

Getting To Know Health Impact Assessment





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Health Impact
Assessment**

PUBLISHED AND DISTRIBUTED BY:

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Tel: 081-8892306 (Pennapa Hongthong)

FIRST EDITION:

November 2008

PRINTED BY:

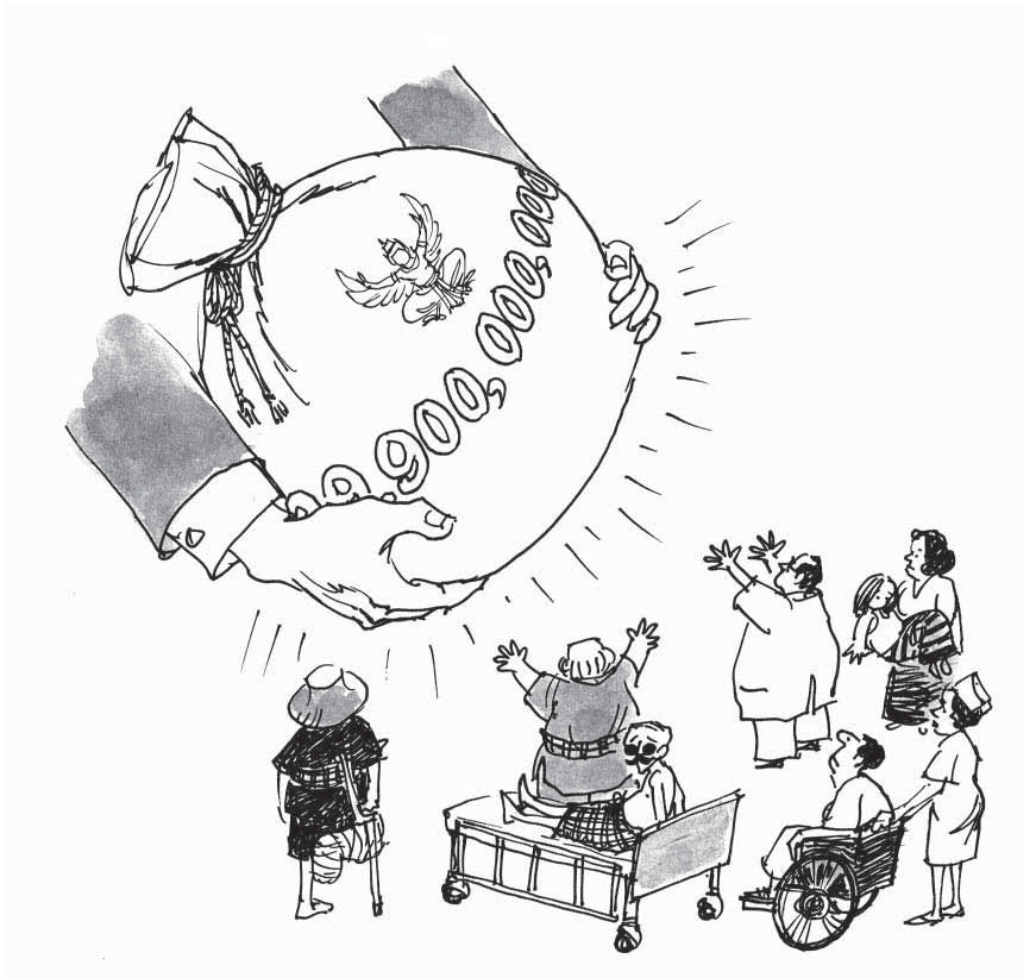
Khunathai co.,Ltd (Wanida Press),
Thailand



WHY HIA?

We all eventually suffer illnesses from some affliction or another. Although not all diseases are preventable, some are, especially those resulting from pollution and the deterioration of our environment. For several decades, the government promoted industrial and other economic development policies and projects with little consideration of their health and environmental impacts.





Every year, the government spends high expenditure on health due to the impacts from the implementation of state policies and projects. If we accounted for the health and environmental impacts of development policies and projects from the start, we could save our health spending, economic growth could still advance, but without harming people's health nor their quality of life

Many economic development projects bring about social injustice, increasing the wealth of a few, while the majority of others become worse-off.





MANY OF YOU MAY WONDER ...

If a new development or industrial project are under construction near your home, how will they affect your health and livelihoods? No one you can consult the potential consequences.

Moreover, once projects are up and running and communities begin to experience related health and environmental impacts, government and project owners often remain indifferent to community concerns. This leads to frustration, often generating public protests or more serious confrontations, which too, seldom leads to any efforts to remedy the problems.

