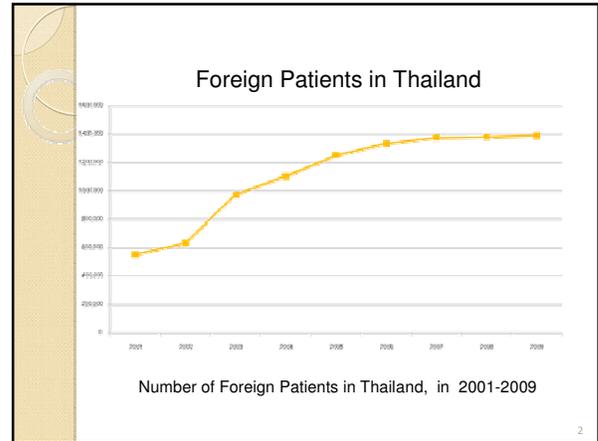


**Impact on Public Health and Policy Responses:
A Case of Thailand**
Songphan Singkaew, Ph.D.

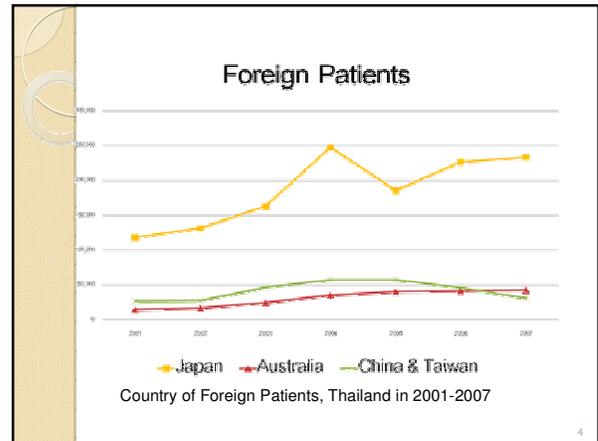
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Composition of foreign patients

- In 2008, about 1.3 million foreign patients
- 58.6% are medical travelers and general travelers and
- 41.4% is the expatriates.

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Country of Foreign Patients

- Japan -
- Germany -
- US -
- Myanmar -
- UK -
- UAE -

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Private Hospitals with Foreign Patients

- Quality Physicians
- Reasonable Price
- International Standards
- Thai Hospitality

6

Private Hospitals

Impacts

- Higher Revenue
- Broader Target
- High Specialist

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Public Hospitals

Impacts

- Less Revenue
- Some patients might not have insurance (patients from bordering areas)

8

Problems

- Local Thais may have less access to health care services
- If doctors from government hospital move to private health institutions, the number of existing personnel in public hospital would decline.

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Internal Migration of Doctors

- Private hospital demand for only specialist doctors who are credited with American Board or European Training , not GPs .
- Selection of private doctor is very strict, since it remains very high competitive in health industry.
- most of GPs usually serve mainly rural people, will hardly enter to private hospitals.

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Distribution of medical doctors

Number and Percentage of Health Personnel (Medical Doctors, Dentists and Nurses) Classified by Regions, 2006-2007

Region	No. of medical Doctors				No. of dentists				No. of registered Nurses			
	2006	(%)	2007	(%)	2006	(%)	2007	(%)	2006	(%)	2007	(%)
Bangkok	6,411	(30.5)	6,711	(29.6)	807	(19.3)	1,172	(25.2)	20,778	(20.8)	23,757	(22.5)
Central	5,113	(24.1)	5,711	(25.1)	1,072	(25.1)	1,125	(25.2)	26,928	(26.7)	27,687	(26.7)
Northeast	3,721	(17.1)	4,021	(17.7)	967	(23.3)	971	(20.9)	21,158	(20.8)	21,397	(20.8)
North	3,547	(16.2)	3,621	(16.1)	803	(19.1)	800	(17.7)	18,348	(18.1)	18,627	(17.9)
South	2,259	(10.4)	2,571	(11.1)	536	(12.6)	542	(11.9)	13,948	(13.5)	13,937	(13.3)
Whole Country	21,051	(100)	22,651	(100)	4,187	(100)	4,653	(100)	101,143	(100)	105,398	(100)

Source : Number of health personnel classified by regions (2006-2007) adjusted from

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Distribution of Doctor and Dentist

