
Prince Mahidol Award
Conference 2007

Improving Access to Essential Health Technologies: Focusing on Neglected Diseases, Reaching Neglected Populations 1-2 February 2007 Bangkok, Thailand

1. Background

The Prince Mahidol Award Foundation was established in commemoration of the Centenary Birthday Anniversary of His Royal Highness Prince Mahidol of Songkla on 1 January 1992. The foundation is chaired by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. The Prince Mahidol Award (PMA) was established in honour of HRH's initiative and efforts that produced a remarkable and lasting impact on the development and improvement of modern medicine and public health in Thailand. HRH was subsequently honoured with the title of "Father of Modern Medicine of Thailand" and "Father of Public Health of Thailand." The Prince Mahidol Award is conferred annually by His Majesty the King of Thailand to individual(s) or institution(s) for outstanding performance and/or research that has a global impact in the field of medicine and public health. The Award was first conferred in 1993 and will achieve its 15th anniversary in 2007.

To celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Award, a conference focusing on important global health issues that have global impacts will be organized. The Prince Mahidol Award Conference 2007 (PMA Conference 2007) will be held on 1-2 February 2007 under the theme of "Improving Access to Essential Health Technologies: Focusing on Neglected Diseases, Reaching Neglected Populations."

It is a tragedy that the poor, who are most in need of access to health technologies to prevent disease and restore good health, are the least likely to be able to access these technologies. Bill Gates at the 58th World Health Assembly in 2005 provided several macro political and economic reasons for limited access of the poor to essential medicine:

"… Rich governments are not fighting some of the world's most deadly diseases because rich countries don't have them. The private sector is not developing vaccines and medicines for these diseases because developing countries can't buy them. And many developing countries are not doing nearly enough to improve the health of their own people. … In order to find new discoveries and deliver them, we need to make political and market forces work better for the world's poorest people."

According to the Report of the Commission on Intellectual Property Rights, Innovation and Public Health (CIPIH) 2006, the Innovation Cycle encompasses three interrelated phases: the Discovery phase which includes basic research, the Development of the Discovery phase, and the Delivery phase to get the products to patients. How the three phases be of better benefit to those in need, both in developed and developing countries, are the main concern of the PMA Conference 2007. The Conference would address all diseases types. Type I diseases affect both rich and poor countries where Discovery and Development is not a major problem, but Delivery especially to the poor in rich and other developing countries is a real problem. With regards to Type II diseases which are more prevalent in developing countries (the neglected diseases) and Type III diseases which are exclusively prevalent in developing countries (the very neglected diseases), patients in developing countries are facing either no Discovery, or Discovery but no further Development, or no effective Delivery or no secure financing or all of the above.

Economic and market forces direct vaccine sales and vaccine production towards the needs of markets with effective purchasing power. Yet the scientific and technological progress that drives the Development of such innovative vaccines holds the promise of applicability for vaccines that are urgently needed for developing countries. This results in orphan drugs and vaccines.

While observing intellectual property rights, new mechanisms and incentives for research and development (R&D) of innovations in global public goods is needed to minimize the impact of intellectual property rights and patent protections that might lead to unaffordable prices for new technologies and result in limited access, especially for the poor in developing countries.

Progress is required to ensure that new technologies are affordable and relevant to the needs of developing countries, including their disease patterns and health systems capacity. In addition, mechanisms to secure a sustainable demand for new technology, for example through advance purchase commitments, must be developed.

There is a need to overcome health systems constraints in order to effectively, efficiently, and equitably deliver both existing and new health technologies to the populations most in need of these technologies.

The Prince Mahidol Award Conference 2007 will address issues of accessibility to health technologies in order to bring global attention to this important problem and to suggest actions that would improve health access in order to improve the health of the most vulnerable populations and

hence contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

2. Objective of the PMA Conference

2.1 General objective

To organize a Prince Mahidol Award Conference to discuss high priority global health issues and propose solutions that will have a global impact.

2.2 Specific objectives of the PMA Conference

1. To organize health conference on priority health issues that are of global significance.
2. To promote participation of leading scientists and public health leaders from around the world.
3. To organize the Conference based on a systematic and participatory approach that ensures recommendations from the Conference will have a global health impact.
4. To provide an opportunity for networking, capacity strengthening and leadership development, among leading scientists, public health leaders and administrators in international public health.

