

Consumer and Patient Participation in Influencing Drug Policies in China

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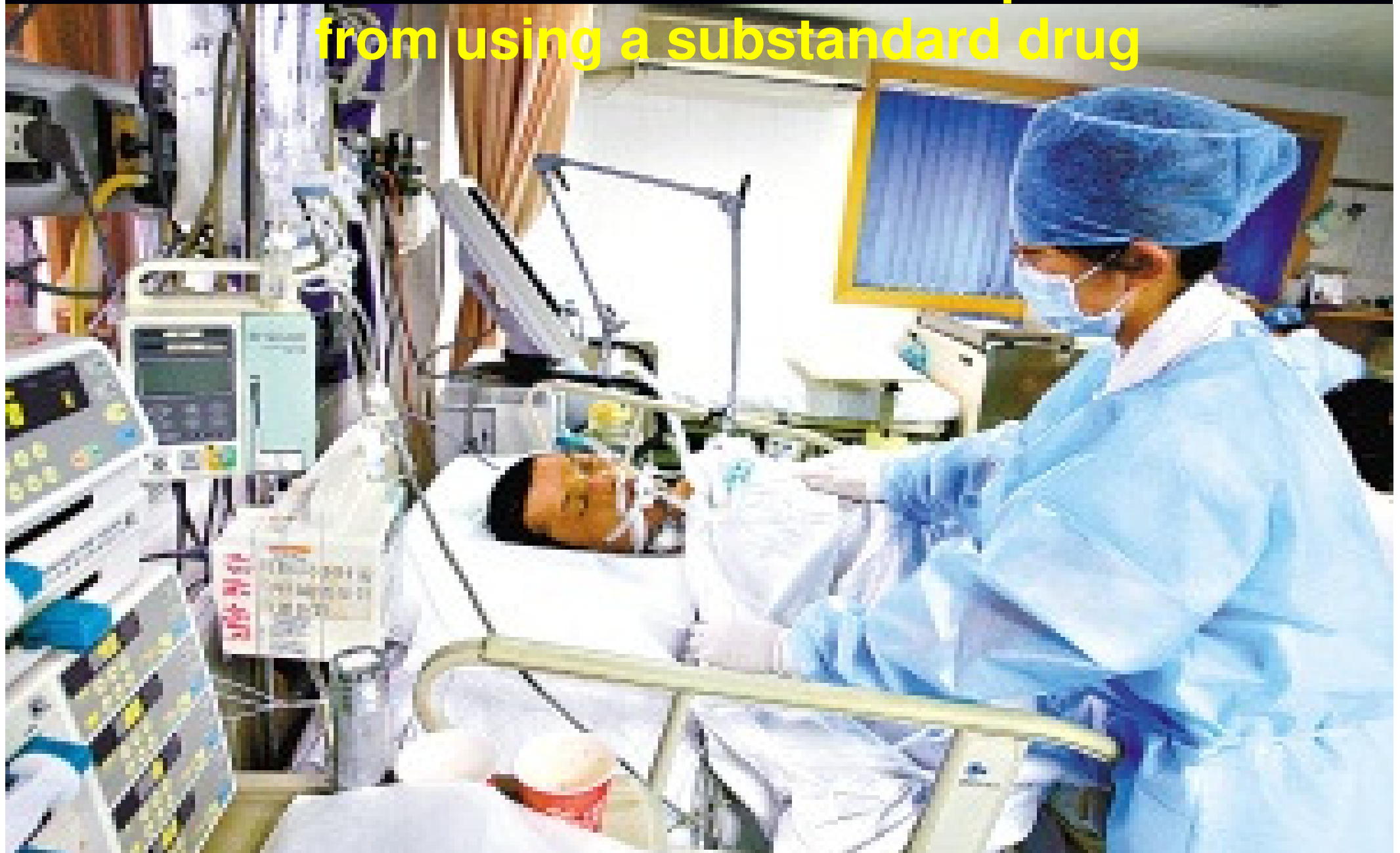
Outline

- **Failure of both the business (professionals) and the government in solving drug problems**
 - **Substandard Drugs**
 - **Irrational use of Drugs**
- **Potentials of NGOs in influencing medicine policies in China**
 - **Future directions for medicine policies**
 - **Development of NGOs in China**
 - **The subject man culture in China**

What has happened to this baby?



