

# Health Care Reform in Thailand

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## ABSTRACT

The World Health Organization Regional Office for South-East Asia Region released a report "Health Situation in the South-East Asia Region 1998-2000" this year. The Materials leave no doubt that the health status and problems related to health had escalated, while the goal of Health for All by the year 2000 was far from being fulfilled. Furthermore, it was clear that the health system in the region is in disarray. It is a new challenge to develop the health service system to cope effectively with the emerging health need. Thailand's health care reform policy was officially declared in 2001. However, its origin can be traced back to almost a decade as an integral part of the government and public recognition that the total civil service system needed a major restructuring. Concrete evidence appeared in a large research program in search of restructuring alternatives launched in 1995 supported by the Thailand Research fund. In 1997 the Ministry of Public Health started the Health Care Reform project supported by bilateral fund from the European Community. Because the implementation of health care reform was launched only recently, a definitive outcome cannot yet be demonstrated. Nevertheless, the strategy, concept and some early experience deserved interest from the standpoint of alternatives to develop future health care in developing country.

## Key words :

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