

**"Health System Performance and Assessment toward the Achievement of
Universal Health Coverage (UHC)"**

Institute for Global Health Policy Research (iGHP), National Center for Global Health and Medicine (NCGM) is pleased to announce the upcoming seminar led by Dr. Walaiporn Patcharanarumol, Director of International Health Policy Program (IHPP), Ministry of Public Health, Thailand. We are fortunate to have Dr. Walaiporn on the occasion of her visit to Japan as a participant in the highly-anticipated UHC Forum 2017 (<http://universalhealthcoverageday.org/forum/>), which is to be held between December 12 and 15, 2017 in Tokyo.

Date & Time	Friday, December 15, 2017, 12:00–13:00
Topic	"Health System Performance and Assessment toward the Achievement of Universal Health Coverage (UHC)"
Venue	Institute for Global Health Policy Research, Bureau of International Cooperation (Ground floor, Training Center Building), National Center for Global Health and Medicine, Tokyo
Access	http://kyokuhp.ncgm.go.jp/eng/aboutus/access.html
Language	English only (No Japanese interpretation will be available)
Admission	Free of charge and open to general public. No advance registration required. Seating capacity: 40

Speaker



Dr. Walaiporn Patcharanarumol has a BSc in Pharm from Khon Khaen University, Thailand (1992), MSc in Health Development from Chulalongkorn University, Thailand (1998), MSc in Social Protection Financing from Maastricht University, the Netherlands (2003) and a PhD in Public Health and Policy, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (2008).

Her PhD thesis is “Health Care Financing for the Poor in Lao PDR”. She had working experiences in public hospitals of Thailand for several years and has been a researcher in health care financing at the International Health Policy Programme since 2001. Her fields of interest include hospital costing, National Health Accounts, estimation of health expenditures both in short term and long term projection and Universal Health Coverage, particularly on the Universal Health Coverage Scheme in Thailand. During August 2011–April 2012, she was seconded by the Thai Government to work at WHO–HQ, Department of Health System Financing.

Dr. Walaiporn’ s bio can be found on the RESYST website: <http://resyst.lshtm.ac.uk/users/dr-walaiporn-patcharanarumol>

Report on "Health System Performance and Assessment toward the Achievement of Universal Health Coverage (UHC)" (December 15, 2017)

During the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Forum 2017 held in Tokyo, iGHP had a privilege to invite Dr. Walaiporn Patcharanarumol, Director of International Health Policy Program (IHPP), Ministry of Public Health, Thailand, who gave us an invaluable and substantive lecture on UHC. Dr. Walaiporn is one of the most successful and influential global health leaders in Thailand and beyond, and it was a wonderful opportunity to listen to her in a very close and interactive setting.

As a health financing expert, Dr. Walaiporn made a presentation on Universal Health Coverage and on Thailand's unique experience over the past half a century in achieving the country's Universal Health Coverage Scheme. Some of the key messages she delivered included 1) With strong political commitment, UHC can be launched and achieved at the low level of income; 2) Peace and sustained economic growth can mobilize 'more money for health'; 3) Universal access to good quality essential health services is the real goal, not just affordable or cost-free services; 4) Building strong capacity on the health system and policy research within the country is critical; and 5) Participatory governance systems ensure real ownership.

During the seminar, Dr. Walaiporn created several discussion sessions to facilitate open dialogues with the audience. From these very interactive and informative sessions, we learned that UHC is context-specific, therefore, each country must learn from other countries' model cases and experiences. In concluding the seminar, Dr. Walaiporn stressed that the success of UHC in each country depends much on the spirit of committed health workers, and that political and financial commitments as well as countries' capacity for evidence-based policy are the essential factors for both sustainable and resilient health systems development and financial protection.