**June 2006, this patient was treated for gastritis but ended with a kidney-liver transplantation!
Or he would have been the 12th patient died from using a substandard drug**



Armillarisin A Injection was the killer that had caused his organ failures and 11 other patients' death in June 2006



Fake chemicals were used to produce this killer drug!

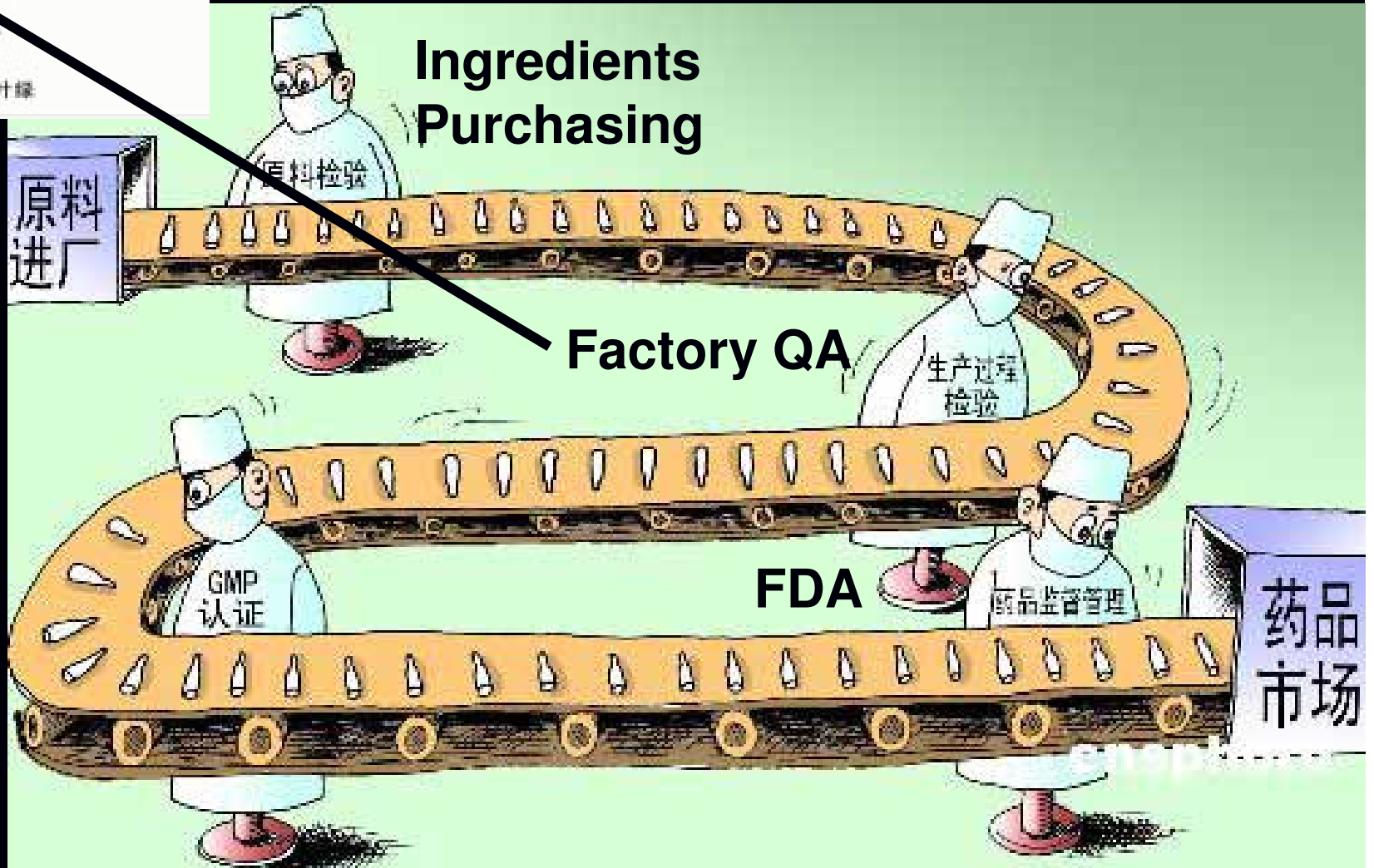
- The drug contained diglycol, which damages the kidneys, nervous system and liver
- One ton of diglycol (7000yuan/ton) was sold to the Manufacturing Company in November 2005 as propylene glycol (14500yuan/ton), an auxiliary material for the drug
- The chemical supplier fabricated all the necessary documents, including the name of producer of the material, the business license, the chemical registration certificate, the chemical production permit, the goods inspection statement and quality assurance label!