CHAPTER

2

**WE HAVE
RIGHTS.
WE HAVE
SOLUTIONS.**

**THE CONSTITUTION OF
THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND
BE. 2550 (2007) STIPULATES
THAT:**

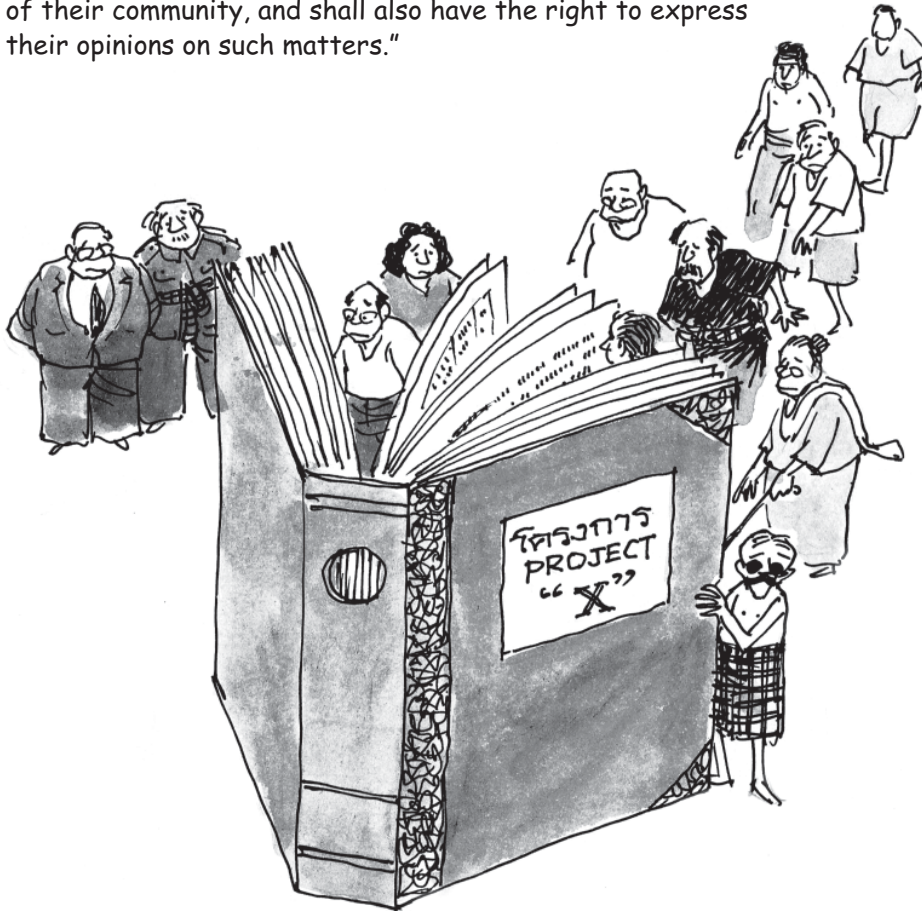
"Any project or activity which may seriously affect a community's environmental quality, its natural resources or its people's health, is prohibited unless these environmental and public health impacts are studied and evaluated and a public hearing process is undertaken to obtain the opinions of people and interested parties, including independent health and environmental organization, prior to the implementation of such a project or activity..."



ALSO, THE NATIONAL HEALTH ACT BE. 2550 (2007) STIPULATES THAT:

"An individual or group of people has the right to request for an assessment and participating in the assessment of health impact resulting from a public policy.

An individual or group of people shall have the right to acquire information and an explanation of the underlying rationale from state agencies prior to a permission or performance of a program or activity which may affect someone's health or that of their community, and shall also have the right to express their opinions on such matters."



CHAPTER

3

**WHAT
IS
HIA?**

การประเมินผลกระทบทาง



HIA

Health Impact Assessment

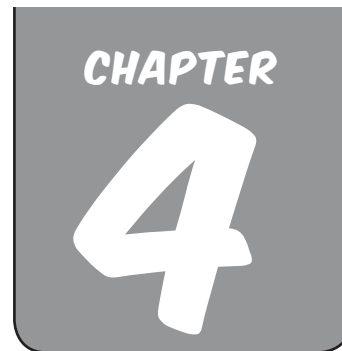


HIA STANDS FOR HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT.

HIA is a new tool that provides an opportunity to everyone, be they project owners, villagers fearing harm, researchers and other concerned parties, to take part in a process to study and evaluate possible health and environmental impacts of a project or activity, as well as to study methods to prevent such impacts so as to allow economic development to proceed hand in hand with public health protection.

HIA is not limited to improving policies and projects with negative health impacts. This tool is also recommended to help advance policies and projects which directly promote health and quality of life improvements. For example, HIA can help a public park project better accommodate the needs of different people by making sure paths and pavement are designed for jogging, running and biking, and suitable for young and old alike. HIA may also be used to identify measures to address air pollution in the park's neighborhood.