3. Theme of the PMA Conference 2007

The theme of the PMA Conference 2007 is "Improving Access to Essential Health Technologies: Focusing on Neglected Diseases, Reaching Neglected Populations." Health technologies include the full range of techniques/technologies employed in health, such as prevention, diagnostics, medical devices, pharmaceuticals, vaccines, biotechnology and traditional medicine and other public health interventions. Promoting access to essential health technologies requires that five questions be addressed. Are essential health technologies available? If yes, are they accessible to people who need them? Are they affordable, especially by the poor who need them? Are the health technologies effective and of good quality? And, the most important question, HOW can essential health technologies be made accessible to those who need them most. This would include the health care systems to deliver the essential health technologies.

4. Agenda of the PMA Conference 2007

Based on the main theme and questions raised above, the Conference will organize sessions based on the three Ds of the Innovation Cycle to draw lessons learned and bring out recommendations from the case studies. The main objectives of each session are as follows:

4.1 Keynote speeches

Topic: Access to essential health technologies: global perspective

Keynote speakers are those who are very provocative and are global public health leaders, or global political leaders. The main purpose of this session is to set the scene of the whole issue on a global perspective, past achievements and limitations, the unfinished agenda, future challenges,

and the way forward, including challenging questions to be addressed by this Conference. Suggested solutions to the problems are welcome.

4.2 Panel discussions

There will be two panel discussions. Each panel discussion consists of no more than 3-4 speakers with geographical and gender balance. The objectives are to provide states of the arts in the subject matter, provoke further in-depth discussions (in parallel sessions) on the problems and issues, and most importantly, provide practical solutions to these problems.

Panel discussion 1

Topic: From Discovery to Development to Delivery of health technology – challenges and lessons learned

The objective of this session is to provide global experiences on both successes and limitations from discovery of sciences to developments and delivery of these products, especially to the neediest population and for the benefit of mankind. The topics cover the wide range of prevention, screening, diagnostics and curatives, including medicines and vaccines.

Panel discussion 2

Topic: The way forward: Immediate actions to stimulate Discovery, Development and improved access to essential health technology

The objective is to provide summary reports extracted from all the parallel sessions on problems and issues, and special focus on the practical solutions in line with the CIPIH report. In the context of the ongoing deliberations of the Inter-Governmental Working Group to discuss and propose global strategies and action plans, members of the CIPIH and IGWG would provide their comments in this panel.

4.3 Parallel sessions

The objectives of parallel sessions are to allow a maximum and in-depth deliberation by conference participants on the specific subject matter. The chairperson will ensure clear and straight-to-the-point presentation and provide ample time for discussion by participants.

The panelists and participants in each parallel session are urged to not only focus on bottlenecks but also propose practical and succinct solutions in line with the CIPIH report.

In addition, panelists would be invited on their individual expertise and capacity, and do not reflect the position of their institution.

There will be seven parallel sessions in this Conference.

Parallel session 1.1

Topic: From Discovery to Development: the cases of neglected diseases

The objectives are to discuss the bottlenecks between discovery in laboratory and a thorough understanding of science and the development of products on a commercial scale for neglected diseases. Panelists are urged to cover the whole range of prevention technologies, diagnostic technologies, vaccines and medicines for these neglected diseases. This session covers several neglected diseases, not only pinpointing one particular disease.

The discussion on these bottlenecks or other success stories would lead to tangible recommendations in line with the CIPIH report.

Parallel session 1.2
Topic: The emerging roles of scientifically and technologically advanced developing countries in Discovery and Development of essential health technologies and the role of productions of generic products

The objective is to describe, analyze the experiences on the emerging roles of scientifically and technologically advanced developing countries in discovery and development of essential health technologies, and cover the role of productions of generic products to be more affordable and accessible by the poorer countries. Experiences include the enabling government policy, science capacity in the public and private sectors, as well as public-private partnership experiences. This parallel session is the most tangible recommendation for the CIPIH.

Parallel session 1.3
Topic: Product development partnership on Discovery and Development of health technologies

The objective is to provide experiences on the Partnership (in particular on product development, not much on the discovery and delivery) which would include not only public-private partnerships, but also North-South and South-South collaborations.

Parallel session 2.1
Topic: From Discovery to Development and to Delivery of essential health technologies: the role of Innovative Financing Mechanisms

The objective is to describe and analyze the experiences on innovative financing mechanisms that enable the Discovery, the Development and the Delivery of health technologies. Efforts should be solicited from both global health initiatives and developing country perspectives.

Parallel session 2.2
Topic: TRIPS flexibility and access to medicine, the case of new ARV medicines

The objective is to describe and analyze experiences, government policies, and relationships with NGOs as well as the institutional capacity on the application of TRIPS flexibilities to protect the public health interests of the population, limitations and other major bottlenecks for the implementation of the Doha Declaration. This parallel session is requested to use the tracer of ARV medicine, including new 1st line and 2nd line patent ARV, as sample for discussion.