All quality assurance points failed!



漫画/叶缘

Someone with only Junior High School Education



Ingredients Purchasing

Factory QA

FDA

药品市场

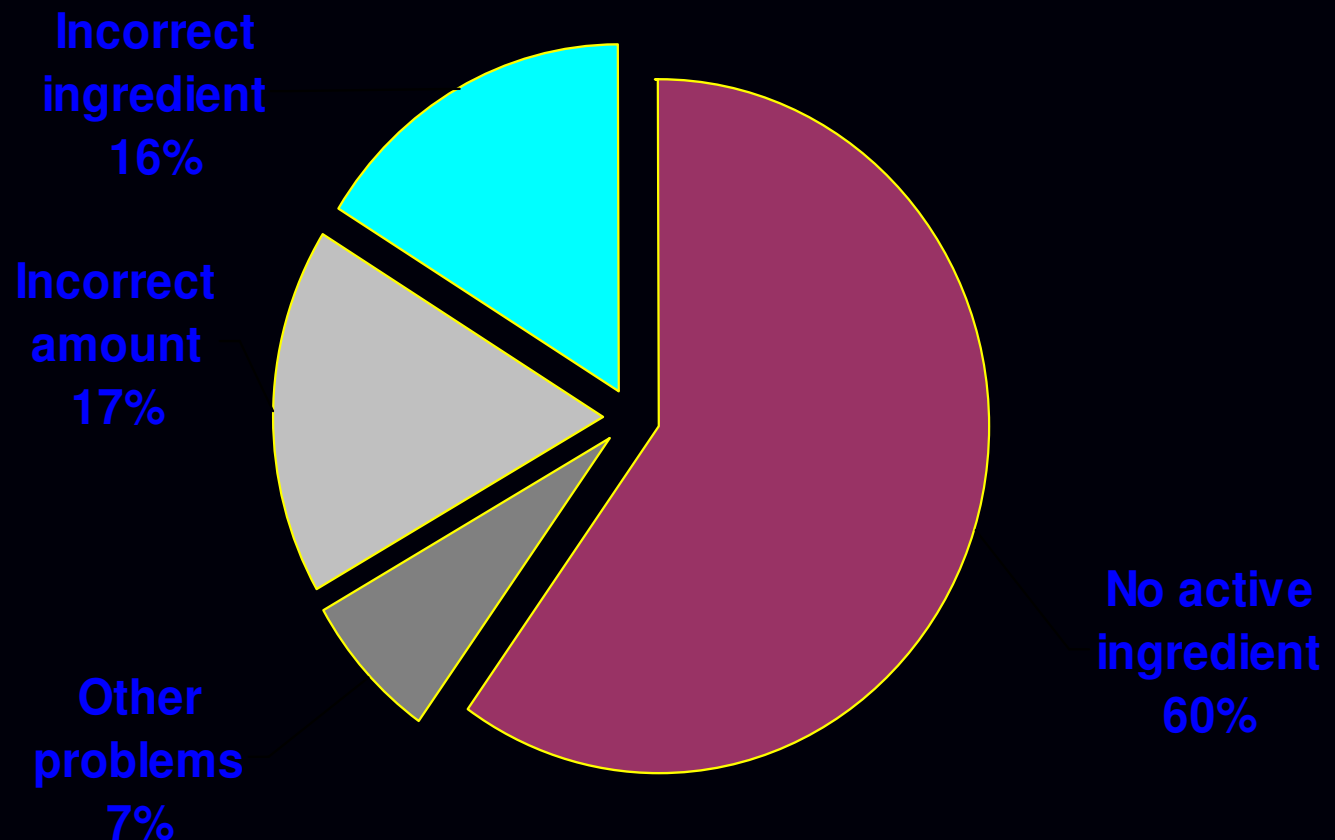
Issue: inadequate government policy making capacity

- Over simplification of problem solving solutions
- Information filtration and lost resulting in oversight of many problems by the policy makers
- Inadequate design of the policies, for example, integrated policy goals, performance indicators, and performance evaluation system
- Restricted decision making capacity resulting in slow response to problems associated with the new policy

Substandard drugs are common – over half are antibiotics and other anti-infectives

- Between 1998 & 2003, 480,000 cases of fake and substandard drugs manufacturing and selling were charged, altogether valued at 216b yuan

