



Professional Licensing and Certification of Medical Physicists in Thailand

Napapong Pongnapang, Ph.D.
Representative/The Thai Medical Physicist Society

Faculty of Medical Technology
Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand

1

Thailand at Glance

- Independent Thai Kingdom was founded in 1238
- Thailand was known as Siam
- Total area = 513,115 km²
- Thailand population = 67,764,000 (2009)
- Capital = Bangkok (City Pop = 6,355,144 / Metro Pop = 11,971,000)
- Thailand ethnic content = 75% Thai, 14% Chinese, 3% Malay and Others
- Primary Language = Thai (with regional dialects)
- Major Religion = 94.7% Buddhist 4.6% Muslim 0.7% Others








2

History of Thai Medical Physics Profession

- Radiology services started in 1929
- 1968 – first medical physics school assisted by WHO Colombo fund was founded at Ramathibodi hospital
- 2001 – TMPS established





3

Medical physics practice in Thailand

- Entry level = M.Sc in medical physics or equivalent
- Position in MOPH = Medical radiation specialist (shares with technologist)
- No professional licensing or certification required at the moment
- Around 100+ MPs are now in Thai healthcare system




Category	Percentage
Diagnostic	80%
Therapy	10%
NM	10%
Academic	10%
Business/Vendor	10%

4

Education System for medical physicist in Thailand

- A 2 years degree course with Master of Sciences in Medical
- A 2 years Masters degree courses in related fields such as Radiological Sciences and Medical Imaging





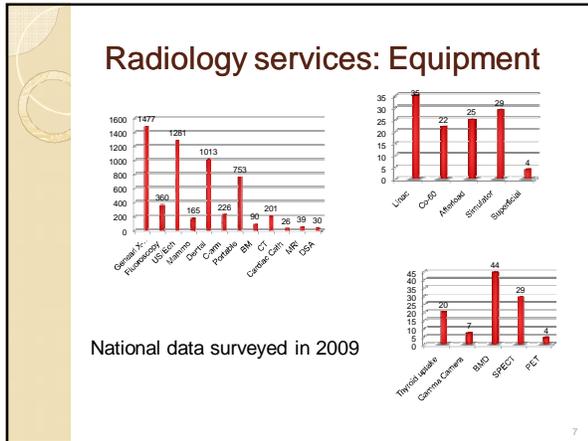



5

Thailand's healthcare system

- Total of 1278 hospitals in Thailand with around 70% are public hospital and 30% are private run
- Total number of bed is 130,000 for population of 67 million
 - Ministry of Public Health
 - University
 - Private
 - Others
 - Military
 - Thai Red Cross
 - Foundation
- Cancer centers = 20+
- Advanced equipments available
 - PET-CT
 - IGRT/IMRT
 - 3T MRI
 - 320 Slices CT
 - Plain film now 60+% digital

6



- ### List of Universities offering M.Sc. degree programs in medical physics/related fields
- Master degree in Medical Physics
 - Ramathibodi Hospital, Mahidol University (10-15 every other yr intake)
 - Chiang Mai University (5/yr)
 - Khon Kaen University (terminating process)
 - Master degree in Medical Imaging
 - Chulalongkorn University (5/yr)
 - Master degree in Radiological Sciences
 - Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University (5/yr – not all on MP track)

- ### Component Structures of Master Degree in Medical Physics Program
- No harmonized program structure available
 - All master programs are under the Ministry of Education standards
 - Most programs offer radiation therapy physics track
 - Some programs also offer diagnostic and nuclear medicine physics tracks

- ### National Licensing Exam
- Not yet available
 - All medical professional licenses must be under the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH)
 - Under the current 1999 A.D. medical professional practice Act
 - Thai MP society is now in a process of applying for professional licensing with the MOPH

- ### Application process for MP licensing
- MP society officially requests the MOPH to pass the Royal Decree stipulating medical physics as a medical profession under the 1999 A.D. medical professional practice Act
 - After the Royal Decree becomes effective, the MP professional committee will be formed under the MOPH

- ### Roles of MP Professional Committee
- Oversee the overall aspects of MP profession in Thailand
 - Licensing
 - Ethical issues
 - Standard code of practice
 - Accreditation of MP programs
-

Structure of MP professional committee

- Representative from the MOPH
- Representative from the Thai medical physicist society
- Representatives from each accredited medical physics program
- Elected members from those who hold MP professional license

13

Timeframe

- 2009 – official application to MOPH
- 2010 – official request to the Government Civil Servant Office to officially recognize medical physics profession in the Government system
- 2010 – MOPH officially recognizes MP as medical profession (expected)
- 2011 – Legislation available
- 2012 – MP professional committee to be formed

14

Certification for Thai MP

- In parallel to the application for licensing, the the MP society has been working on the certification issue with assistance from the IAEA
- ROMP was started in 2007 (12 residents)
- DRMP starts in 2010 (7 residents)
- NMMP will start soon
- Higher Grad Diploma program (Medical physics residency will start

15

Future

- The MP professional committee at MOPH to be formed - licensing
- The TMPS provides certification
- Medical physics profession officially recognized by the Government
- Internationally benchmarked quality medical physics profession in Thailand

16

Thank you



17