Parallel session 3.1
Topic: From Development to Delivery: the case of access to HPV vaccine for prevention of cervical cancer

The objective is to address the downstream delivery aspect of new technologies. This session applies HPV vaccine as a tracer to illustrate how a country would introduce this technology. Issues would include for example, burden of disease, licensing of product, cost effectiveness, cost and pricing, national health financing policy including health insurance mechanism, and health systems capacity to scaling up sustainable and equitable access to intervention.

Parallel session 3.2
Topic: From Development to Delivery: access to prevention, screening, diagnostics and treatments for noncommunicable diseases (e.g. diabetes mellitus, hypertension, cancers)

The objective is to describe and analyze the health systems capacity for early detection, screening, diagnosis, prevention and effective control of these diseases. Health systems capacity is vital to cope with long-term treatment of these chronic diseases.

Presentation and discussion would include pricing and financing, including the role of national health insurance systems, availability of affordable technologies for primary prevention, social franchising, roles of pharmacists and refilling medication. The session requires novel solutions, not only voicing the problems. Presenters should have a thorough understanding of the health systems role.

4.4 Conclusion session
Conference wrap up, synthesis and recommendations

5. Program of the PMA Conference 2007

Feb 1, 2007	
09.00-09.15	**Opening session** HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn
09.15-10.15	**Keynote speeches** **Access to essential health technologies: global perspective** o Dr. Margaret Chan (Director-General, WHO and PMA Awardee 1998) o Prof. Stanley G. Schultz (PMA Awardee 2006): Translational Research: From a Pump Handle to Oral Rehydration Therapy o Dr. Dilip Mahalanabis (PMA Awardee 2006): ORT and Translation Research
10.15-10.45	Break
10.45-12.30	**Panel discussion 1** **From Discovery to Development to Delivery of health technology – challenges and lessons learned** o Prevention interventions o Prof. Harald zur Hausen (PMA Awardee 2005): Infectious Agents in Human Leukaemias and Lymphomas o Curative interventions o Sir Richard Peto (PMA Awardee 2000): Tamoxifen chemotherapy and breast cancer o Delivery o Prof. Nicholas White (Wellcome Trust Unit, Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University): From discovery to development of health technology – challenges and lessons learned o Dr. P. Roy Vagelos (PMA Awardee 1997): From Discovery to Development to Delivery of Health Technology – Challenges and Lessons Learned Chairperson: Dr. Omi Shigeru (WHO/WPRO Regional Director) Rapporteur: Prof. Thomas Blair (IPSR, Mahidol University, Thailand) Dr. Rosalia Sciortino (IPSR, Mahidol University, Thailand) Dr. Piya Hanvoravongchai (IHPP, MOPH, Thailand)
12.30-14.00	Lunch

Feb 1, 2007	
14.00-16.00	**Parallel session 1** Note: Panelists will focus on bottlenecks and practical solutions in line with the CIPIH report. Panelists would be invited on their individual expertise and capacity, and do not reflect the position of their institution.
	Parallel session 1.1 **From Discovery to Development: the cases of neglected diseases** Panelists are invited to provide perspectives on problems encountered and possible solutions. o Dr. Giorgio Roscigno (CEO, Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics): From Discovery to Development: the case of TB Diagnostics o Dr. Paul Herrling (Head of Corporate Research, Novartis): The Novartis Institute for Tropical Diseases: Drug Discovery for Neglected Diseases o Dr. Olivier Fontaine (Child and Adolescent Health and Development, WHO): From Discovery to Use in the Field: the Case of Zinc in the Management of Diarrhoea o Prof. Joanne Webster (Acting Director of SCI, Imperial College): Schistosomiasis and the Neglected Tropical Disease Control o Discussion and recommendations Chairperson: Dr. Howard Zucker (Assistant Director-General, WHO) Rapporteur: Mr. James Arkinstall (MSF) Dr. Sripen Tantivess (IHPP, MOPH, Thailand) Dr. Chanwit Tribuddharat (Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University, Thailand) Dr. Nithima Sumpradit (FDA, Thailand)
	Parallel session 1.2 **The emerging roles of scientifically and technologically advanced developing countries in Discovery and Development of essential health technologies and the role of productions of generic products** Perspectives from: o Dr. Hans Hogerzeil (Director, Medicines Policy and Standards, WHO): Pre-qualification schemes (past, present and future) o Dr. Shao Yiming (Chief expert on AIDS, Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention): The discovery and development of essential health technologies, Chinese experience and implications for other developing countries o Dr. Navaratnam Visveswaran (University of Sains Malaysia, Centre for Drug Research) o Dr. Roman Macaya (President, National Chamber of Generic Products, Costa Rica): Drug Development for Neglected Diseases and the Role of Science, Industry and Government in Developing Countries o Discussion and recommendations Chairperson: Dr. Richard Nesbit (DPM, WHO/WPRO) Rapporteur: Dr. Eamonn Murphy (Director – Governance, Donor and UN System Relations, UNAIDS) Dr. Pathom Sawanpanyalert (MOPH, Thailand) Dr. Petcharat Pongcharoensuk (Mahidol University, Thailand)