Percent
breakdown –
325 cases of
substandard
drugs



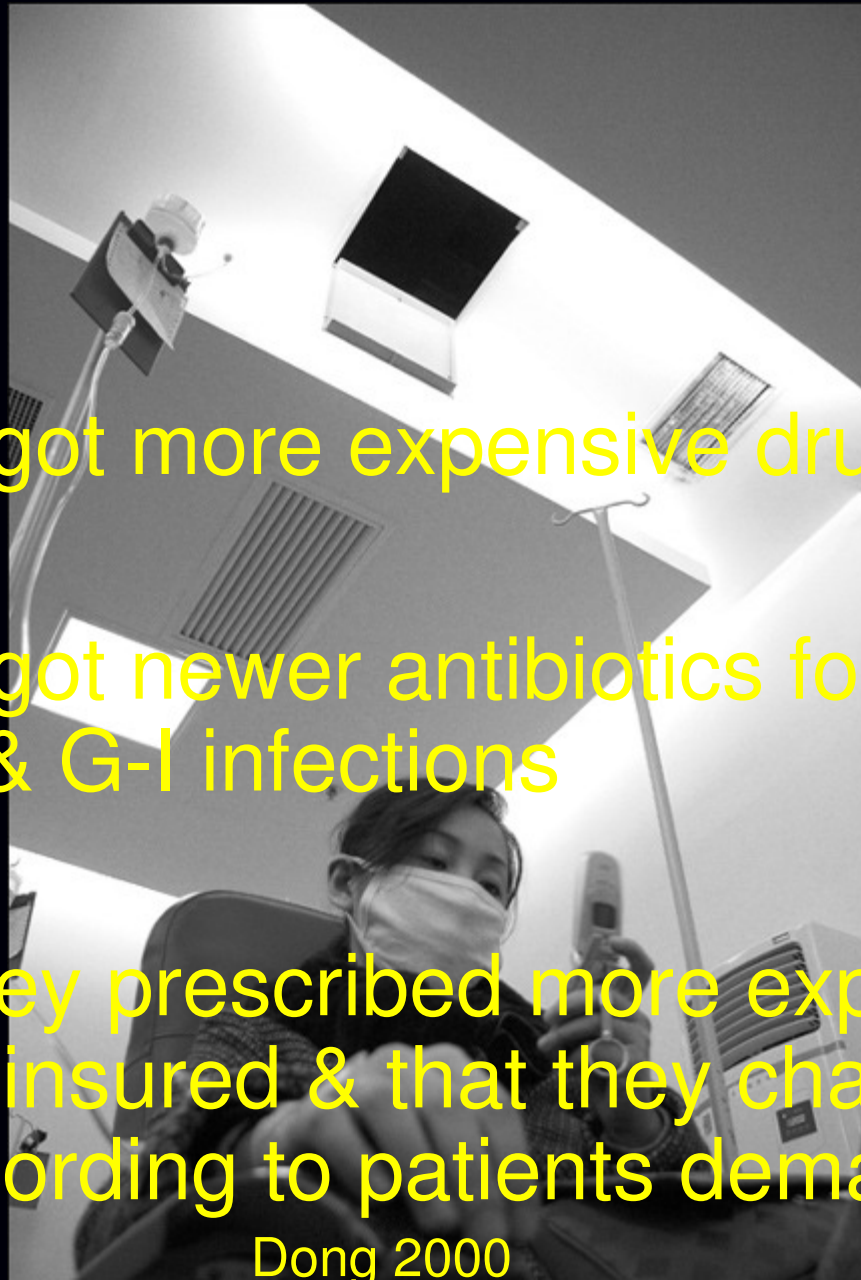
Irrational Use of Drugs in China

- 98% of outpatients with common colds were reported to receive at least one antibiotic in two Chinese studies
- Another study of 72 hospitals found over 75% of patients were given antibiotics
- A study found 60% of rural clinic patients were given intravenous therapy



The cost of coverage-Studies in Jiangsu, Anhui, Jianxi provinces

- insured patients got more expensive drugs
- insured patients got newer antibiotics for respiratory tract & G-I infections
- doctors stated they prescribed more expensive antibiotics to the insured & that they changed prescriptions according to patients demands



