



## **21<sup>st</sup> IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion 25 – 29 August 2013, Pattaya, Thailand**

### **Meet the Authors: Session report**

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**Names of the authors of the book present at the session:** Prof. Pranee Liamputtong

**Title of the book:** Health, illness, and well-being: Perspectives and social determinants

The concept of the book was discussed. That is, this book introduces a range of topics related to health and well-being within a conceptual framework of determinants of health. One important concept discussed in this activity is that health is socially constructed. Living in different social and cultural settings can contribute different meanings to health, value of health, health beliefs which influence health behaviours resulting in health status and well-being. Participants from different countries introduced examples of this that were discussed during the session. Indonesian women's beliefs, for example, are grounded in religion which can result in different health seeking behaviours. In other words, some health situations are interpreted as God's will and there is no need to seek health care. Another example was that belief in karma of Thai people has resulted in the belief of some HIV positive individuals that the cause of acquiring HIV infection are the consequences of the bad things that they have done in the past.

The group also discussed the issue of what we can do to provide good and effective care to clients as health professionals if health is also a social determinant. The ideas from the discussion included understanding the clients from their social world by listening to their voices, the use of qualitative research as an evidence based-practice, and valuing and accepting the different experiences, and beliefs of individuals.