

## **The United Nations Public Service Awards**

*First Place Winner 2013*

*in Category 2 : Fostering Participation in Policy-Making Decisions  
Through Innovative Mechanisms*

### **Integrating Network and Community Participation for Effective Malaria Management in Tha Song Yang District**

The awards of pride to serve the royal grace of  
H.R.H Princess Mother Srinagarindra



The Ministry of Public Health, on the occasion of the Memorial Day of H.R.H Princess Mother Srinagarindra's death on July 18<sup>th</sup>, presented deep appreciation for her royal grace in providing kindness and assistance to rural Thai people across the kingdom. The MOPH had witnessed H.R.H Princess Mother Srinagarindra's various royal projects in the fields of social welfare, education, medicine, nursing and public health since 1964 which had been very beneficial both to Thai people and the country. To carry on her royal duties in the field of medicine and public health, the Department of Disease Control and its network had joined hands to implement the project entitled "Integrating Network and Community Participation for Effective Malaria Management in Tha Song Yang District". The project had won the public service awards both at national and the United Nations levels.

On 10 July 2014, Dr.Sophon Mekthon, the Director-General of the Department of Disease Control, gave the interview regarding the received National and the United Nations Awards. He stated that the Department of Disease Control had clear policy on development of its operations using the quality development model for public sector management. The department had continuously supported and promoted all sectors to develop and improve quality services that satisfy its customers. Last year, the Department received two National Public Service Awards in integrated excellence service and innovative excellence service. This year the two strengthened projects passed the United Nations Public Service Awards' final round. The Integrating Network and Community Participation for Effective Malaria Management in Tha Song Yang District project implemented by the Office of Disease Prevention and Control 9, Phitsanulok received the First Place Winner 2013

in Category 2: Fostering Participation in Policy-Making Decisions Through Innovative Mechanisms. The project was outstanding in integrated management for Malaria illness reduction in remote highland areas.

Dr. Hansa Ruksakom, Deputy Director of the Office of Disease Prevention and Control 9, Phitsanulok, revealed that the national surveillance report on Malaria (Source: Bureau of Epidemiology) and the proactive searching for Malaria patients (Source: Bureau of Vector - Borne Diseases) during 1 January - 5 July 2014 shows 11,000 cases with 1 death. The highest number of patients were in Yala, Ranong, Tak, Mae Hong Son and Ubon Ratchathani provinces respectively. She explained that "Malaria, a mosquito-borne infectious disease caused by *Plasmodium* parasite, is a common disease occurred in tropical zone. The disease is transmitted by infected female Anopheles mosquitoes' bites. After 10-14 days, the patients will develop symptoms including fever, chills, headache, body aches, splenomegaly, hepatomegaly, renal failure and even death in severe cases. Small children, pregnant women and the elderly have higher risk of severe illness. Malaria patients, therefore, need a rapid diagnosis and prompt treatment". The Integrated Capacity Development of Malaria Network project in Tha Song Yang District of Tak Province had promoted network and community participation for Malaria prevention and control in remote highland areas for equal access to health services in all target groups. The project was an integrated cooperation among six important network members including the Bureau of Vector-Borne Diseases, Public Health Service Posts of Tak province, Border Patrol Police Schools, Local Administration Agency, Non-governmental Organisation and Village Health Volunteers. The project had resulted in dramatic reduction of Malaria incidence in those remote areas through cost-effective sharing of scarce resources.

Pol.Capt. Payon Sathanakarn, Sub-Inspector at the Border Patrol Police Number 34 and Pol.Sen.Sgt.Maj.Bundol Meungmool, Headmaster of the Border Patrol Police School in Tha Song Yang, said that they were grateful to serve the royal duties of H.R.H Princess Mother Srinagarindra and H.R.H Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn who never abandoned their people in remote areas. The Border Patrol Police School teachers had providing information on Malaria prevention and control, close monitoring of drug compliance in Malaria patients especially children, pregnant women and the elderly.

Representative from Kantana Group (Public Company Limited), a film and television production company, expressed congratulations on the awards and its honor to be part of this success by conveying the story into a short film. Following the founders' determination, Pradit and Somsook Kuljaruek, Kantana Group has been continuously working on good society and good health promotion in a public-private partnership manner.

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