不看取景框
拍我身边事

旁观

2006.04.08
医院输液室

今年初春的拂尘天气已经真真切切的让人感受到，破坏生态平衡的可怕。

医院输液室里因上呼吸道感染病人已经占了半数以上。

大连 海上游石

Irrational Use of Drugs in China

- drug sales a main source of income for health units (50%) & their staff
- many drugs on the market (14 000)
- drug promotion influencing behaviour

High \$ and low quality drugs causes	Medicine policy issues	Stakeholders
Too many types of drugs registered and produced	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✧ Inadequate pharmacoeconomic analysis before drug registration✧ Failed drug quality assurances✧ Changes in dosage, form or packaging for registration as new drugs✧ Stopped production of low cost basic drugs✧ Local protection of pharmaceutical companies (In 2005 , 4400 small scale and only about 300 large scale)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✧ Higher prices and profit margin for manufactures✧ Registration fees for the governments✧ Tax and employment for local governments

High \$ and low quality drugs causes	Medicine policy issues	Stakeholders
<p>Inefficient and ineffective drugs distribution channels</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ More than 10 points in the chain, altogether 16 000 wholesalers and 119 000 retailers and 300 000 health units, 5 million health staff ✧ Failed central purchasing ✧ Substandard pharmacies in rural areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ Revenue and income for drug wholesalers, retailers and sales
<p>Irrational use of drugs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ Stopped supply of low cost basic drugs by the hospitals ✧ Over-use of expensive drugs by the doctors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ Income for hospitals and physicians

Potential impact of effective drug policies

- The Chinese National Health Survey found that in 2004, health expenditure accounted for 5.55% (759b Yuan) of the GDP. About 44% (333b Yuan) were spend on drugs.
- In the 2004 health care expenditure, 17% was paid by the government, 29% was paid by the social health insurance and 54% was paid out of pocket by the patients

Current Drug Policies

- The Pharmaceutical Administration Law was implemented in 1985 and revised in 2001
- Currently there are multiple different policy makers: SFDA, The National Development and Reform Commission, The Ministry of Health and The Social Health Insurance Department
- A comprehensive national drug policy has not been developed

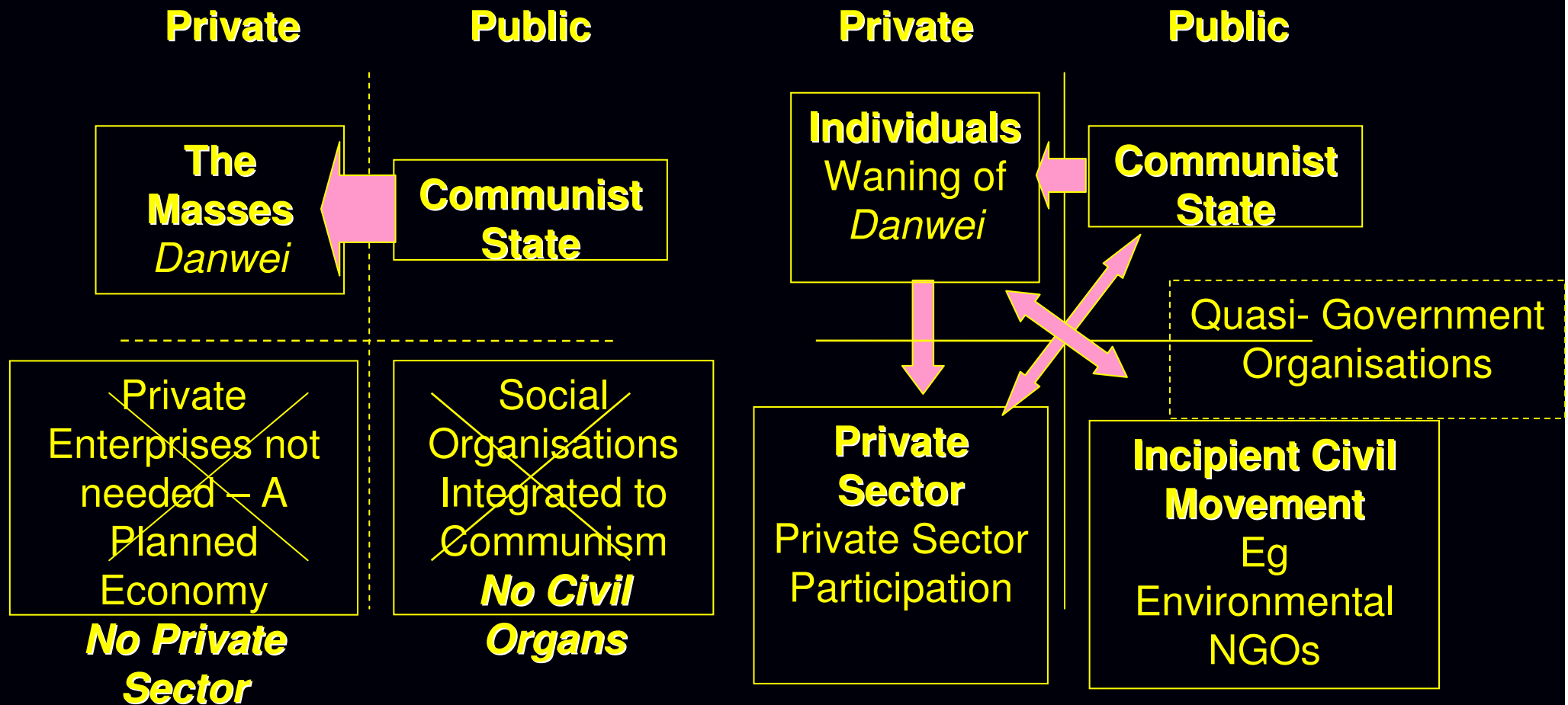
Elements of a National Drug Policy (NDP)

