



CHAPTER 3 BACKGROUND OF KHON KAEN HOSPITAL

Introduction to Khon Kaen Province

Khon Kaen lies in the geographical heart of Thailand's sprawling northeast plateau, the area known among Thais as I-San. Khon Kaen city was established in 1783 and recently has a major developed to be the city and university city of the region. The provincial capital is 449 kilometers from Bangkok. The province covers an area of 10,886 square kilometers with a population of 1,780,483 (at 1996). The population density is 123 per square kilometer. The majority of land is dormant and unsuitable for agricultural due to insufficient rainfalls (800-1,200 mm./yr.) and also inadequate irrigation. However, agriculture is the major source of income. Kasawa sugar cane and rice are the major cash crops. In the recent years varieties of industry have been introduced into the region, thus improving its economic condition. Despite all the effort, the living standard and quality of live of the people are relatively poor. The annually per capita income in 1996 was about 29,989 baht. The province consists of 25 districts, 198 sub-districts and 1,993 villages.

As a major city of the north I-San region, many health institutions are located in Khon Kaen such as Srinakarin Hospital, Khon Kaen Regional Hospital, Psychiatric Hospital, Maternal and Child Hospital, including three big scale private hospitals. Various kinds of health resources both in public and private sectors are shown in table 3.1

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Table 3.1 Health institution in Khon Kaen Province, the fiscal year 1996

Institutions	Number
1. belonging to Ministry of Public Health	
- provincial health office	1
- Khon Kaen Regional Hospital (638 beds)	1
- community hospital (10-90 beds)	19
- Health center	230
- other	17
2. belonging to other Ministries	
- University Hospital (781 beds)	1
- Military Hospital (30 beds)	1
- Municipal Health center	4
3. Private Health sector	
- Private Hospital (10-200 beds)	8
- Private Medical Clinic, Dental Clinic and other	486

source : Provincial Health Office annual report 1996

Introduction to Khon Kaen Regional Hospital

Khon Kaen Hospital was first operated in 1951 with only two physicians, three nurses and the facilities for 25 beds. It has since expanded the capacity in serving Khon Kaen population and neighboring provinces with 638 beds at present. There are 1,386 personnel including 80 doctors, 10 dentists, 19 pharmacists, 237 registered nurses, 219 technical nurses, 146 other government officials, 420 permanent employees and 255 temporary employees. The hospital consists of 29 departments. Each department is directly under the authority of 3 deputy directors and the director of the hospital, as shown in figure 3.1.

The hospital offers ordinary and much specialized health care to the people in this region. It serves as a referral and supporting center for community hospital and

neighboring general hospitals. It participates in many teaching, training and research programs.

As mentioned earlier that Khon Kaen Hospital is a public hospital, which is different from private hospitals. At the present, it can only be inferred from the guideline of the Ministry of Public Health that public hospitals try to provide the medical care services to all people and cooperate with other health organizations in order to improve the population's healthiness.

In each year, the government allocates budget to all public hospitals in accordance with their capacities and the previous year's budget. However, the director of the hospital can employ his decision making in improving the hospital capacity although the government has limited budget. Normally public hospital half earns itself from the income collect from service charge.

Khon Kaen Hospital received about 202 million baht from the Ministry of Public Health budget and 168 million baht from hospital earning in the fiscal year 1996, however its expenditure is more than revenue as shown in table 3.2.

Table 3.2 Revenue and expenditure of Khon Kaen Hospital in the fiscal year 1996

	revenue (baht)	expenditure (baht)
Budget from Ministry of Public Health	202,753,500	202,753,500
Hospital earning	168,706,710	182,634,705

source : Annual report 1996 of Khon Kaen Hospital

Unfortunately, the prescribed medical service charge for out-patients and in-patients are not available. It is impossible to break down the total payment into specific service units such as out patient service of medical department, surgical department, ward of medicine for male patients, and so on. As a rule, the hospital charges 15% mark up on medicine and charges not more than standard price on paramedical diagnosis price. This is the convenient way to calculate the price but its advantage vis-a-vis disadvantage needs to be investigated.

Figure 3.1 Organization Structure of Khon Kaen Hospital

