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To Whom It May Concern:

The Office of the Public Sector Development Commission (OPDC) is a central government agency of the Royal Thai Government which is directly responsible for fostering public sector reform through participatory process with other relevant central and line agencies. The key objectives focus on “Good Governance for Sustainable and Better Life” that are integral to government transformation to gain a credibility and trust from the citizens. Each year OPDC highlights public agencies that provide high quality public services to be declared as embodying best practices. In 2021, Bureau of Dental Health, Department of Health was a recipient of the Public Service Award, which is the highest national award available in recognition of outstanding public sector development.

Recent years have witnessed an increasing number of obesities from 34.7% in 2008 to 37.5% in 2014, and those who were at risk against Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) are the beginning of unhealthy, decreased productivity, appearance concern, low immunity and are at risk of having severe symptoms when infected with the coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19). A response to these imperfections is the development of the Sugar-Sweetened Beverages (SSBs) tax for good health and well-being of Thai people by collaborative efforts of various organizations. The initiative is a procedural innovation which can practically reduce risk factors for the NCDs, the National Reform Steering Assembly of Thailand voted on taxing sugary beverages beyond the health threshold. It is also a policy innovation led by the Bureau of Dental Health, Department of Health, and network partners that have continuously driven SSBs tax in Thailand since 2009 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Health Assembly that endorsed the resolution of overweight and obesity management. There has been a change in the excise tax rate under the new Excise Tax Act effected from September 16, 2017. The tax rate is based on the value and sugar content of non-alcoholic beverages.

With this in mind, I wish to nominate the Bureau of Dental Health for the UN Public Service Awards 2022. The “establishment of SSBs tax for good health and well-being of Thai people” is worthy of being awarded because it offers an effective and suitable means in addressing challenges of obesity and NCDs by strengthening policy-driven process of health promotion through multi-sector collaboration. The initiative can make a contribution to SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. In the case where you might require any further information or questions thereon, please do not hesitate to let us know. Your kind cooperation in taking into consideration of the work of the nominee agency would be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

(Ms. Onfa Vejjajiva)  
Secretary-General