- Law and regulations
- Drug selection
- Drug nomenclature
- Quality assurance
(registration, licensing, quality surveillance)
- Drug advertising
- Drug supply
(procurement, distribution, storage)
- Rational use of drugs
- Strategy on drug economy
- Traditional medicine
- Operational research
- Organization, management, monitoring of NDP
- Human resources development
- Technical cooperation

Short term: drug policy priorities

- Regular monitoring of drug quality post-registration
- Public transparency and education of disease or illness based drug price and utilization quantity and quality
- The new drug registration standards, which include the cost-effectiveness analysis indicators
- The performance of policy implementation

Developments of NGOs in China



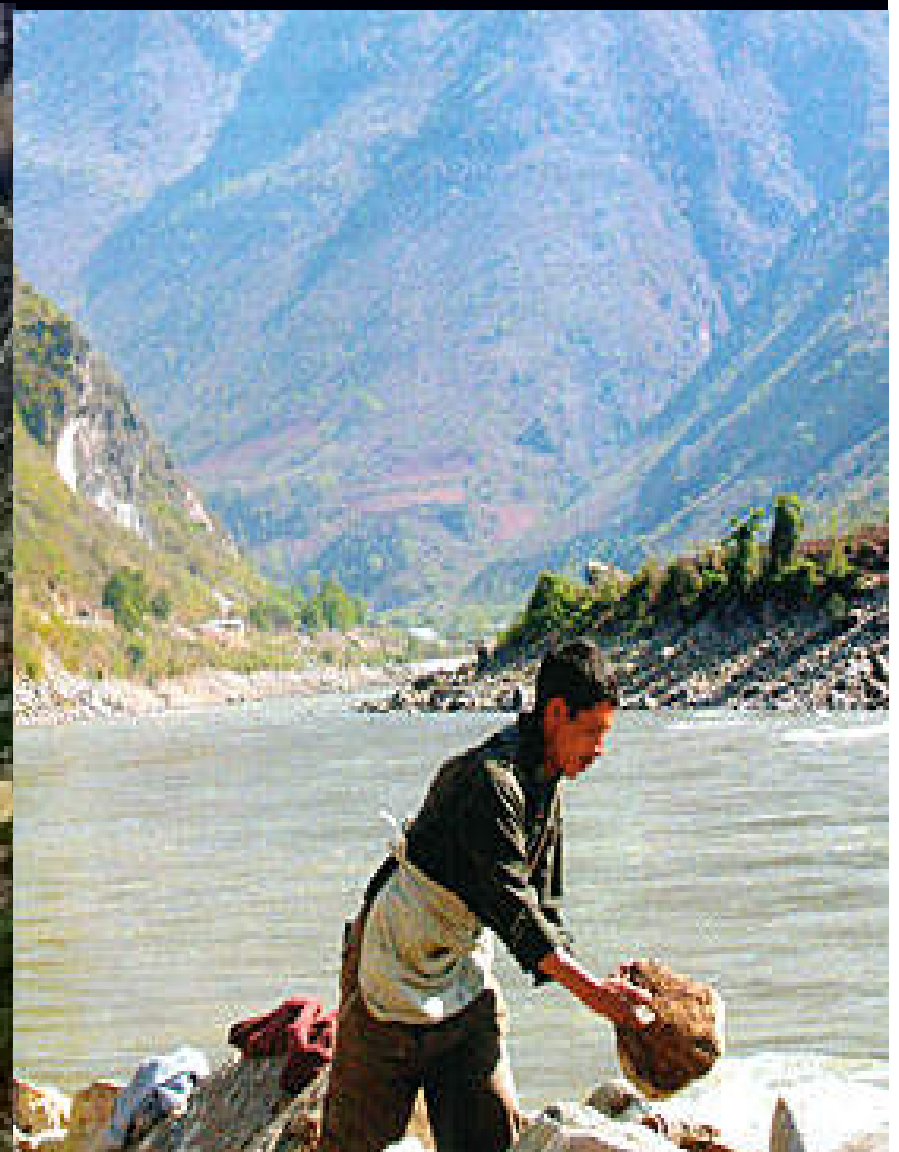
**Communist State 1949 - 1978
(State-Society Duality)**

