

# **Success and challenges of Public-Private Mix DOTS initiatives in Myanmar: A process evaluation**

Saw Saw, Thida

Myanmar Health Research Congress, 2009, P.43

Best paper award

## **Abstract**

The study was conducted in three townships in which Public-Private Mix DOTS (PPM-DOTS) was implemented by three partners—Myanmar Medical Association (MMA), Population Services International (PSI) and Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA). It aimed to describe the process of implementing PPM-DOTS by the partners and to elicit their opinions on PPM-DOTS in order to take necessary actions. This study was a process evaluation which included desk review, opinion survey, in-depth interviews, key informant interviews and participation and observation of advocacy meeting and training on PPM-DOTS. Initiations of PPM-DOTS by each partner were different although all coordinate with National Tuberculosis Programme (NTP). More than half (54.3%) general practitioners (GPs) had moderate level and (34.3%) GP had very high recognition and acceptance of the need for partnership. For development of clarity and realism of purpose for partnership, (54.3%) have high score. Most GPs convinced that their previous practices were not in line with NTP guidelines. Majority pointed out that proper advocacy for PPM-DOTS was crucial for success of future activities. Most respondents were aware many GPs needed to be involved especially GPs who were very good general practice known as “GP kings”. Almost all respondents highlighted that if there are fewer burdens for paperwork, more GPs would get involved in PPM-DOTS. Majority mentioned existing good personal relationship as success factor for PPM-DOTS. They also expressed trust building could be obtained by sharing information through regular contacts among each others. Based on the research findings, coordination mechanism among the partners in two pilot townships is initiated.