

## 41<sup>st</sup> ASSA Recognition Award 2024

<b>CATEGORY</b>	Innovation Recognition Award
<b>ORGANISATION</b>	National Health Security Office, Thailand
<b>CONTACT PERSON</b>	<p><b>Ms.Chalarntorn Yothasmutra,</b> Director, International Collaboration on UHC Division E-mail: Chalarntorn.y@nhso.go.th</p> <p><b>Ms.Atcharaporn Thammachot,</b> Specialist, International Collaboration on UHC Division E-mail: atcharaporn.t@nhso.go.th</p>
<b>NAME OF PROJECT</b>	Driving Excellence: How Thai Medical Innovations are Transforming Universal Health Coverage in Thailand
<b>OBJECTIVE AND NATURE OF PROJECT</b>	The initiative aims to enhance Thailand's Universal Health Coverage (UHC) by integrating locally developed medical innovations. It seeks to support Thai researchers and innovators by incorporating their products into the Universal Coverage Scheme (UCS)—a public health scheme that covers the entire population—thereby reducing dependency on imported medical supplies, promoting self-reliance, and fostering sustainable healthcare practices. By highlighting successful Thai innovations, it demonstrates the potential of local solutions to address healthcare needs while contributing to economic development and positioning Thailand as a competitive player in the global medical device market.
<b>WHY IT SHOULD BE RECOGNISED</b>	The initiative should be recognized for its transformative impact on Thailand's healthcare system. By integrating Thai-developed medical devices into the UCS, it addresses rising healthcare costs, improves the quality of care, and reduces dependency on imports. The successful incorporation of seven Thai innovations, such as 3D-printed titanium plates and dental implants, showcases the significant contributions of local research and development to public health and economic sustainability. Recognizing this effort underscores the value of supporting homegrown innovations and highlights Thailand's commitment to advancing healthcare access and economic growth.
<b>SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT</b>	Thailand achieved Universal Health Coverage (UHC) with the enactment of the Universal Coverage Act in 2002, which led to the establishment of the Universal Coverage Scheme (UCS) that now provides essential care to 72% of the population. Faced with rising healthcare costs, especially from non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and an aged population. National Health Security Office (NHSO) Thailand has prioritized integrating Thai-developed

	<p>medical innovations into the UCS to manage expenses and enhance self-reliance.</p> <p>The initiative involves incorporating seven Thai-developed medical innovations into the UCS, including 3D-printed titanium plates for skull surgery, dental implants, colostomy bags, OV antigen rapid test kits, microalbuminuria rapid tests, sPace dynamic prosthetic feet, and pertussis vaccines. These innovations, developed by local researchers and supported by institutions such as the Dental Innovation Foundation and Prince of Songkla University, demonstrate Thailand's capability in advancing medical technology while reducing costs and promoting economic growth.</p> <p>By highlighting these innovations, NHSO aims to inspire further research and development, support local manufacturers, and bolster Thailand's position in the global medical device market. This effort illustrates how local innovations can drive progress in healthcare systems, reduce public health expenditure, and contribute to a more sustainable and prosperous future for Thailand.</p>
--	--