**Socialist Market Economy and
Socio-political Reform from 1979
to today**

Developments of NGOs in China

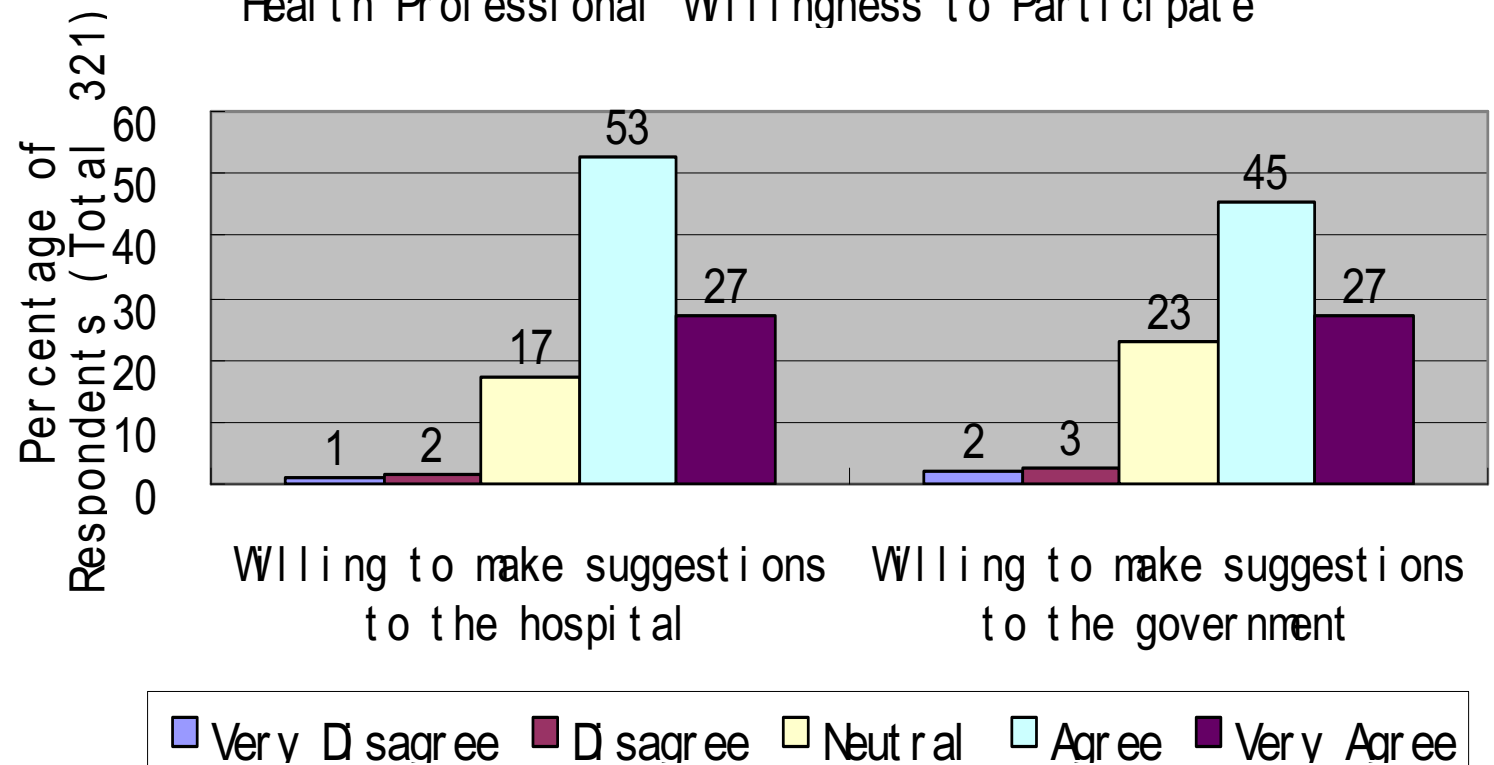
- In the early 1990s, the typical NGOs were the traditional mass organizations, such as the All-China Women's Federation and the Youth Federation, that had close relationships with the government
- But in the past 10 years, these so-called Government Organized NGOs have become more independent in program management and fund-raising
- Other grassroots NGOs such as those for environmental protection have also grown in number and become much more active

