

International Health Policy Program (IHPP Thailand)

Thailand Data Governance: Past, present and future.

Thailand's health data governance has been developed in parallel with the health care system development for decades. Among the governance's 4 key elements; the availability, usability, integrity and security-We are doing quite well on the availability and usability including the development of standard.

Currently we have available data inputs categorized in 4 groups; 1) determinants included biomedical and genetic factors, individual health status and behaviors, socioeconomic and environmental factors 2) information about health resources, healthcare use, financing and expenditures, and outcomes 3) health and well-being (Life expectancy, mortality, subjective health, disability Illness, disease) 4) Interventions (prevention and health promotion, treatment and care, rehabilitation).

Thai Health Information Standard Development Center (THIS) has developed, adopted and implemented some health data standards such as the citizen ID system, the health provider facility ID system, standard data sets for reporting and insurance reimbursement systems, the International Classification of Diseases (ICD), the Thai Medicines Terminology (TMT) and Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes (LOINC).

In part of integrity and security, the DGA (Digital Government Development agency) developed "the Data Governance framework for government" under the digital system Act B.E. 2562. The framework aims for the development of national plan, national mechanism and data governance is a major component under the framework. The implementation is still a bit slow. Further Thailand's Personal Data Protection Act BE 2562 (PDPA) will come into full effect next year.

To effectively implement the national plan and data governance framework, it is critical and essential to have national leadership led by an authorized agency to work with relevant stakeholders based on trust and 'good governance systems – transparency, accountability, participatory. Fair, efficient and rule by law'. The data governance framework must be implemented based on the 'participatory governance systems' rather than mere 'state governance' or 'market driven governance' systems. There is a National Health Assembly's resolution a decade ago to establish a National Commission on HIS, based on 'participatory governance' structure. The inadequate leadership and secretariat resulted in the failure to effectively implement the approved 'National Health Information Development Plan'.

An informal network called 'THINK' (Thailand Health Information Network) was established under the support of the Thailand Health Systems Research Institute. It functioned effectively for a few years and disappeared due to change in leadership.

We plan to actively move on re the Data Governance Framework and revitalized the participatory governing structure together w the informal THINK network.