



Asia Pacific Observatory on Health Systems and Policies

eNewsletter

December 2018

FUNDING UPDATE

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

At the end of October, BMGF-India agreed to fund APO with US\$ 475,000 over 3 years on issues relevant to the Indian subcontinent. APO currently has 3 proposals directly linked to India:

1. India HiT
2. Policy brief on health professional education strategies for CPHC in India
3. Integrating hospital care with primary care and post-acute care for people with chronic diseases: a comparative study in Singapore, China, the Philippines, India, Viet Nam and Fiji

UNICEF

We have been discussing with UNICEF South Asia Office about the possibility of them becoming either a Board member or funding specific publications around PHC and immunization.

PUBLICATION UPDATE SINCE JULY 2018

The Philippines HiT (2nd edition)

We launched the second edition of the Philippines HiT at the 17th National Health Research Forum for Action in Manila on 20th September 2018. The HiT, produced jointly by APO and European Union, was downloaded 3805 times till December.

[Read more](#)

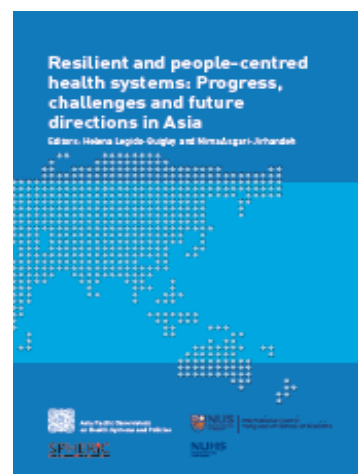


Resilient and people-centred health systems: progress, challenges and future directions in Asia

This comparative country study was launched at the Raffles Dialogue in Singapore on 27th November. This book, produced in collaboration with National University of Singapore, was written by 45 authors from 13 countries.

The book comprises four cross-national chapters - regional governance, planetary health, non-communicable diseases and infectious diseases, followed by summary of the health systems in seven Asian countries: Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and the Philippines.

The book used people-centredness, resilience to sudden shocks and ongoing challenges, and quality of care to assess health system



performance. While acknowledging the health system achievements in Asia so far, the book highlights six focus areas for a futuristic health system:

1. having an integrated health systems approach with primary health care at the forefront;
2. ensuring sustainable financing for health;
3. developing a responsive health-care workforce;
4. addressing the health needs of vulnerable groups such as migrants and refugees;
5. adopting new technologies to improve overall health system; and
6. acknowledging the multisectoral nature of health.

The book was downloaded 956 times till December. [Read more](#)

Reshaping public hospitals in Asia and the Pacific: an agenda for reform

This Analysis, authored by Robin Gauld, Nima Asgari, Walaiporn Patcharanarumol and Viroj Tangcharoensathien was published by BMJ Global Health in November 2018.

It focuses on the changing needs to reform the role and function of local hospitals in the context of demographic and epidemiological transition and outlines possible actions to reshape the hospitals using a health system prospective. The article is available here: <https://gh.bmj.com/content/3/6/e001168>

RESEARCH UPDATE

Nossal Institute

1. Policy brief and working paper on 'integrating primary and referral care to improve quality of care within the context of universal health coverage' has been peer reviewed and we are waiting to get the final draft from authors.
2. Policy brief and working paper on 'ASEAN human resources for health' is under peer review.
3. First draft of policy brief and working paper on 'health professional education strategies for CPHC in India' is expected by the end of December.
4. India HiT is reviewed by technical editor and is now with authors to incorporate comments.
5. 'Pacific Islands overseas referrals' is at data collection stage; the policy brief and working paper is expected by June 2019.

TU/IHPP

1. First draft of Sri Lanka HiT is expected to be reviewed by technical editors by the end of January 2019.
2. 'Capacity assessment of health policy and systems research (HPSR) in China, Viet Nam, Thailand, Sri Lanka and the Philippines' is at literature review and data collection stage.
3. 'The role of the private health sector in UHC: challenges and opportunities in Asia' is at initial stage.
4. Manuscript on 'public hospital governance in Asia and the Pacific' is accepted by BMJ Global Health.

Duke Kunshan University

1. 'Feasibility assessment of invigorating grassroots primary health care for CVS prevention and management in low-resource settings in China and Vietnam' (FAITH) has been peer reviewed and is with authors to incorporate comments.
2. 'Engaging community health workers in combating chronic diseases in Asia: strategies, approaches and practice' (COACH) has been peer reviewed. Secretariat is working with the hub to see how it can be formulated as a policy brief.
3. 'Strengthening urban primary healthcare service delivery using ehealth programs in China, Nepal, and the Philippines': Completed preliminary scoping review, and started data collection.

4. 'Health system cultural competency for migrant service utilization in Thailand and Malaysia: a comparative study': Finalizing protocol for systematic review, started field work, and drafted a qualitative paper on migrants' barriers to health-care access.
5. 'Integrating hospital care with primary care and post-acute care for people with chronic diseases: a comparative study in Singapore, China, the Philippines, India, Viet Nam and Fiji': Scoping review is ongoing, and in-depth interviews will be continued to early next year.

Others

1. Papua New Guinea HiT is with publishers. We are in contact with WHO and the World Bank country offices to identify the right opportunity for in-country launch (probably February / March 2019).
2. Our collaboration with UN University - Institute for Global Health is ongoing. We agreed to work with UNU on Indochina Peninsula migrant health issues, focusing on policy briefs on different aspects of migrant health.
3. MoH Singapore is in the process of incorporating NHA 2016 into the final version of Singapore HiT. It can be printed immediately after.

SECRETARIAT STAFF SITUATION

Last July we said goodbye to Mikiko Kanda as she was offered a post within WHO at the regional focal point for Nursing and Midwifery programme.

We appointed a consultant, Anns Issac, who is working with us for the last 5 months. Anns used to work with Public Health Foundation of India before joining APO. She has been instrumental in finishing the Philippines and Papua New Guinea HiTs as well as the comparative country study on 'resilient and people-centred health systems'.

We have requested another JPO through WHO system. In the meanwhile, we will advertise for a temporary staff member at P2 level.

Finally, we will have on board a part time communications consultant from January.

PLANNED 2019 PUBLICATIONS

Health system review	1. Papua New Guinea
	2. India
	3. Sri Lanka
	4. Singapore
Policy brief	5. Human resources for health in the developing ASEAN economic community: medical professional education, mobility, registration and accreditation
	6. Health professional education strategies to strengthen comprehensive primary health care with specific reference to India
	7. Engaging community health workers in combating chronic diseases in Asia: strategies, approached and practice (COACH)
	8. Migrant health in Mekong Basin countries
	9. Quality of care
Comparative country study	10. Feasibility assessment of invigorating grassroots primary health care for CVS prevention and management in low-resource settings in China and Viet Nam (FAITH)