

- | [Mobile](#)
- | [Gadget](#)
- | [Game](#)

[Tech](#) > Computer

## Digital and holistic health

### Cancer care combines conventional medicine, herbal therapy and new technology,

- | Published: [14/07/2010](#) at 12:00 AM
- | Newspaper section: [Database](#)

[Tweet](#)

As one of Thailand's last remaining free cancer treatment centres, the Arokhayasarn building in Wat Khampramong, situated in Sakon Nakhon's Phanna Nikhom district, has offered palliative care to almost 2,000 patients to date, combining alternative therapy, Chinese traditional medicine and modern Western care.



The program links with X-ray images from referring hospitals or patients.

This new approach is led by Pra Ajarn Paponpat Jiradhammo, who has introduced a traditional herbal therapy which has significantly improved outcomes.

Pra Ajarn Paponpat tailored the therapy during his own cancer experience, when he suffered from nasopharynx (upper throat) cancer in 1996. He combined both conventional medicine and herbal medicine plus engaged in meditation therapy and successfully overcame the disease.

However, the holistic side of this approach requires analysis and statistical proof of its success rate in order for the Arokhayasarn building to achieve its ambition to develop a School of Holistic Health Cancer Care.

Arokhayasarn's task of managing huge amounts of patient data should be eased by digitising the information and enabling Pra Ajarn Paponpat to order prescriptions and adjust doses from anywhere at any time as patients' symptoms change.

A customised system will be developed and donated by Thai healthcare software company WorldMedic as a corporate responsibility project.

Isaraphong Grangkraw, Managing Director of WorldMedic, told Database that the company will deliver the Smart-Clinic Sky software to Pra Ajarn Paponpat next month.

The software allows Pra Ajarn Paponpat to see the statuses of overall patients, or details of individual patients in terms of general information, age, gender, illness history, daily care records, and so on.

Isaraphong continued that the program can also show details of physical examinations and display the cancer at its precise location in the body, including the stage of its development and its diagnostics.



The SmartClinic Sky program, designed for Arokhayasarn to run on mobile devices, simulates which parts of a patient's body has cancer, such as in this picture which concerns breast cancer.

The system also supports X-ray data from referring hospitals or from patients and can be integrated with VDO conference technology.

He explained: "The VDO technology allows for teleconsulting with doctors and specialists, who can discuss cases and share data."

"Furthermore, Pra Ajarn Paponpat's web-based program enables mobile access to patient records when outside the temple, and can allow him to adjust prescriptions to fit with each patient's symptoms."

"For now, when Pra Ajarn Paponpat is away from the temple, he must rely on telephone consulting if there is a change in a patient's symptoms."

Isaraphong added that the temple is also open for external volunteers to help patients. Such volunteers working temporarily in the temple can record data more systematically by using barcode technology to access and verify patient data.

"A voluntary nurse can visit patients in their homes around the area and input their data to the system via the Wi-Fi network and access the local server at the temple," Isaraphong noted.

He also plans to build a Facebook-style social networking page for the temple, allowing patients' relatives to greet and "visit" their loved ones online.

"We see that more and more young people are getting cancer, so the disease may not be related [only] to genetics anymore. It could be related to environmental factors and eating habits," added Isaraphong.

"The young generation can encourage the use of social networking tools to connect with their friends and family."

He said that electronic medical records also help to gather knowledge about cancer treatments and their success rates based on facts and statistics.

"Pra Ajarn Paponpat told me that his holistic care approach has an estimated first-year survival rate of around 12 percent after patients enter the program when already in the 'final stage' of their cancer.

"In the second year, [he says] the survival rate increases to 35 percent, but these details do not yet have scientific proof."

Patient conditions and various combinations of conventional medicine, meditation therapy, adjusting eating habits, and holistic therapy will be analysed systematically to support Arokhayasan's goal to become an official research institute.

Isaraphong added: "This approach will also help replicate the methodology in other provinces and reduce the workload at Wat Khampramong, which provides the care free of charge treatment, relying on donations only."

Medical students from various institutions such as Chulalongkorn University, Mahidol University, Ramathibodi Hospital and Siriraj Hospital visit the temple from time to time so they too will learn from the new system.

Furthermore, by replicating the service in other provinces, this will reduce workload and increase ease of travel for patients, as they will be able to attend closer to their homes.

Apart from this corporate responsibility project, WorldMedic is also leveraging cloud computing technology to expand its footprint to the global market by offering a software as a service model.

This will enable customers to download the software via the company's website at <http://www.worldmedicsoft.com/>.

This is presently still under construction but the plan is to allow customers to pre-test the product for free, after which full use will be charged on a monthly subscription basis.

The company has already exported its software to the United States, Singapore, India, Hong Kong and Malaysia over the past two years, which has accounted for 15 percent of overall revenue.

Isaraphong said: "The Software as a Service model will help us distribute our software widely at a lower cost.

"It will be easy to maintain and for us to solve customer problems without travelling to the customer's site.

"In the healthcare industry, the trend is moving into specialised medical care centres and clinics, bringing new entrepreneurs and a new market for software providers.

"Ultimately, the use of this technology will help businesses connect to partners, increasing efficiency and linking with agents from other countries, boosting medical tourism and confirming Thailand's position as medical hub."

### **Did you know?**

You can subscribe to free e-newsletters and receive e-mail alerts when other people leave comments in articles after you did. [Click here](#) to take full advantage of the alerts!

### **About the author**



Writer: [Suchit Leesa-nguansuk](#)  
Position: Reporter