Feb 1, 2007	
	Parallel session 1.3 **Product development partnership (public-private, North-South, South-South collaborations) on Discovery and Development of health technologies** Perspectives from (with special focus on practical problems and solutions in line with the CIPIH report): o Dr. Javier Guzman (Head Sydney Research Team, Pharmaceutical R&D Policy Project, The George Institute for International Health): A Breakthrough in R&D for Neglected Diseases: New Ways to Get the Drugs We Need o Dr. P V Venugopal (Director of International Operations, Malaria Medicine Venture): Product Development Partnership on Discovery and Development of Health Technologies o Dr. Bernard Pecoul (Director, Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative) o Dr. John Wecker (Director, Immunization Program, PATH): Rota TBC o Discussion and recommendations Chairperson: Dr. Myint Htwe (DPM, WHO/SEARO) Rapporteur: Dr. Churnrurtai Kanchanachitra (IPSR, Mahidol University, Thailand) Dr. John Bryant (IPSR, Mahidol University, Thailand) Dr. Sirinmas Katchamart (FDA, MOPH, Thailand)
16.00-16.30	Break
16.30-17.30	**Presentation of major findings and recommendations from the parallel sessions 1.1-1.3**
18.30-20.30	**Reception / dinner**

Feb 2, 2007	
08.30-10.30	**Parallel session 2** **Parallel session 2.1** **From Discovery to Development and to Delivery of essential health technologies: the role of Innovative Financing Mechanisms** (Note: Focus on global health initiatives and developing country experiences) Perspectives from: o Dr. Michel Kazatchkine (Ambassador for HIV/AIDS and Communicable Diseases, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ministry of Health, France): Innovative mechanisms for funding access to new drugs: The UNITAID initiative o Prof. Sulamis Dain (Professor of Public Health, State University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil): CPMF – Brazilian National Tobin Tax like and the Financing of Public Health Expenditures since 1994 o Dr. Tim Hubbard (Head of Informatics, Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute): R&D Treaty o Ms. Amie Batson (Health Specialist, Health Development Network, The World Bank): AMC Pilot Proposal o Mr. John Worley (Team Leader, Global and Country Partnerships, Policy & Research Division, DFID) Chairperson: Dr. Ellen T. Hoen (Director Policy Advocacy, MSF) Rapporteur: Mr. James Arkinstall (MSF) Dr. Siriwan Pitayarangsarit (IHPP, MOPH, Thailand) Ms. Waranya Teokul (NESDB, Thailand) Dr. Jutamas Arunanondchai
	Parallel session 2.2 **TRIPS flexibility and access to medicine, the case of new ARV medicines** (including new 1st line and 2nd line patent ARV) Experiences from: o Dr. Carlos Correa (Member of CIPIH, U of Buenos Aires): Flexibilities in the TRIPS Agreement: An Overview o Dr. Martin Khor (Director of the Third World Network): Compulsory licensing and Parallel Importation experiences in developing countries and the applications of the Doha Declaration o Dr. Harvey Bale (Director-General, International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Associations): USA FTA on TRIPS Plus o Discussion and recommendations on experiences to cope with TRIPS, TRIPS Plus and the implementation experiences of the Doha Declaration Chairperson: Dr. Fadia M. Saadah (Sector Manager, East Asia Human Development, The World Bank) Rapporteur: Ms. Cecilia Oh Mei-Yun (UNDP Regional Centre in Colombo) Dr. Jiraporn Limpananont (Chulalongkorn University, Thailand) Ms. Chutima Akaleephan (IHPP, MOPH, Thailand)
10.30-11.00	Break

