



MAHIDOL UNIVERSITY

WHO Collaborating Centre for Primary Health Care Development
ASEAN Institute for Health Development

ANNUAL REPORT

2006- 2007

The World Health Organization confirmed the extension of redesignation of ASEAN Institute for Health Development as the WHO Collaborating Centre for Primary Health Care (PHC) Development on 1 October 2004 for the period lasting until 30 September 2008. The terms of reference and the work plan were revised.

A. The Terms of Reference Were:

1. To serve as a resource centre for “clearing house” activities with respect to the dissemination of PHC information in the region,
2. To organize inter-country training courses on subjects relating to PHC development and “Health for All” efforts as required by the organization.
3. To provide expertise for inter-country collaborative research projects on Primary Health Care development as required by the organization.
4. To provide technical support in monitoring PHC development as required by the organization.
5. To serve as a resource centre for quality assurance in the district health system using a PHC approach.

B. Work Plan (1 October 2006 – 30 September 2007)

1. Information system management for PHC development: AIHD’s new role as a WHO Collaborating Centre,
2. Capacity building on planning and management skills for middle management health professionals and Thai international health experts, with emphasis on health promotion and disease prevention programmes.
3. Modification of the PHC system to support the Universal Health Coverage Insurance Scheme (i.e. 30 Baht Programme) in Thailand,
4. Community-based health care programme empowerment for the elderly through Participatory Action Research (PAR),
5. Strengthening of community-based health programmes for migrant workers in border areas.

1. Implementation of the work plan

Activity 1: Information system management for PHC development.

Explanation:

The current progress made with regard to information system management for PHC development at AIHD has been accelerated since the commencement of the HIV/AIDS Regional Coordination Center (RCC) Project. This 3-year project initiative was launched on 1 April 2005 and is mutually supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Thailand International Cooperation and Development Agency (TICA) and the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) of the Royal Thai Government.

Although the RCC Project was originally scheduled to end on 31 March 2007, AIHD has taken the opportunity to utilize the RCC as an integral part of its long-term strategy to strengthen the establishment of an appropriate data collection and information dissemination system. A key objective of the RCC is to improve the quality and performance of Integrated Disease Prevention & Control Programmes, based upon a PHC approach. This development will hopefully support global HIV/AIDS, TB, and Malaria initiatives in the Region.

One of the RCC's main roles is to facilitate the AIHD's overall terms of reference to serve as a WHO.CC/PHC despite the fact that some target countries in the ASEAN Region are beyond the routine technical and administrative responsibility of WHO/SEARO (please see www.ad.mahidol.ac.th/rcc). The AIHD/RCC hopes to achieve its goals by conducting the following activities:

- 1.1 Publishing quarterly RCC newsletters. These documents will be distributed to all RCC stakeholder organizations in Thailand and target countries, as well as to all resource persons who participate in the Project's TOT courses in Thailand. This includes the ex-trainees from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam.
- 1.2 Conducting the annual Regional Consultative Committee (JCC) Meeting. Participants include experts and delegates from RCC stakeholders in Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam, as well as concerned international organizations. These meetings have facilitated the sharing of ideas and lessons learned from using Thailand's expertise and experiences gained from its PHC Programme, as well as from the HIV/AIDS programmes implemented in the Region. A key goal of the HIV/AIDS RCC Project is to meet the human capacity building needs for effective HIV/AIDS Programme implementation in target countries. The JCC Reports are published and distributed to relevant individuals and organizations annually.

Activity 2: Capacity building on planning and management skills for middle management health professionals and Thai international health experts in Thailand, with an emphasis on health promotion and disease prevention programmes

Explanation:

Since publishing and disseminating the “Report on Strengthening of Competencies of Thai Experts in Support of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries Project in the Field of HIV/AIDS and Primary Health Care” in December 2005, all 67 training workshop participants have been registered as resource persons in the “International Resource Persons Network”. These individuals are regularly invited to participate in AIHD international activities. Some have been invited to serve as resource persons for international short-term training courses, while others have been recommended by AIHD to serve as short-term consultants for specific assignments with international organizations.

Activity 3: Modification of the PHC system to support the Universal Health Coverage Insurance Scheme in Thailand

Explanation:

As part of its collaborative efforts with the Ministry of Public Health and the Network for WHO Collaborating Centres and Centres of Expertise in Thailand (NEW-CCET), AIHD continued to conduct research aimed at ensuring that PHC strategies were integrated into the National Universal Health Coverage Insurance Scheme. Activity outputs are summarized as follows:

- 3.1 Evaluation of Management Model of Child Nutrition Centres (CNC) in the Thai Local Self-Government System (2007)
- 3.2 The challenges of Needs Assessment for capacity Building the Surveillance System for the Regional Disease Prevention and Control Centres, under the Disease Control Department, Ministry of Public Health, the Royal Thai Government (2006-2007)
- 3.3 The Evaluation of Healthy Communities Development Projects of 17 Local Self Governments in 8 Provinces of Central Thailand (2006-2008)

In general decentralization and local self-government have successfully supported the development of the National Academic Consortium as a multi-disciplinary collaborative approach in the form of Healthy Settings, as advocated by WHO.

