



FUNDING UPDATE

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Australia

In May, APO signed a three-year funding agreement with DFAT for US\$ 313,148.

PUBLICATION UPDATE SINCE JANUARY 2019

Papua New Guinea HiT

The APO launched the Papua New Guinea HiT on 28th February 2019 at a special meeting held during the visit of Dr Takeshi Kasai, the newly appointed Regional Director of the Western Pacific Region of WHO. His Excellency Dr Sir Puka Temu, Minister of Health for PNG received a copy of the HiT. The launch was followed by a panel discussion on 'revitalizing primary health care in PNG on the path to universal health coverage'. The HiT, funded partially by the World Bank, was downloaded 151 times till June. [Read more](#)



Policy briefs

We released two policy briefs during the 9th Strategic Technical Advisory Committee meeting in Kunshan, People's Republic of China, on 13 June 2019.

- Use of community health workers to manage and prevent noncommunicable diseases: Policy options based on the findings of the COACH study. [Read more](#)
- Strategies to strengthen referral from primary to secondary care in low- and middle-income countries.

Journal publications

Vijayasingham L, Rhule E, Asgari-Jirhandeh N, Allotey P (2019). Restrictive migration policies in low-income and middle-income countries. *Lancet Glob Health*. 7(7):e843–44. doi:[10.1016/S2214-109X\(19\)30196-2](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(19)30196-2).

Law KM, Te V, Hill PS (2019). Cambodia's health professionals and the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangements: registration, education and mobility. *Human Resour Health*. 17(1):14. doi:[10.1186/s12960-019-0349-5](https://doi.org/10.1186/s12960-019-0349-5).

Zhu A, Tang S, Thu NT, Supheap L, Liu X (2019). Analysis of strategies to attract and retain rural health workers in Cambodia, China, and Vietnam and context influencing their outcomes. *Human Resour Health*. 17(1):2. doi:[10.1186/s12960-018-0340-6](https://doi.org/10.1186/s12960-018-0340-6).



RESEARCH UPDATES

Duke Kunshan University

1. Feasibility Assessment of Invigorating grassroots primary healthcare for cardiovascular prevention and management in low-resource settings in China, Vietnam, and Nepal (FAITH study): has been reviewed by the secretariat with comments sent back to the authors.
2. Strengthening Urban Primary healthcare service delivery using eHealth programs in China, Nepal, the Philippines, and Peru (the SUPER study): Scoping review is on-going. Finalized protocol for qualitative study and conducted a round-table discussion in Nepal.
3. Health system cultural competency for migrant service use in Thailand and Malaysia: a comparative study: Scoping review is completed and drafted a paper. Qualitative and quantitative surveys were completed, and data analysis started.
4. Integrating hospital care with primary care and post-acute care for people with chronic diseases: A comparative study in Singapore, China, the Philippines, India, Vietnam, and Fiji: Finalized data collection instruments, and conducted first round of interviews with key experts.

Nossal Institute

1. Overseas Medical Referrals in Pacific Island Countries: Finalizing the first draft of the policy brief. Prepared a discussion paper on specialized clinical services (jointly with WPRO, WHO Pacific Division of Technical Support, and SPC).
2. Human resources and ASEAN MRA: Policy brief had undergone several rounds of revision, and is now at language editing phase. We expect to publish by August 2019. Two journal articles were published.
3. India HiT: Is undergoing second and final round of reviewing by the editor.

University of Tokyo/ Institute of Health Policy Program

1. Sri Lanka HiT: Editors are finalizing comments on the first draft of the chapters.
2. Comparative country study on HPSR capacity assessment in China, Thailand, Viet Nam, and the Philippines: Prepared first draft of 3 country chapters.
3. The Role of the Private Health Sector in UHC: Challenges and Opportunities in Asia: It is in the early phase of research.

Others

1. Our collaboration with UNU-IIGH focusing on policies in the Greater Mekong Subregion is ongoing.
2. MoH Singapore is in the process of incorporating NHA 2016 into the final version of Singapore HiT.
3. Mongolia HiT: Author team has been contracted.
4. India – China analytical study on health financing (partially funded by BMGF) is at proposal stage.
5. Viet Nam HiT is at proposal-finalization stage and agreeing on the author team.

PLANNED 2019 PUBLICATIONS

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|----------------------------------|---|
| Health system reviews | 1. India |
| | 2. Sri Lanka |
| | 3. Singapore |
| Policy briefs | 4. Human resources for health in the developing ASEAN economic community: medical professional education, mobility, registration and accreditation |
| | 5. Migrant health in Mekong Basin countries |
| Comparative country study | 6. Feasibility assessment of invigorating grassroots primary health care for CVS prevention and management in low-resource settings in China and Viet Nam (FAITH) |

NEW CONSORTIA

There were 15 applications from individual institutions and consortia to work with the APO from 2020 onwards. Of these, four were selected by the APO Board as new consortia. A category of National Resource Institutes was introduced to highlight institutions with expertise in a particular area or country that APO can work with on a case by case basis. The Secretariat would build this category over time. The four consortia are:

| Lead institute | Consortium members |
|---|--|
| Institute of Chinese Studies, Delhi | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Institute of Chinese Studies, Delhi Centre of Social Medicine and Community Health, School of Social Sciences, JNU, New Delhi School of Public Health, Fudan University (SPHFU), Shanghai, China Shanghai Health Development Research Centre (SHDRC), Shanghai Health Bureau, Shanghai Department of Asian and Policy Studies, Education University of Hong Kong (EdUHK), Hong Kong |
| International Health Policy Program, Thailand | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Health Policy Program (IHPP), Thailand National Health Security Office (NHSO), Thailand Health Strategy and Policy Institute (HSPI), Viet Nam |
| University of New South Wales | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School of Public Health & Community Medicine, The University of New South Wales, Australia Health Services Research Centre, Faculty of Health, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand Fiji National University |
| National University of Singapore | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, National University of Singapore (NUS), Singapore SingHealth Duke-National University of Singapore, Singapore (SDGHI) School of Public Health of the University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong The BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, Bangladesh University of the Philippines Manila, the Philippines Global Health Research Center, Duke Kunshan University, Kunshan, China Thailand Research Center for Health Services System (TRC-HS), Faculty of Medicine, Chulalongkorn University |

UPDATE ON INTERNAL REVIEW PANELISTS (IRP)

Three new IRP members (on the right) will join the APO from January 2020 for 3 years. This is in addition to the current three IRP members, Dr Rajani Ved, Prof Vivian Lin and Dr Stephen Duckett.

BID ADIEU

The APO will miss Dr Phyllida Travis who retired from WHO-SEARO in June 2019. We would also like to bid adieu to Dr Piya Hanvoravongchai and Dr Andrew Cassels who are completing their term as IRP members, and thank them for their contributions and support to the APO.



Soong-nang Jang
-Professor, Chung-Ang University, South Korea



Rohan Jayasuriya
-Associate Professor, University of New South Wales, Australia



Nathorn Chaiyakunapruk
-Professor, Monash University, Malaysia
-Associate Professor, Naresuan University, Thailand