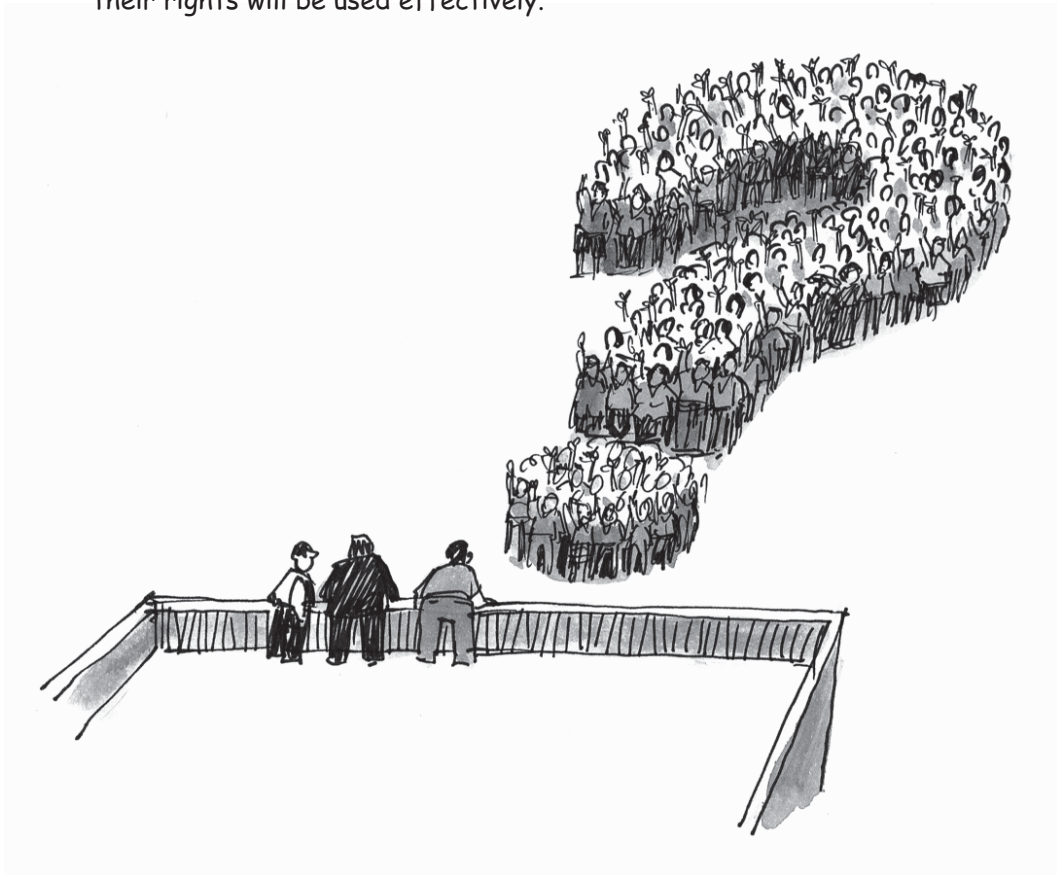




**HOW TO
CREATE
AN HIA
PARTICIPATORY
PROCESS?**

AN INITIATIVE STARTS AT ...

HIA must emanate from people's awareness of health problems that may result from development policies and projects. People must learn to ask the right questions and exercise their legal rights to request studies on health impacts and to actively participate in the assessment process. Together with seeking knowledge, their rights will be used effectively.





PROJECT OWNERS TOO MUST RECOGNIZE THAT...

Their projects may cause unanticipated health impact. They should take into consideration local concerns, and take steps to address possible impacts to the health and livelihoods of people living near their project site.

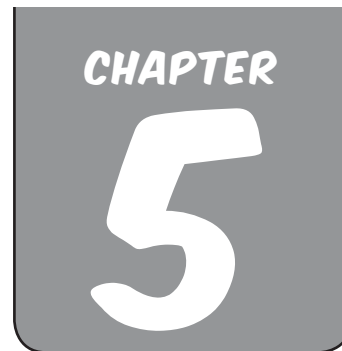
Government agencies must support individual and community rights to demand the preparation of health impact assessments, and must provide assistance throughout the process to ensure accurate information gathering to support the best possible decision making process.





AFTER THE COMPLETION OF HIA

Individuals and the community must take part in reviewing the studies to ensure that the decision making process is fair, and encompasses all concerns.



**WHEN
AND
FOR WHAT
CAN WE USE
HIA?**



As stipulated by the Constitution, whenever a new project or activity is proposed that may cause public health impacts, HIA should be implemented along with an environmental impact assessment (EIA).

