Occupational Health and Environmental Medicine Services in Thailand: hospital-based project

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The 1st International Conference on Occupational and Environmental Diseases
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Background
1. Working populations

(39.6 m)

Target group

Occupational Health Services (OHS)

General population who live nearby the pollution source

Most effect to vulnerable group

- children
- Elder
- illness
- pregnant

Environmental Medicine Services (EMS)

The activities to monitor, prevent and dissolve diseases and health effect from environmental pollution.

Informal worker

24.8 m

Formal worker (FW):

- Social security

14.8 m

Industry

Agricultural

15.1 m

Service

FW: government

1 m

Source: Environmental Medicine Group, BOED
The Situation of Pollution problems in Thailand

- Wildfire smog
- SO₂ in Power plant
- Gold mining
- Stone dust, Landfill
- Power plant
- Cadmium in Tak province
- Noise near Suvarnabhumi airport
- Pollution in Rayong Industrial estate
- Arsenic in Nakhon Si Thammarat
- Lead in Children

Source: Environmental Medicine Group, BOED
Health Services Hierarchy in Thailand

MoPH = Ministry of Public Health

OHS&EMS provision

MoPH

Provincial Hospital = 116

Community Hospital = 724

Primary Care Unit = 9,750

Central

Province

District

Sub-district
OHS&EMS project development
Principle:

Quality assurance process has been applied to evaluate the OHS&EMS delivery provided by health care providers.
Tool

OHS&EMS standards and scoring criteria has been developed using Delphi technique.
OHS & EMS standards

3 copies

• For provincial hospitals (48 items) implemented in 2014
• For community hospitals (42 items) implemented last year (2016)
• For PCUs (25 items) implement this year (2017)
Standard for provincial hospital

Component I: Organization management (9 items)
Component II: OHS for health workers (10 items)

- Walk-through survey
- Pre-placement/periodic/annual health examination
- OHS for HW
- Risk assessment & risk control
- Standard safety procedure & Training
- Vaccination

Standard for provincial hospital
Component III: Pro-active OHS (workplace) (9 items)
Component IV: in-house services (12 items)

- Work history interview
- Health examination
- In-house OHS&EMS
- Treatment &Rehabilitation (RTW)
- Occupational &ENV diseases diagnosis
- Health education and record keeping

Standard for provincial hospital
Component V: Pro-active EMS (8 items)

- Data keeping
- Env. & Health data gathering
- Env. diseases screening
- Pro-active EMS
- Risk communication
- Emergency response preparedness
- EIA/EHIA/HIA participation
Steps of implementation

- Introduce OHS & EMS standard practice guideline to related agencies such as regional DDC, provincial and community hospitals and etc.
- Train auditor and set up the auditor team
- Hospital submit self-assessment form
- Audit hospital
- Certify hospital
- Provide certificate/award
# Levels of hospital

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<th>Very good</th>
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Results of the evaluation using OHS&EMS standards in year 2016

There were 44 hospitals (total n= 116 hospitals, 37 %) passed standards criteria.

Within 2020 all provincial hospitals (100%) should pass the standard criteria

DPC=Office of Diseases Prevention Control 1-12

Source :Environmental Medicine Group, BOED
Limitations

1. In some hospitals or workplaces, risk management are difficult to conduct because of lack of experts, high cost, old structure building, and so on.

2. Lack of occupational health equipment to measure work environment.

3. Knowledge of EMS among health personnel is quite limited.
Way forwards

- The project is being extended to community hospitals and PCUs.
Necessary steps towards the future

The future development should be addressed in five issues as follow:

• policy maker to support operational resources and personnel need,

• capacity building all related health personals following such standards,

• improvement data system for recording and reporting occupational /environmental disease case or other activities,

• continuous collaboration among Thailand and international related agencies to sustain and extend the services.

• specification OHS activities in the benefit package of universal coverage scheme.
Thank you for your kind attention