



Revisiting Community-based Health Workers (CBHW) and Community Health Volunteers (CHV) Chiang Mai, Thailand

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The Alma-Ata Declaration on Primary Health Care (PHC) will achieve the 30th anniversary in 2008, There have been many changes and development in particular the concept of health and health care. Therefore, there is a need to revisit the CBHW that has been the keystone of the PHC movement. The WHO Regional Office for South East Asia (SEARO) hosted the Regional Meeting on "Revisiting CBHW and CHV" in Chiang Mai between 3-5 October 2007. The meeting aims at reaching the unreached, underprivileged and socially marginalized population through the work of CBHW and CHV. Over 100 participants from 10 SEAR countries, advisors and resource persons from various key institutes and partners from several organizations including AAAH attended this meeting. Welcome address was given by Mr.Sanguanpong, the governor of Chiang Mai,

Dr.Plianbangchang, Regional Director of WHO/SEARO, Dr.Mahler, WHO Director General Emeritus who is considered the father of Health for All, and Dr.Na Songkla, the Minister of Public Health of Thailand. To review experiences of countries in SEAR on community-based actions for CBHW/CHV, the first session in day 1 started from a presentation on PHC strategy and lessons learnt presented by a founder of the PHC program in Thailand followed by 5 countries experiences' from their fields. The later sessions were presentations and discussions on regional and global policy, crucial strategies that contribute to a more integrated approach and sustainable action in supporting CBHW/CHV.

A draft on framework and strategic directions for strengthening CBHW/CHV in SEAR countries was presented in the second day, the participants are divided

in 9 groups to review and reflect on this draft. Each group work proposed actions by countries and actions by WHO for each strategic area. In addition, the meeting arranged field trip to 4 sites for more understanding.

For more active participations, the country group work were requested to discuss on the country priority health needs, activities or services required and types of CBHW/CHV needs on the last day. Each country submitted their actions to SEARO for additional revision on regional framework and strategic direction for strengthening CBHW/CHV. The closing session was summary recommendations and national way forward in strengthening CBHW/CHV.

For the presentations and other related documents, please contact AAAH Secretariat at: secretariat@aaahrh.org