in Thailand are of three types, there are regional hospitals in the provinces, general hospitals in major districts or province capitals, and community hospitals in the districts. The universal health coverage program has shown that people enable to access health services more easily, reducing the poverty and gap between the rich and the poor including improving the health indicators of population.

Moreover, we also encourage public to understand the rights to health. The rights include the protection people from unfair treatment or discrimination under National Health Committee which consists of representatives from public.

In Thailand, we have been playing an active role in promoting cooperation in regional and international level dealing with universal health coverage system. We have also joined the ASEAN countries and China, Japan, and South Korea to create an ASEAN Plus Three Universal Health Coverage Network, whereby Thailand will be the center of learning in the region in health management and universal health coverage.

Lastly, Thailand is ready to work with all APA member countries to promote and achieve universal health coverage. This will help us to reach the Sustainable Development Goals and peace for all.

Thank you very much.
