

[Thailand]

Health Database in an Information Society*¹

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I don't think anyone of us or any country would deny the usefulness and beneficial of the new information technology or IT. IT can both produce the modern trend of communication as well as the data keeping, development of rapid evaluation, expansion and sharing of the information as never before.

In health care, information technology has come to the use since 1981 and rapidly growing from the US, European countries, Australia to our Asian community in 1990 especially in Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore. Since then this new technology has been in use in all countries depending on the economy status.

In Thailand the use of this new technology has been developed since 1994 and growing in both Private and Governmental sectors. Many aspects of health care both in consumers and providers sides including health delivery system have been implemented but still at a low level as comparing with those countries, I mentioned before. Why? It is because Thailand is a technology purchasing country. We, of course, can produce and export many of the IT components or accessories but we need to import back the assembled or completed hard wares and also the soft wares.

A perfect system of information technology is still in our dream but in reality, only parts of the system exist in the dairy use such as the teleconferences, consultation, reporting, referring, statistical analysis and evaluation. Most of these are used in the intranet system. Each hospital or the health care stations have been developing their own link between the registration desk, the doctor examination rooms, laboratory facilities and dispensary including in-patients department and home health care.

For the internet and the inter-organizational linkage such as smart card or e-health card are still not well developed and not yet implemented

nationwide in Thailand.

The issues of concern of the full use of modern information technologies are

1. The system must be established under the national policy and commitment to achieve a well collaboration from all parties or stakeholders in the governmental and private sectors as well as the patients.
2. The system needs a huge sum of budget to establish and maintenance. Investment is not only for the hard wares but also the appropriate soft wares and the training for the people ware.
3. The system needs a close collaboration from all stake holders to be transparent and data sharing.
4. The system needs a perfect access security for the protection of personal database privacy.
5. A good system needs complete data filing and updating.
6. Trustful and transparency of the data.

Achievement of the IT in Health Database

1. Instant information.....Instant diagnosis..... Instant treatment.....Instant cure....Prevention of damage
2. Health information transferring (Public-Private Partnership)
3. Reduce time...reduce cost of transportation and logistics.....reduce morbidity.....reduce mortality
4. Less paper.....Paperless
5. Better and sustainable home care and reporting
6. Consultation especially in EMS
7. Intranet.....Internet.....Global connection
8. Increase the use of education via social media, teleconferences, and telemedicine
9. Availability of devices at present: Web, Line, Linked in, Skype, Google, Face-book, Twitter, U-Tube etc.

*¹ This article is base on a presentation made at the Symposium “Health Database in an Information Society” held at the 29th CMAAO General Assembly and 50th Council Meeting, Manila, the Philippines, on September 24-26, 2014.

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