INFORMING POLICIES BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

The Asia Pacific Observatory on Health Systems and Policies (the APO) is a collaborative partnership of interested governments, international agencies, foundations, and researchers that promotes evidence-informed health systems policy regionally and in all countries in the Asia Pacific region.

OUR PRODUCTS

Health Systems in Transition reviews (HiTs)

HiTs systematically describe and assess a country’s health system using a common analytic template. HiTs assess the health system’s core components: organization and governance; financing; physical and human resources; service provision; and health reforms.

Policy Briefs

Policy briefs are concise reports of synthesized evidence and experience from different contexts relative to a specific policy challenge. Policy briefs also provide policy-makers with evidence-informed options to address the policy challenge.

Comparative Country Studies

Comparative country studies are original multi-country comparative analyses of issues for which there is scarce published evidence in the Asia Pacific region. Case studies are published as edited volumes of papers, and cross cutting thematic papers are drawn out in published books.

OUR PRACTICES

In addition to producing evidence-based knowledge products, the APO facilitates policy dialogue events and sponsors fellows to support national capacity development.

Policy Dialogue and Other Events

Policy dialogue events communicate evidence to policy-makers and aim to influence decision-making on specific issues.

Fellowships

The APO launched two fellowship programmes in 2013:
- Developing Asia Health Policy Fellowship in collaboration with Stanford University; and
- The APO Fellowship.

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WHO WE ARE

The Asia Pacific Observatory on Health Systems and Policies (the APO) is a collaborative partnership of interested governments, international agencies, foundations, and researchers that promotes evidence-informed health systems policy regionally and in all countries in the Asia Pacific region.

The APO:
• collaboratively identifies priority health system issues across the Asia Pacific region;
• develops and synthesizes relevant research to support and inform countries’ evidence-based policy development; and
• builds country and regional health systems research and evidence-informed policy capacity.

WHERE WE WORK

We are based in WHO’s Regional Office for the South-East Asia in New Delhi, India, and but also cover the countries of WHO’s Western Pacific Region. Our Board may consider work in other countries in Asia. We work in all countries from small Pacific Island countries to the large countries of China and India.

HOW WE WORK

We bring policy-makers and researchers together to identify issues for health systems analysis, carry out research, and disseminate and use the findings. We have the following governance structure:

- **The APO Board**
  The Board sets the strategic direction of the APO based on the advice of the Strategic Technical Advisory Committee (STAC). The Board monitors implementation of the annual work plan, oversees the Secretariat and approves the budget.

- **Strategic Technical Advisory Committee**
  The STAC guides the strategic direction of the APO’s research agenda, assures the quality of the APO’s research and products, and strengthens outreach to the research community.

- **Secretariat**
  The APO Secretariat, led by the APO Director, has both an administrative and technical role. The Secretariat sets the budget, annual workplan, strategic plans (based on the advice of the STAC and as approved by the Board), coordinates the Research Hub and Network members, monitors and evaluates and disseminates APO products.

- **Research Hub Network**
  Three research hub directors, 35 research institutions and an individual member have been competitively selected to serve as the APO Research Hub and Network. These researchers work with the APO to produce health systems in transition (HiT) reviews, policy briefs, comparative country studies, policy dialogue events and host APO fellows. The three research hubs are: Duke Kunshan University, China, The University of Tokyo, Japan linked to International Health Policy Program (IHPP), Thailand; and the Nossal Institute for Global Health, The University of Melbourne, Australia.