Feb 2, 2007	
11.00-13.00	**Parallel session 3** **Parallel session 3.1** **From Development to Delivery: the case of access to HPV vaccine for prevention of cervical cancer** Perspectives from: o Dr. Jean-Marie Okwo-Bele (Director, Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals Department, WHO): From Development to Delivery: the case of access to HPV vaccine for prevention of cervical cancer o Dr. Hugues Bogaerts (Vice President, Ww Medical Affairs Cervarix, GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals Clinical R&D): From Development to Delivery: the case of access to HPV vaccine for the prevention of cervical cancer o Prof. Emeritus Khunying Kobchitt Limpaphayom (Chulalongkorn University, Thailand): Delivering HPV Vaccination Services through Existing Secondary Cervical Cancer Prevention Programs in Thailand o Dr. Julian Lob-Levyt (Executive Secretary, Global Alliance on Vaccine and Immunization, United Kingdom): Accelerating Global Access to HPV Vaccine for the Prevention of Cervical Cancer o Discussion and recommendations on Delivery of expensive new technologies Chairperson: Prof. Goran Tomson (Department of Public Health Sciences, Karolinska Institute, Sweden) Rapporteur: Dr. Hans Hogerzeil (Director, Medicines Policy and Standards, WHO) Dr. Yot Teerawattananon (IHPP, MOPH, Thailand) Dr. Supon Limwattananon (IHPP, MOPH, Thailand)
	Parallel session 3.2 **From Development to Delivery: access to prevention, screening, diagnostics and treatments for non-communicable diseases** (e.g. diabetes, hypertension, cancer) Perspectives from: o Dr. Galea Gauden (Coordinator, Health Promotion, WHO) o Developed country perspectives: - Prof. Stephen Leeder (University of Sydney, Australia): Noncommunicable Diseases Threat in Developing Economies o Developing country perspectives: - Prof. Srinath Reddy (Professor of Cardiology, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, India) - Dr. Sania Nishtar (Founder and President, Heartfile, Pakistan): From Development of a Program to the Delivery of Preventive and Control Services in Non-communicable Diseases – A Perspective from Pakistan o Discussion and recommendations on Delivery of interventions for non-communicable diseases Chairperson: Dr. Lincoln Chen (President, China Medical Board) Rapporteur: Dr. Katherine Bond (Associate Director, Health Equity & SEARP, Rockefeller Foundation) Dr. Pornchai O-charoenrat (Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University, Thailand) Dr. Weerasak Putthasri (IHPP, MOPH, Thailand)
13.00-14.30	Lunch

Feb 2, 2007	
14.30-16.15	**Panel discussion 2** **The way forward: Immediate actions to stimulate Discovery, Development and improved access to essential health technology** o Summary reports from the seven parallel sessions on practical solutions, within the scope of the CIPIH recommendations by representative of the Drafting Group o Comments and perspectives from: o Dr. Pakdee Pothisiri (Member of CIPIH) o Dr. David Nabarro (UNSIC) o Dr. A.E.O. Ogwell (Assistant Director of Medical Services and Head, International Health Relations, Ministry of Health, Kenya) o General discussion Chairperson: Prof. Dr. Vicharn Panich, Chairman of the Conference Organizing Committee Rapporteur: Ms. Daisy Mafubelu (Health Attache, Permanent Mission of South Africa) Dr. Robert Ridley (Director, Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases, WHO) Dr. Robert Oelrichs (Senior HIV/AIDS Specialist, The World Bank)
16.15-16.30	**Closing session** o Dr. Samlee Pliangbangchang (Regional Director, WHO/SEARO) o Dr. Yongyuth Yuthavong, Minister of Science and Technology (Minister of Science and Technology, Thailand) o Dr. Manto Tshabalala-Msimang, Minister of Health of South Africa o Dr. Mongkol na Songkhla (Minister of Public Health, Thailand)
16.30-17.00	Break
17.00-17.30	**Press conference** o Prof. Dr. Vicharn Panich, Chairman of the Conference Organizing Committee o Dr. Howard Zucker, Co-Chairman of the Conference Organizing Committee o Ministry of Public Health

6. Conference outputs

1. Recommendations for improvements in accessibility of essential health technologies in developing countries.
2. Concrete action plan for further steps.

7. Conference partners

The Conference will be organized by the Prince Mahidol Award Foundation in collaboration with the World Health Organization and other partners, including UNAIDS, GAVI, private foundations, private industries and civil society organizations. Other partners involved in the organization of the Conference are the Gates Foundation and the World Bank.

8. Conference participants

A total of approximately 150-200 participants will be invited to attend the Conference. Participants will be balanced between different groups.

9. Conference location

The Conference will take place at the Imperial Queen's Park Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand.

10. Conference costs

Core funding for the Conference cost is provided mainly by the Royal Thai Government with partial support from all the co-host organizations.