

Summary Record

Session: Drug System Challenge 1 (@ 10.45 – 12.00 hrs)

Rapporteur Team

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Summary

Key message:

- The cumulative growth rate of health expenditure is increasing mostly at low-income countries, not high-income countries
- Evidence is important for policy makers but the appraisal result is the most important to them to decision making as it is a clear outcome and what the policy makers should do
- Cost-effectiveness analysis plays important role to healthcare benefit and its threshold of each country is depended on the country budget (as it is 160,000 Baht in Thailand)
- Nonetheless, the price negotiation and bargaining can be key mechanism for policy makers to deal with the high-cost drugs
- Faster access may sometimes lead to faster failure or faster bad outcome
- To start international pharmaceutical company, it cannot be done without opening to receive new innovative knowledge which global & local networking and collaborations are very important to get these innovative knowledge
- The political and regulation changes of the pharmaceutical-research university are obstacles to the private local pharmaceutical companies for drug development

Major problems and issues discussed:

- The very high pharmaceutical expenditure currently comes from new technology and innovative drugs, for example, vaccines and biological products
- The insufficient budget and high pharmaceutical expenditure is an important problems of each country to address
- The vaccine R&D and manufacturing take long period of time and require government supports especially policy and budget
- There are concerns on the interchangeability between biosimiliars themselves

Suggested solutions:

- This year 2020 WHO will produce guidelines for country pharmaceutical pricing to help countries address high-cost medicines and high expenditure.
- To have sustainable drug system the government has to change policy and mindset, not to buy the cheap drugs only, but to support the local pharmaceutical industry and production even local products may be high prices.
- Public-private partnerships, efficient database, and broad view search not only paper search, all are the key for system sustainability.
- Regulatory system and authority have to be changed to reduce the risks of pharmaceutical R&D and to reduce the cost of local industry and increase sustainability.
- The concurrent consultation before drug approval is necessary to assist local manufacturers, not to say only yes or no.
- With the comprehensive measures, the country can lead its drug system to suitable direction for increasing patient access to medicines and budget saving