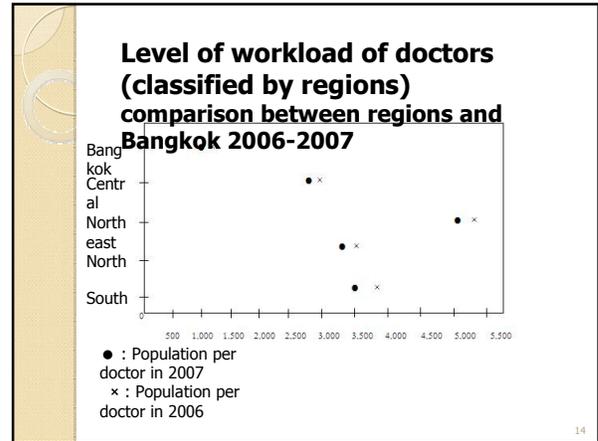
- The distribution of dentists slightly differs from doctors. They give services in Bangkok and Central region in a similar proportion.

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• Workload of Health Personnel
Proportion of population to doctor,

Regions	Proportion of population to doctor		Comparative indices of workload of doctors between BKK and
	2006	2007	
Bangkok	1:889	1:852	-
Central	1:2,985	1:2,695	3.2
Northeast	1:5,754	1:5,309	6.2
North	1:3,352	1:3,277	3.8
South	1:3,807	1:3,365	4
Whole Country	1:2,985	1:2,783	

Source: Proportion of populations doctor classified by regions (2006-2007) are adjusted from 'Statistical Reports of Health Personnel'

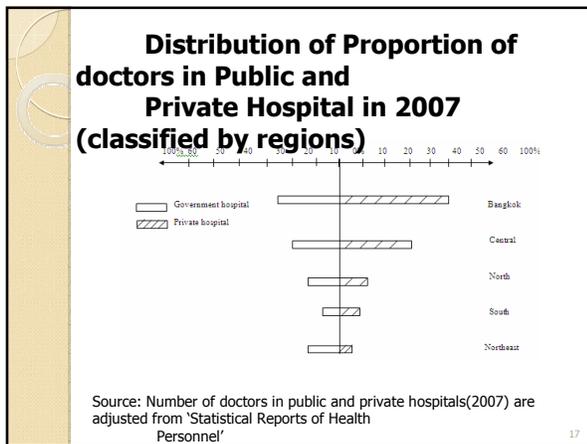


- If consider the level of complication of caring by types of illness, it may be better for those who practice in rural area. **Most cases in the District Hospitals usually not much complicated.**
- Though the workload among regions are imbalance, it is possible to say that newly GPs just started work may be appropriate to handle with the uncomplication of provision care services.

Number and growth rate of medical doctors in public and private hospitals (Classified by Regions) during 2006-2007

Regions	No. of doctors in Government hospital			Growth rate			No. of doctors in Private hospital			Growth rate
	2006	(%)	2007	(%)	(%)	2006	(%)	2007	(%)	(%)
Bangkok Metropol	4,250	25.4	4,259	23.8	0.2	2,161	50.2	2,450	51.8	13.4
Central	3,893	23.3	4,400	24.6	13.0	1,220	28.3	1,310	27.8	7.7
Northeast	3,494	20.9	3,780	21.1	7.6	227	5.3	243	5.1	7.0
North	3,134	18.7	3,200	17.9	2.3	413	9.6	416	8.8	0.7
South	1,971	11.4	2,260	12.6	14.8	288	6.6	309	6.5	7.3
Whole Country	16,742	100.0	17,900	100.0	7.0	4,303	100.0	4,730	100.0	9.97

Source: Number of medical doctors in public and private hospitals(2006-2007) are adjusted from 'Statistical Reports of Health Personnel'



- **Distribution of medical doctors in Public and Private hospitals**
- The trend of changing in distribution of doctors in private hospitals may be seen now. This does not mean that there will be a fast movement of doctors from public to private hospitals. There is strictly regulations to prevent entry of specialists from public to private hospitals.

