



# Asia Pacific Observatory on Health Systems and Policies

eNewsletter, August 2017

## Launch event of Bhutan Health System Review



APO in collaboration with Ministry of Health, Royal Government of Bhutan jointly held the launch of Bhutan Health System Review. Around 100 participants from Ministry of Health, other Ministries, Parliament, development agencies in the country, and APO board members celebrated the first comprehensive health system review. [Read more](#)

Following the launch, panel discussion on future challenges of the health system in Bhutan was held. Three issues of referral system, service gaps and human resources for health were discussed. [Read more](#)

## The APO Board and STAC meeting

The 5th Strategic Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) meeting and 12th Board meeting of APO was held on June 26-27, 2016 in Thimphu, Bhutan.



The STAC and Board welcomes new co-opted member Dr Philip Davis from Fiji and Internal Review Panel members of Dr Andrew Cassels and Dr Piya Hanvoravongchai.

The STAC and Board had an intensive discussion on Medium Term Strategy 2018-2020 for APO, focusing on future areas of work for APO, APO financing, membership and governance issues.

## Ongoing Projects

Working with three APO Research Hubs, wide range of projects are undergoing.

### **1. Improving the quality of care in the public health system in Bangladesh – Bangladesh HiT Policy Note (Nossal Institute)**

This policy note aims to provide recommendations to address the identified gaps and systems issues in the current Bangladesh policy on quality of care through a series of review and assessment.

### **2. Attraction and retention of rural primary health care workers in Asia Pacific countries (Duke Kunshan University)**

Objectives of this study are to summarize key strategies, implementation process and intervention effectiveness especially focusing on differences in political economic, social and health system context across countries by synthesizing lessons and experiences of Asia Pacific countries in attracting and retaining rural primary health care workers. Literature review and key informant interview are undergone in rural area of Vietnam, Cambodia and China. Policy Brief will be released by end 2017.

### **3. Integration between primary and referral care to improve quality of care (Nossal Institute)**

This study aims to identify possible policy options for lower middle income countries (LMIC) to strengthen referral networks to support Universal Health Coverage. Literature review to identify HIC/LMIC experience and potential strategies for application in LMIC in the Asia Pacific Region is conducted followed by case studies. Policy brief will be released in early 2018.

### **4. Updating of Philippines health system review (UT/IHPP)**

This is the first full update of the health system review since our previous publication in 2011. The new version highlights the major changes in health financing and model of service delivery that are being discussed and implemented in the country at the moment.

## Latest Publications



### Health Systems in Transition (HiT) Reviews for Indonesia and Bhutan

The HiT review is a comprehensive assessment of the country health system and policies based on the [HiT template](#) consisting of following chapters.

1. Introduction
2. Organization and governance
3. Financing
4. Physical and human resources
5. Provision of services
6. Principal health reforms
7. Assessment of the health system
8. Conclusions
9. Appendices

#### [Indonesia HiT review](#)

#### [Bhutan HiT review](#)



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