

## THE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF THAILAND



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The Medical Association of Thailand has experienced so many changes in the years 2008–2009, some were achievements and some were challenges. They came from both within the association and as the pitfall or complications of the national and global influence which gave rise, at some extent, to the access to health care.

### At National Level

**Economic Crisis:** Hamburger crisis which started in the US and spread out across the globe. Thailand was not spared. The affect of the crisis resulted in slowing down of the development of various health care projects. It affected more on the private sector especially at the beginning but we were lucky that this did not last long. The government supported health care activities has not been affected much, at least in the short run, because the reserve volume of the programmes are big enough to maintain the regular access and services to the cares but in the long run there might be a reduction of contribution from donors. These programmes comprise of the Government Officials sick fund, the National Health insurance, and the Social Security fund for labourers which also includes the workmen compensation fund.

Overall shortage of the national financial reserve forced the Thai government to loan the money from internal resources at 800 billion baht in order to supplement the deficit of the incomes and to stimulate the production and prevent the offflaying.

**Global Warming:** Several interventions have been implemented including smoking cessation programme which has been conducted in conjunction with the 17 health professional allies all over the country including the universities.

**Epidemics and Pandemics:** A (H1N1) Influenza has been a global issue of great burden to health of human lives. Thailand has experienced

approximately 26,000 cases with 165 mortalities. The current situation is subsiding. No more death was recorded during the last two weeks. Vaccine for this influenza is undergoing production but not yet implemented before it is proven to be safe.

Shikunkunya has been a problematic especially in the south of the country where 43,069 cases were report with no mortality.

Avian flu is now a controllable situation. Some endemic and seasonal infection is still found in some areas under close observation.

HIV/AIDS is, statistically, stable with some decline in general but slight increase amongst youth population.

### Activities within the Medical Association (Slides 1–10)

The Medical Association of Thailand has been conducting regular programmes for the benefit of all 22,727 members and the international communication. They are

- Compromise programme for the professional sue
- Best physicians grants
- Study grants
- Medical Journals
- Medical Bulletins
- Medical ethics teaching programme for medical students
- Midterm and Annual Meetings
- Fund raising events
- Smoking cessation programmes
- Attending the conferences abroad:
  - In Singapore, Malaysia, Myanmar, Australia, Chicago, USA
  - MASEAN congress and assembly in Philippines
  - CMAAO midterm council meeting in Philippines
  - WMA congress and Assembly in India
- Two Study tours to Nepal and Jordan

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(Slide 1)



(Slide 2)



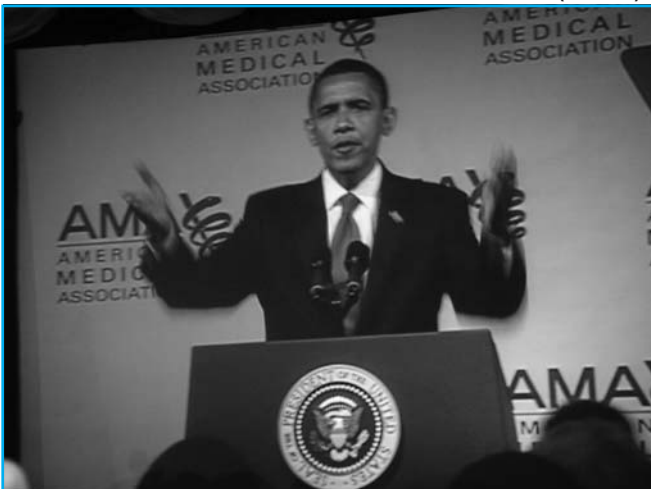
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