Example of successful citizen participation: Nu River undammed !

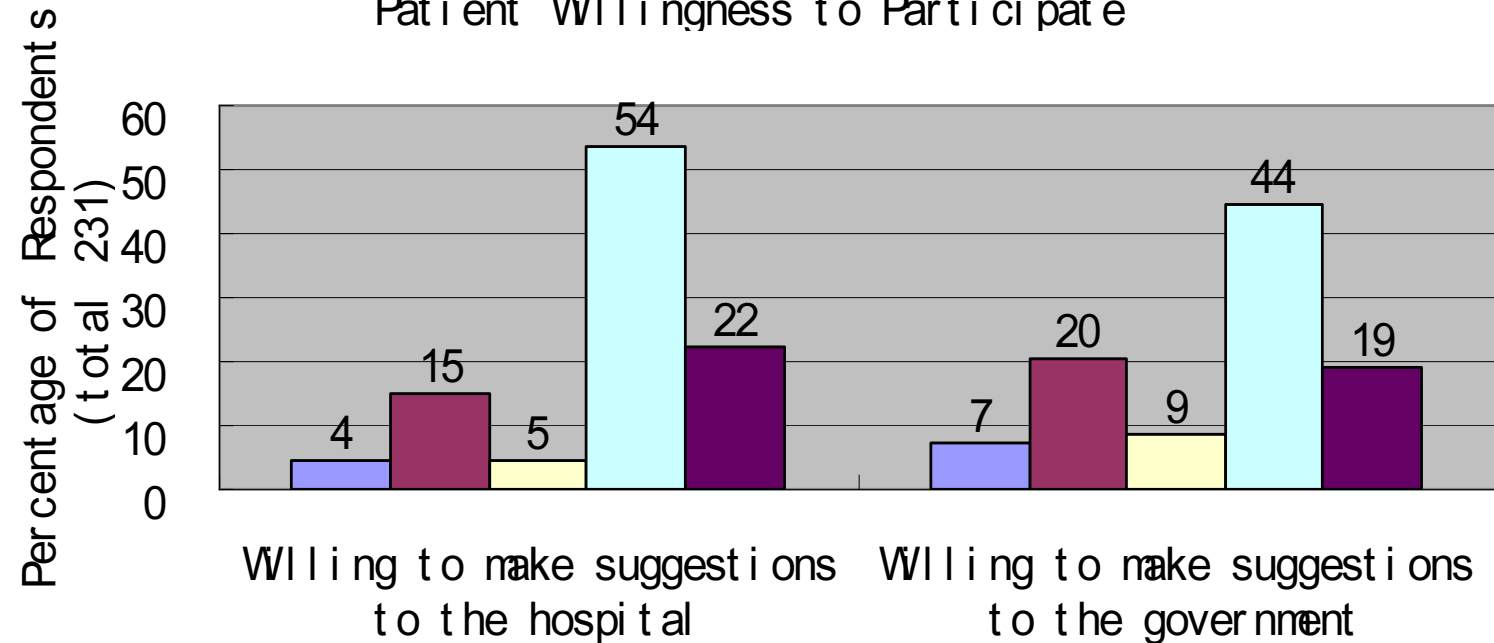


Survey of health professional and patient willingness to participate in policy making

Health Professional Willingness to Participate



Patient Willingness to Participate



Way forward: democratization of drug policies by collating patient and consumer voices firstly to complement weakness then to collaborate in the policy making process.