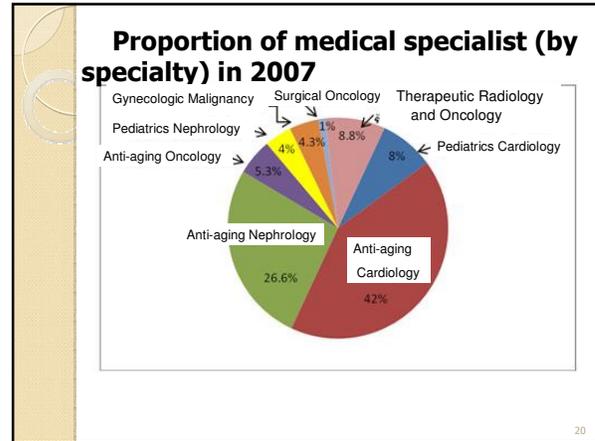
Annex 16. Impact on Public Health and Policy Responses: Case of Thailand

Number of medical specialists

Number and percentage of specialists (whole)

Area of	Number	%
Pediatrics	68	8.0
Anti-aging Medicine	336	42.0
Anti-aging	212	26.6
Anti-aging	42	5.3
Pediatrics	32	4.0
Gynecologic	34	4.3
Surgical Oncology	4	1.0
Therapeutic Radiology and	70	8.8
Total	798	-

Source: Number of specialists in 2007 are adjusted from



- **For the changing trend of medical specialists, currently.**
 - If anyone holds some specialty in his/her profession, then there will be some value added extra to his/her return (or income).
 - Many professions, rather than general, also get the extra income due to their ability.

- Therefore, medical specialists have higher competency than GPs. The reason that most private hospitals need specialists because of their consumers/patients are those high-income groups-foreigners, or some Thai well-off families.
- The prediction here is : there will be a rapid movement of medical specialists group only (not GPs) since Thailand starts FTAs. The existing situation (though not having any FTAs), the movement already been conducted.
- The impact of loss of welfare may be seen.

- Distribution of nurses**
- RNs' pattern of distribution is slightly different from the medical doctors.
 - In 2007, around 26.3% of nurses are in the Central region, more than in Bangkok (22.5%), Northeast (20.3%), North(17.7%) and South(13.2%).

- Two-tier System of Services**
- GPs from government hospitals may get chance in practicing at private hospital , but very few are able to work as permanent.
 - Patients of private hospital are foreigners and small number of the Thai well-off customers.
 - Segment of foreign health care services is not the same as local health services.

Standard and Pricing

- **Private Hospitals**
 - **International standard and higher price**
 - JCIA (Joint Commission International of American)
 - HA (Hospital Accreditation)
 - ISO (The International Organization for Standard)
- **Public Hospitals**
 - National Standard and lower price**
 - HA (Hospital Accreditation)

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Cross Border Diseases

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Reported Case among Foreigners by Type and national, 2003

National	Migrant workers Cases	Cross border Cases Foreigner	Total Cases
Myanmar	14,668	603	15,271
Laos	227	823	1,050
Cambodia	501	100	601
China	-	-	-
Malaysia	12	9	21
Vietnam	7	3	10
Other	3,105	1,147	4,252
Total	18,520	2,685	21,205

Source : Annual Epidemiological surveillance report 2003, Thailand

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Reported Case among Foreigners by Type and National, 2008

National	Migrant workers Cases	Cross border and Foreigner Cases	Unspecified Cases	Total Cases
Myanma	19,652	1,811	1,717	23,180
Cambodi	1,443	42	27	1,512
Laos	875	312	118	1,305
China	34	164	24	222
Malaysia	12	33	9	54
Vietnam	20	0	2	22
Other	1,812	2,418	2,872	7,102
Total	23,848	2,095	4,769	33,397

Source : Annual Epidemiological surveillance report 2008, Thailand

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Cross Border Diseases (Thailand)

In 2003	In 2008
• Acute diarrhea 7,165 cases	• Acute diarrhea 12,382 cases
• Malaria 5,039 cases	• Malaria 7,903 cases
• Pyrexia of unknown origin 2,392 cases	• Pyrexia of unknown origin 3,141 cases
• Pneumonia 1,423 cases	• Pneumonia 1,613 cases
• Hemorrhagic conjunctivitis 1,100 cases	• Dengue hemorrhagic fever 1,444 cases
• Dengue hemorrhagic fever 738 cases	• Sexually transmitted infection 189 cases
• Food poisoning 631 cases	• Food poisoning 958 cases

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Recommendations

- Branding
- Products and Services
- Target Penetration & Location
- Human Capital
- Quality and Standards
- Differentiate

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Policy Responses

- Diversity Management
- Training / Workshop
- Language, Culture, Food,

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Policy Responses

- Production
 - Investments
 - Quality Management
- Financial Supports
- Co-operation (Research, Business & Government)

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Thank
you for your
attention.

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