AIHD has published an article “Enhancing Health Security: The Case of Healthy Setting in Thailand” by Dr. Jumroon Mikhanorn, MD, MPA (Hons), DPH (RCP London and RCS. England) in Regional Health Forum, WHO South-East Asia Region, New Delhi, India (see AIHD Website at www.aihd.mahidol.ac.th)

Activity 4: Community-based health care programme empowerment for the elderly through Participatory Action Research (PAR)

Explanation:

The Foundation for Life Development, under the Patronage of HRH Princess Galyani Vadhana Krom Luang Narathiwat Rajanagarindra, together with the AIHD (Mahidol University) and the Ministry of Public Health jointly conducted its first workshop on 7 September 2005. “The Integrated Planning and Strengthening Partnership Approach for Community-Based Quality of Life Development for the Thai Elderly Project” was formulated as a result of this workshop. AIHD was responsible for developing the project proposal, which requested support from WHO. The Project was approved and funded by WHO in January 2007.

The Project was implemented according to the work plan, outputs and outcomes, during 2007. Highlights from this Project will be included in the Progress Annual Report of 2007-2008.

Activity 5: Strengthening of community-based health programmes for migrant workers in border areas.

Explanation:

AIHD, Mahidol University, was asked by the American Rescue Committee (ARC) to jointly launch a collaborative project called, “Strengthening the Control of Infectious Disease among Burmese Migrants and Local Thai Population along the Thai-Burmese Borders”.

General objective:

To improve the quality of and increase accessibility to health services for Thai villagers as well as migrants workers from Myanmar living in selected remote target communities along the Thai-Myanmar border.

Specific objective

- (1) To strengthen capacity building for a community –based health workforce and supervisors from the district health system based on a PHC approach,
- (2) To strengthen community-based civil society empowerment for health promotion and environmental sanitation as well as disease prevention through mobilizing community participation,
- (3) To integrate infectious disease control vertical programmes into district health systems based up a PHC approach

Collaborative Partners of the Project

- (1) AIHD
- (2) ARC(funded by USAID)
- (3) Right to Play
- (4) College of Public Health Chulalongkorn University
- (5) Provincial Health Offices of Kanchanaburi, Chumphon and Ranong Provinces
- (6) Vector-borne Disease Control Regional Centre

AIHD (Mahidol University) is responsible for training the community–based health workers, programme managers, and supervisors of the provincial/district health system, using a PHC approach. The Project was implemented in Kanchanaburi. AIHD using PHC.MAP Modules conducted training in the following 3 phases:

Phase I	25-29 July 2005
Phase II	8-12 August 2005
Phase III	22-26 August 2005

A follow-up workshop was conducted from 6-8 December 2005.

The results of the training evaluation (pre-test, post-test) including the follow-up workshop will be presented as part of the Progress Report of 2007-2008, as well as on the AIHD website.

2. Other information related to the collaboration between the AIHD and WHO:

The WR Office in Bangkok and the AIHD have developed a smooth working relationship that is expressed by close collaboration in their joint initiatives. AIHD project proposal reviews and WHO funding continues to be taken care of by WHO country budgeting programme management. AIHD-WHO collaboration is implemented both through the Network for WHO Collaborating Centres and Centre of Expertise in Thailand (NEW-CCET) whose communication network channels create very fruitful interaction not only within Thailand but also with neighboring countries in the ASEAN Sub-region.

In this reporting period AIHD staff served as WHO/SEARO Temporary Advisors in the following assignments:

- (1) 2-5 May 2007, a study design dealing with “Integrated Health Services for the Control of HIV, TB and Malaria through PHC Approach – Bhutan Model”,
- (2) 6-27 June 2007, “The 11th International Conference on Motility and Transport of Elderly and Disabled People”,
- (3) 26 July and 14 August 2007, study survey in Bhutan with respect to, “Integrated Health Services for the Control of HIV, TB and Malaria through PHC Approach – Bhutan Model”
- (4) 25-29 September 2007 Consultative Meeting “ A Report on Integrated Health Services for the Control of HIV, TB and Malaria through PHC Approach – Bhutan Model
- (5) 3 October 2007, The Regional Meeting WHO/SEARO, “Revisiting Community Health Workers and Community Health Volunteers”, Chiang Mai, Thailand

In general AIHD has not encountered any difficulties pursuing its role as a WHO CC. These efforts have served as an effective means to strengthen the capacity of AIHD as a WHO Collaborative Centre. AIHD has suggested that some of its less experienced junior staff be allowed to accompany more senior staff, on special assignments, in order to enhance the latter’s knowledge and experiences in its quest to improve collaboration with other WHO CC.

3. Collaborating with other WHO Collaborating Centre

The current development of the NEW-CCET in Thailand has created an effective network for the WHO CC in Thailand and the National Centres of Expertise in Thailand. These include the government health sector and academic institutions related to health sciences. The AIHD WHO CC has been actively collaborating with 16 institutions in the NEW-CCET at this very early stage in their collective efforts of development, including their websites.