

## IEPS MASTER THESIS ADVISOR REVIEW FORM

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THESIS TITLE: The Development of Thai Health Care System During Last Decade

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ADVISOR GRADE: 1

### REVIEW

**The objective** of this thesis is an evaluation of the development of the Thai health care system, including health status of Thai inhabitants in the context of social, economic and political changes in the last decade. The whole country was confronted during the last decade by serious political changes and important social and economic development. Social and economic factors are known as important determinants of health. At the beginning of this work there was a general question about the impact of above mentioned changes on health care and health status development. Similar transition processes in Central and Eastern Europe influenced health status development due to changes in social and economic determinants of health in the 90s.

**Research questions** of the thesis are related to the impact of changes in determinants of health in Thailand and their consequences on health status development. Other questions are related to the development of Thai health care system in relation to the existing health care problems and social/political changes.

Thananya Chanpen **conceptualized** her approach with use of several relevant theories (determinants of health, health promotion, health care system). She was able to analyze several developmental processes (health status in terms of

mortality and morbidity), health care system organization and financing in the empirical part of thesis.

**Methodological approach** is a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods. With use of **morphological analysis** a necessary overview of the whole decade with their changes in dimensions like economy, politics, health care policy, health status development was created. The whole decade was divided into three periods according to the relevant National Health Development Plans. **Comparative method**, used in this thesis, is derived from the European Observatory on Health Care Systems and Policies and their series of publications – Health Systems in Transition. This method enabled the author to assess the Thai health care systems with compared Asian and European countries. In the thesis different sources of statistical data and policy documents are used.

**Findings:** Analytical steps in this thesis reflect many important findings in health development, financing of health care systems and also country economic and political context, including their comparisons with other Asian and European countries. With use of all these material it was possible to answer research questions and to achieve main objectives of the thesis.

**Conclusions** respond to research questions and they reflect on the level of whole country relatively continuous development of Thai health care systems and health status of inhabitants. Nevertheless, a lot of inequalities in health and access to health care services are existing in rural areas in comparison with large cities and in different social groups. Important results were achieved in financing of health care system - implementation of public health insurance system. There is a good comparative position of Thailand compared to other ASIAN countries, but there is the health gap in comparison with European countries. Modernization of Thai health care systems in its organization is the

challenge for its future development. This systems need to achieve better responsiveness and equity (in health and access to health care services).

**Advisor evaluation and grading:** From the position of an advisor of this thesis I would like to appreciate responsibility and multidisciplinary of the author. Thananya Chanpen was able to organize her continual study of necessary theories and a lot of policy documents. She structured the research problem in a creative way and with good and logical understanding of its complexity and different dimensions (social, economic, political, health). I evaluate this thesis by grade 1.