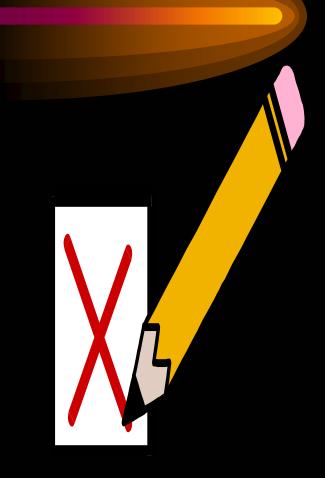
Health Impact Assessment and The Improvement of Economic Assessment: Reflections and An Initial Proposal from Recent Experiences in Thailand

> Decharut Sukkumnoed Suphakij Nuntaworakarn Nuntana Sabrum Health Systems Research Institute, Thailand

Main Advantage of Economic Assessment, Especially Cost-Benefit Analysis

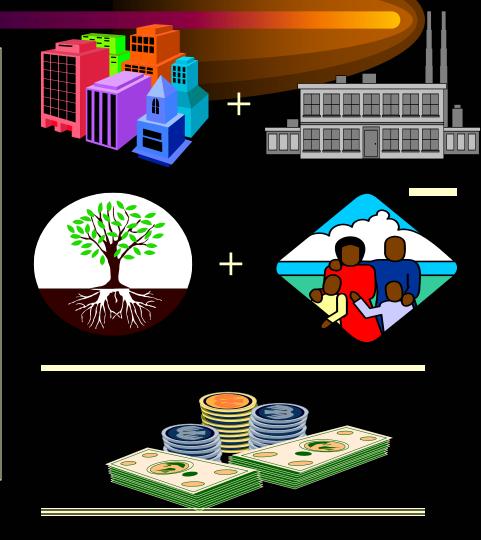
Ability to Express

- In Aggregate term: in Societal level
- In Only Two Dichotomy: Costs and Benefits
- In Only Single Value: in monetary terms
- At only One Point of Time:
 by discounting future into present value

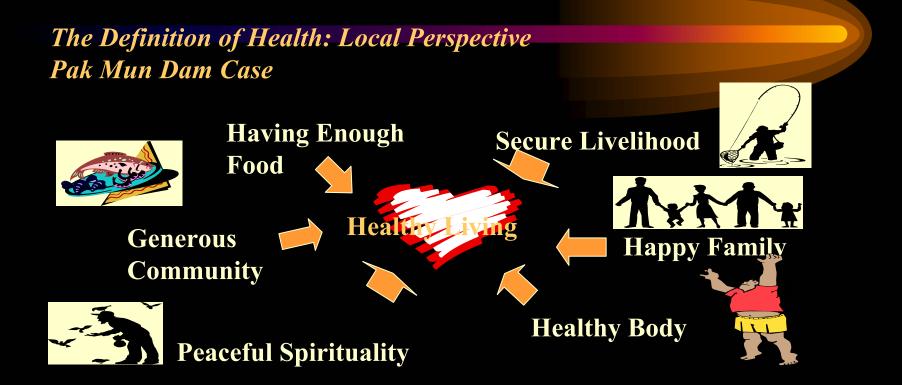


The Assumptions of Conventional Economic Assessment

- Aggregation of Individuals' Preferences
- Commensurability of Different Societal Values
- Compatibility of Different Societal Values
- Allocational Efficiency
 within the Society
- Fixed Individual Preferences



Learning From Health Impacts (1)



Complex Relationship and Incompatibility of Health Determinants

Learning From Health Impacts (2)



Irreversible health impacts limit the ability of people to fulfil their aspiration and reach their potential

HIA has to consider this irreversibility much more carefully

Long-term and Irreversibility of Health Impacts

Learning From Health Impacts (3)



•Unequal Distribution of Impacts links to Power Inequality

•No Allocational Efficiency within Power Inequality Contexts

Differentiation and Unequal Distribution of Health Impacts

Learning From Health Impacts (4)



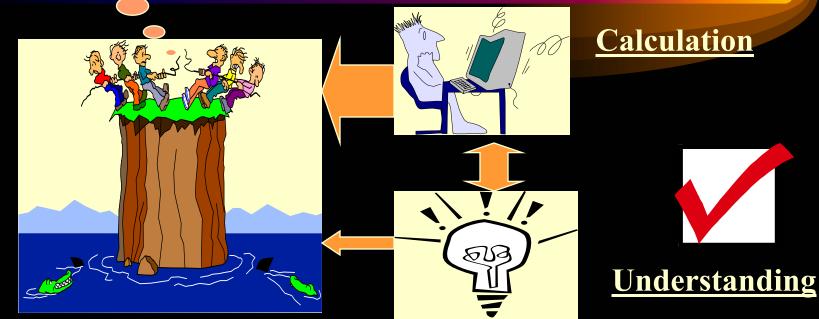
Physical Health VS Spiritual Health

Tight Perspective VS Broad Perspective (Ecosystem Health)

