

**International Conference on “Health Services Delivery Management”
14-16 October 2009, Phitsanulok, Thailand**

**Message from Dr Samlee Plianbangchang, Regional Director
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I commend the Faculty of Public Health Naresuan University, Thailand, for choosing the theme “Health Services Delivery Management” for the Conference.

Many changes in political, economic and sociocultural dimensions that impact health have occurred during the first decade of this Century at the national, regional and global levels. Widening inequity in health prevails both within and across countries. Climate change, the current global financial crisis and the influenza pandemic will further aggravate the situation.

Most countries experience the double burden of diseases despite considerable efforts having been devoted to control major communicable diseases. Noncommunicable diseases such as diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and cancer are now becoming major killers. Treatment for these noncommunicable diseases is very expensive and will contribute significantly to the spiraling health care costs.


To reduce the burden of diseases, public health programmes have to focus on health promotion and disease prevention, while taking into consideration the social determinants of health. Health promotion in particular plays a crucial role in averting various risks to health such as smoking, alcohol consumption, unhealthy diet and sedentary lifestyle.

We certainly have to foster collaboration with other sectors including the private sector, civil society and the community, in general. Public health also needs to work closely with many other disciplines, particularly sociology, anthropology and behavioural sciences. Little attention has been given so far to these fields despite our acknowledgement of their important role in the development of health.

To cope with this changing scenario in health, improvement in the management of health systems in general and the management of health services delivery in particular has become indispensable. Member countries have agreed to revitalize primary health care to cope with the unprecedented changing scenarios. It is in view of these changes that the WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia had convened a Regional Conference on Revitalizing PHC in Jakarta, Indonesia, in August 2008.

Revitalization of PHC is effected through health systems reform that certainly incorporates the management of health systems. In 2008 WHO had advocated health systems reform through four major areas, namely service delivery, universal coverage, public policy and leadership.

I wish you a successful conference. I am confident that the outcome of your deliberations will take us a long way ahead towards improved health services delivery management.



Dr Samlee Plianbangchang
Regional Director