After the completion of a project or activity where health impacts have occurred, people can request HIA for such a project or activity as stipulated by the National Health Act. Owners of the project or activity may have to undertake measures to eliminate the impact such as changing an industrial production technology. An example of this is the HIA conducted for the Mab Ta Put industrial zone development in Rayong Province that was undertaken with cooperation from local residents and the National Health Commission Office of Thailand.





NOT ONLY A PROJECT OR AN ACTIVITY...

Before and during implementation of government policies that may cause, or have already caused, health impacts, are also suitable times for an HIA to be triggered. For example, a policy to increase exports of agricultural products necessitating an increase in the use of dangerous chemicals could encourage farmers and consumers to request HIA as stipulated by the National Health Act.

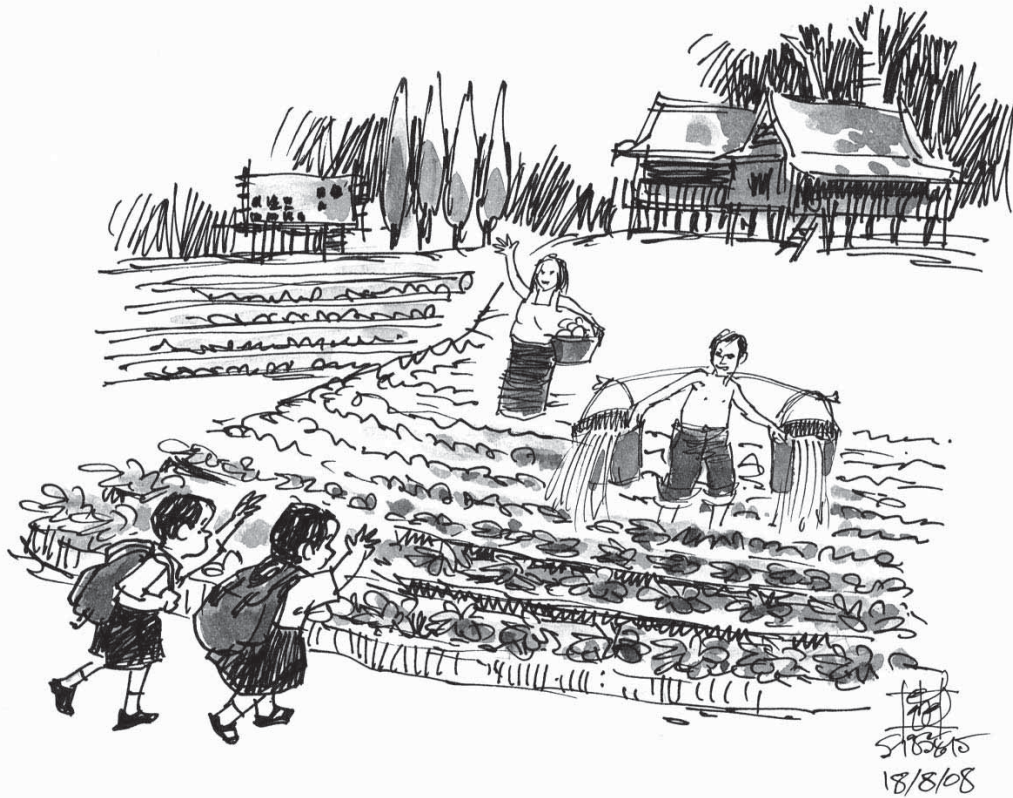
Local Administrative agencies, such as the municipalities, the sub-district administrative organizations and the provincial administrative organizations, can undertake HIA for their development policies, projects or activities to ensure there are no health impacts with local development.



CHAPTER

6

**FOR
A BETTER
CHOICE OF
HEALTH.**



GOOD HEALTH IS...

Everybody has the right to live a healthy life, both physically and mentally, and to live in a good and safe environment. This is achievable by fulfilling our own spirituality and gaining wisdom of the benefits of health protection.

**ANY INDIVIDUAL OR COMMUNITY WHICH
SUSPECTS HEALTH IMPACTS FROM
A DEVELOPMENT POLICY, PROJECT OR ACTIVITY,
AS WELL AS ANY LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE
ORGANIZATION WHICH WANTS TO USE OR
LEARN MORE ABOUT HIA CAN CONTACT:**

The National Health Commission Office (NHCO)
Tel +66-2590-2304

The Healthy Public Policy Foundation
Tel+66-2951-0616

The Sanitation and
Health Impact Assessment Division,
The Department of Health
Tel +66-2590-4190



Rights of the People Mitigation of Health Impacts



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