Policy Measures on Strengthening and Developing Capabilities for National Tobacco Control in Thailand

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Objective: To assess the situation and report on a national capacity plan for tobacco control under the National Strategic Plan for Tobacco Control (NSPTC) 2010-2014

Material and Method: Systematic documentary review and analysis were managed by the working group. The results were discussed and provided recommendations by the Sub-Committee on developing the NSPTC 2010-2014. Seven meetings were organized from March 2009 – January 2010. Eventually, the NSPTC 2010-2014 was approved by the National Committee for Tobacco Control, chaired by the Minister of Public Health on 22 April 2010.

Results: The major result of this study was brought to the National Capacity in Tobacco Control Plan under the NSPTC 2010-2014. The purpose of the plan is to strengthen and develop national tobacco control capacity before 2011. Seven strategic areas for National Tobacco Control Capacity have been proposed. They are, 1) tobacco control policy and leadership development, 2) developing an organizational structure and management systems, 3) developing surveillance, monitoring and evaluation systems, 4) formulate measures to support research and knowledge management, 5) capacity building and network expansion for tobacco control in various sectors, 6) capacity building and expansion of a collaborative network for tobacco control at regional levels, and 7) improving and strengthening tobacco control laws. In addition, the indicators, key players and support partners were addressed.

Conclusion: Although the strength of the strategic plan on National Capacity in Tobacco Control is participatory planning process and result in the integrated and comprehensive capacity in tobacco control plan, but some concerns should be considered. They are infrastructure, evidence and networking, and leadership.

Keywords: Strengthen and develop capacity, National tobacco control plan

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