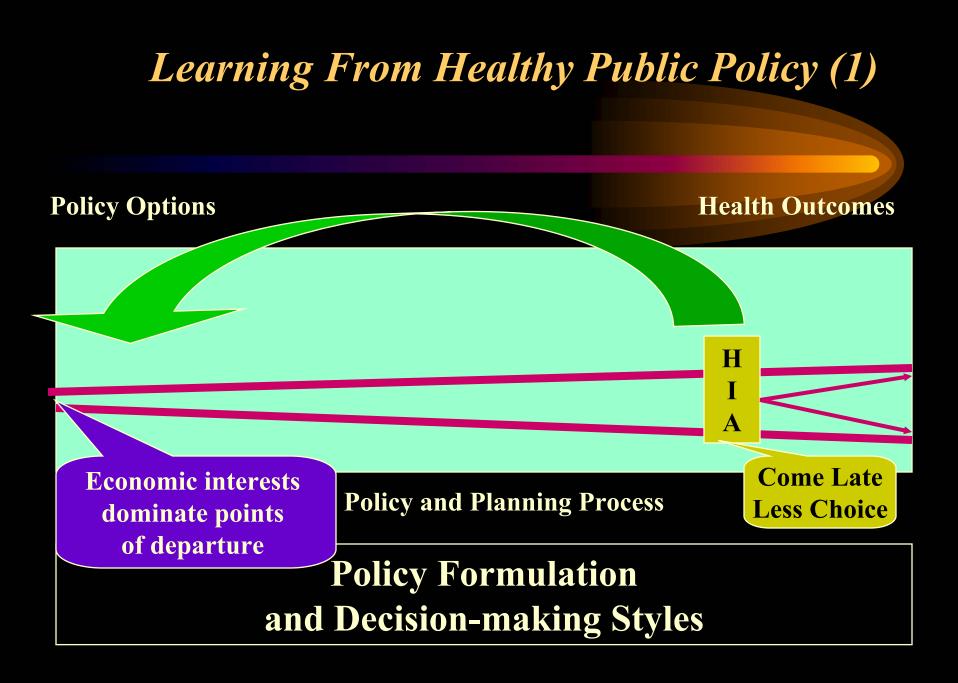
Incompatibility and Incommensurability of Different Values on Health



Learning From Health Impacts (5)



Health Impacts and Uncertainties



Learning From Healthy Public Policy (2)



Biomass Power Plant Case

Sustainable Agriculture Case

Significant Roles of Societal Values on Health

Learning From Healthy Public Policy (3)





Wealth-based Approach

Rights-based Approach

Tension and Conflicts Between Two Decision-making Principles

Reflective Thinking on HIA and Economic Assessment

| HIA for HPP | Economic Assessment | |
|----------------------------------|--|--|
| Incompatability and | All societal values can be | |
| Incommensurability of Values | converted to money through WTP | |
| Promoting societal values on | Assuming fixed societal values for | |
| health within decision-making | WTP calculation | |
| Unequal distribution of impacts | Aggregation analysis with the | |
| and the need for disaggregation | assumed allocational efficiency | |
| Implicitly, support rights-based | Philosophically, based on the | |
| approach of decision-making | wealth-based approach | |
| Raising awareness of long-term | Discounting future into present | |
| and irreversible health impacts | monetary value | |
| Understanding and coping with | Focus more on cost calculation | |
| uncertainties of health impacts | than undestanding and coping | |

Reflective Thinking on HIA and Economic Assessment

| HI | A for HPP | <mark>Zco</mark> | onomic Assessment | |
|--|----------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Incompatability and cietal values can be | | | | |
| Incommensu | · | न् | to money through WTP | |
| Promoting set | Questions abo | <u>out</u> | fixed societal values for | |
| health withir | - Societal Values | | ulation | |
| Unequal dist | | | on analysis with the | |
| and the need | - Social Justice | | llocational efficiency | |
| Implicitly, su | | | ically, based on the | |
| approach of | | | sed approach | |
| Raising awareness of long-term present ing future into present | | | | |
| and irreversible health impacts monetary value | | | | |
| Understanding and coping with | | Focus more on cost calculation | | |
| uncertainties of health impacts | | than undestanding and coping | | |

Future Challenges and An Initial Proposal

- Opening and Understanding Values Discussion
- Disaggregation analysis
- Assertion and Development of Rights-based Approach of Decision-making
- Communicative, Argumentative, and Deliberative Learning Process
- Alternative Points of Departure
- Different Focuses for Different Levels
 - Strategic Policy Direction, Regulation, Project Levels