



Asia Pacific Observatory on Health Systems and Policies

Newsletter, March 2016



APO Ranked Among Top 35 Global Health Think Tanks

The Asia Pacific Observatory (APO) was ranked among the top 35 Global Health Policy Think Tanks in a report released by the Think Tanks and Civil Society Program (TTCSP) at the University of Pennsylvania. The *2015 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report* was based on the research conducted by the TTCSP on the evolving role and character of public policy research organizations and the role they play in governments and civil societies around the world. The APO is referenced in Table 21 of page 92.

The TTCSP annually produces the report that ranks the world's leading think tanks in a variety of categories selected with the help of a panel comprising over 1,900 peer institutions and experts from the print and electronic media, academia, public and private donor institutions, and governments around the world.



The APO Board and STAC Meetings

The 9th Board Meeting of the APO was held on 3 – 4 December 2015 in Manila, Philippines to review the APO's workplan for 2016 and to guide the strategic direction of the APO.

Following two important changes were announced at the meeting:

- a) The APO Secretariat will relocate from WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific in Manila to WHO Regional Office for the South East Asia in New Delhi in August 2016; and
- b) Recruitment of a new Director for the APO Secretariat following the early retirement of the incumbent, Dr. Dale Huntington. Dr. Huntington will join Johnson and Johnson Pte. Ltd. in Singapore as the Senior Director, Health Policy Emerging Markets, in April. Recruitment process for Dr. Huntington's successor is underway. We wish Dr. Huntington all the best for his new role.

The APO Board Meeting was preceded by the meeting of the APO's Strategic Technical Advisory Committee (STAC), which was held at the Asian Development Bank's Headquarters on 2 December.



Developing Asia Health Policy Fellowship

Ngan Do, PhD, has been awarded the Developing Asia Health Policy Fellowship 2016-2017, a joint collaborative program between the Walter H. Shorenstein Asia Pacific Research Center, Stanford University (Shorenstein APARC) and the APO. The APARC/APO postdoctoral fellow is selected through a highly competitive selection process from among the recent PhDs with preference given to those from low- and middle-income countries.

During her fellowship year, Dr Do will work on the public hospital reforms in Asia, focusing on dual practice of public hospital physicians and provider payment reforms at Stanford. She has a strong interest in health policy research and has implemented comparison studies at regional level and participated in fieldwork in Cambodia, Lao PDR, the Philippines, Republic of Korea and Viet Nam. She holds a Ph.D. in Health Policy and Management from the College of Medicine, Seoul National University and a master's degree in public policy from the KDI School of Public Policy and Management, Seoul, Korea. She did her bachelor's degree in international relations from the Diplomacy Academy of Viet Nam, (previously the Institute for International Relations).



The APO Events

People's Republic of China HiT Launch. China launched its Health Systems in Transition (HiT) review on 9 December 2015 at an event hosted by the National Health and Family Planning Commission (NHFPC) in Peking University, Beijing. Peoples' Republic of China HiT, an APO product, is a first such report on health sector to be produced in China. Dr. Ren Minghui, then Director General for International Cooperation in the NHFPC and Prof. Ke Yang, Vice President, Peking University

delivered special remarks at the event, which was attended by approximately 80 representatives of the health sector community, policy makers, implementers, researchers, and development partners.



Policy Dialogue on the Equity in Access and Quality of Service. The APO, in collaboration with the WHO Cambodia Country office, Nossal Institute for Global Health, the University of Melbourne, and the German Development Cooperation through the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) organised a Health Policy Dialogue on Equity in Access and Quality of Service in Phnom Penh on 9 October 2015.



The APO Session at the Global Forum on Research and Innovation for Health 2015. The APO organized a session on 26 August 2015 at the Global Forum on Research and Innovation for Health 2015 held in Manila, Philippines from 25-27 August.

The APO's session reviewed the APO's activities in the Philippines, presenting the outcomes of its three major publications: (i) Health Systems in Transition (HiT) review, including Living HiT updates, (ii) case study on public hospital governance, and (iii) case study on strategic purchasing. Dale Huntington, Director, APO gave a brief

overview of the APO and moderated the session. The session was attended by more than 90 health professionals. Leizel P Lagrada, Independent Consultant, Oscar Picazo, Independent Consultant and Ida Marie Pantig, Supervising Research Specialist, Philippine Institute for Development Studies. The APO also set a publications booth at the Forum to distribute the APO publications.

Latest Publications



Health System in Transition (HiT) reviews for Kingdom of Tonga, and People's Republic of China. The HiT review is a systematic and comprehensive review of a country's health system. It assesses the health system's core components —organization and governance, financing, physical and human resources, service provision, and health reforms. The China HiT is available both in English and Chinese languages. [Read more.](#)



Policy Brief on the Challenge of Extending Universal Coverage to Non-Poor Informal Workers in Low- and Middle-Income Countries in Asia. The Policy Brief highlights an issue faced by many countries in the Asia: how to engage non-poor informal workers in social health insurance schemes. [Read more.](#)



Policy Brief on Factors Conducive to the Development of Health Technology Assessment. The Policy Brief reviews experiences from countries with well-established health technology assessment (HTA) processes and draws out contextual factors that are conducive to the establishments of HTA agencies and their contribution to evidence-informed coverage. [Read more.](#)



Comparative Country Studies on Case-based Payments in the Asia Pacific

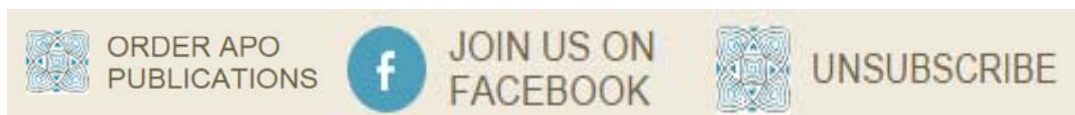
Region. The Comparative Country Studies underscores the need for countries to be clear about their purpose and objective for introducing Diagnosis Related Groups, as well as their place in health-care financing reform and for policy-makers to reflect on the importance of country-specific starting points, objectives and context in which the hospital payment reforms are being implemented. [Read more.](#)



Myanmar Health in Transition Policy Notes Series. The Myanmar Health Systems in Transition Policy Notes Series outlines the challenges facing Myanmar in meeting the goal of achieving universal health coverage by 2030 and ways these can be tackled. The set of following 4 Policy Notes series draws from the Myanmar Health System in Transition review of 2014, and addresses the following issues:

- (i) What are the key challenges facing Myanmar in its progress towards achieving universal health coverage?
- (ii) How can health equity be improved in Myanmar?
- (iii) How can the township health system be strengthened in Myanmar?
- (iv) How can financial risk protection be expanded in Myanmar?

[Read more.](#)



Copyright 2014 Asia Pacific Observatory WHO Office for the Western Pacific Region

Asia Pacific Observatory

WHO Office for the Western Pacific Region

P.O. Box 2932 1000 Manila, Philippines Tel. +63 2 528 8001

%%detect_both%%