

## Thailand Universal Coverage Scheme (UCS): Achievement and Challenges

By Trassanee Chatmethakul, Parunyou Julayanont (PMA YP Scholars)

### 1. Content of the side meeting

This session elaborate on an independent assessment of the first 10 years (2001-2010) synthesis report conducted by international and local research and health economic specialists overlooking Thailand's journey in putting UCS into practice countrywide.

The report has shown that since UCS implementation there have been multiple positive changes such as a gradual extension of health coverage in Thailand, financial and institutional reform in health sectors, increase satisfaction among UCS members and providers and accessibility to health care. However, there are still rooms for improvement such as poor distribution of workforce and health professions, unrecognizing the importance of primary prevention/ health promotion and poor coverage in migrants

### 2. Discussion and suggestion

It has been remarkable how UCS has improved over the last 10 years in Thailand and the challenges ahead will be on how to manage the growth of the UCS and aging population in order to work towards the full implementation of the UCS.

Lessons learned from Thailand were the key success factors which include Political commitment, Civil Society mobilization and good technical knowledge.

Recommendations for Thailand were to recognize the importance of health intervention/primary prevention, empowering local community (culture of positive health at primary level, human distribution reforms to support the growth of UCS and consideration of private sectors collaboration (Private sectors need to be a part of UCS).

### 3. What the plan after this side meeting?

There is no other side meeting after this one. There could be a continuing collaboration between the Thai research team and international team in the future.