

EDITORIAL

Greeting to all valuable members of the Thai Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. This issue is the third issue of this year (July-September 2010). September is the end of the national financial year. Government organizations have to work hard during this period. Many government personnels will retire at mandatory 60 years of age. Others will choose early retirement. Many changes will occur during this period every year.

September 2010 is different from the others. This September is the 100 years anniversary of the first Thai National Consensus that started in 1910 during the reign of King Rama V. The population consensus must be done in every countries in the world every 10 years for the accuracy of the world population data. Currently, the official data of the Thai National Consensus is being collected. The latest government data of Thai population revealed 64 million people and the world population was 6.4 billion. There were only 8 millions in the first Thai National Consensus. This year is the 40th year of the Thai National Family planning program which was implement the third Thai national economic and social development plan. There was 34 million people when this plan started with the annual population growth rate was 3.2 percent. The first 20 years of Thai National Family planning program was fully supported by the international funding agencies. During that period, the achievement was beyond target. After that Thai government has planned to be the fifth new industrialized countries of Asia, the funding was reduced from both international bodies and Thai government. Population growth rate was more than the target annually.

The number of annually delivery in Thailand was declined from about 1 million to 5-6 hundred thousands per year due to economic crisis (Tom yam kung) in 1990. Although Thai economic has been recovered from the crisis, the annual delivery in Thailand is still about 7 hundred thousands. The annual death rate in Thailand is about 4 hundred thousand cases. At this moment, Thai population growth rate is about 0.5 percent annually.

All of the mention above is quantitative analysis of the impact of family planning and population growth in Thailand. Quantitative view shows successful control of population growth rate in Thailand similar to industrialized countries. However, the recent qualitative data shows so many more problems. There were 80,000-90,000 cases per year in teenage pregnancy. The divorce number was 30-40 percent in the register couples.

Unsafe abortion and unplanned pregnancy remain the major problems in this country. Twenty-four maternal death resulted from unsafe abortion in 2009. Ten percent of the Thai childhood lived with single mother. The average Intelligence Quotient (IQ) of the Thai children is 90 (normal 90-110). The Nongovernment organization reported that 3 million Thai childhood were not in school. Sixty percent of Thai worker's age between 25-46 years old did not complete primary school, which were worse than other country in Asia. The quality of the Thai people is not good although the ninth Thai national economic and social development plan had focus on the human quality. Obstetricians who take care the pregnant women have important role to safe both the infants and the mothers. Appropriate antenatal care with adequate nutrition including iron, vitamin and iodine induces intrauterine fetal development. Safe deliveries, exclusive breast feeding, full vaccination, adequate nutrition and care, support and potentiated development and education are important step to develop children to be the valuable for Thailand.

Associate Professor Yuthapong Werawattakul
Editorial Board