

Meeting title: Health Intervention and Technology Assessment (HITA): A Path to Universal Health Coverage (UHC)

Organizer and contact details:

Health Intervention and Technology Assessment Program (HITAP)
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Date: January 26, 2016, 9:00 – 13:00 hrs.

Background:

Governments in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) are committing to universal healthcare coverage (UHC) with the aim to attain equitable access to essential healthcare, improve population health, and ensure financial protection. One of the major challenges to achieving UHC is the lack of evidence for policy making.

This evidence is generated through health intervention and technology assessments (HITA), which WHO defines as *“the systematic evaluation of properties, effects, and/or impacts of health technology. It is a multidisciplinary process to evaluate the social, economic, organizational and ethical issues of a health intervention or health technology. The main purpose of conducting an assessment is to inform a policy decision making. Considering the definition of health technology, as the application of organized knowledge and skills in the form of medicines, medical devices, vaccines, procedures and systems developed to solve a health problem and improve quality of life.”*

The World Health Assembly (WHA) Resolution 67.23 and the Southeast Asia Regional Committees Resolution SEA/RC66/R4 urges countries to conduct HITA as part of their plan towards UHC. However, capacity to conduct HITA in LMICs is limited and this inhibits the progression toward achieving UHC. Apart from the capacity to generate evidence, it is also important that policy relevant studies are conducted in a transparent and participatory manner. This ensures that the studies are trusted by and acceptable to decision makers.

In response to these issues, the SEAR regional office conducted three country initiatives in the region to begin the development of effective priority-setting institutions and building capacity for conducting HITA. This panel session will bring together policymakers, practitioners from HITA organizations in SEAR as well as other LMICs, and relevant national and international stakeholders to share the findings from the studies and lessons learned. Through this, capacity development and HITA to support UHC can be explored for other regions and countries as well.

Objective:

This meeting aims to discuss HITA studies done for certain WHO countries in Asia, as well as lessons learned in conducting these studies and development of HITA capacity not just in the region but globally. The discussions will also encourage all participants to share ideas and experiences in building up technical and/or policy capacity in using HITA, both successes and failures, at sub-national, national, and international levels.

Expected output/outcome:

Participants will gain further knowledge of HITA development in Asia, as well as ways forward and potential areas of collaboration, improvement, and work. The expected outcome of the discussion will include recommendations and suggestions regarding the best practice for HITA capacity development.

Target participants and estimated number of participants:

50-100 participants, partners, and others involved in HTA capacity development in the SEAR and other LMICs

Number of speakers: 10

Room set up: Classroom style for panel discussion with LCD projector and front screen projection

Meeting agenda:

Chairs: Dr. Phyllida Travis and Dr. Toomas Palu

10 min	Potential Role of HITA in support of UHC in the SEAR <i>Speakers: Dr. Phyllida Travis and Dr. Toomas Palu</i>
10 min	WHO SEAR country studies and capacity building in Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia <i>Speaker: Dr. Phyllida Travis</i>
10 min	Economic Evaluation of the WHO's Recommended Package of Essential Non-Communicable Disease (PEN) Interventions in Indonesia <i>Speaker: Dr. Dewi Idriani</i>
10 min	Social Cost of Tobacco and Alcohol in Sri Lanka <i>Speaker: Dr. Hemantha Amarasinghe</i>
10 min	Using HITA to Inform the Development of the Free Drug List in Nepal <i>Speaker: Dr. Ramesh Kharel (TBC)</i>
10 min	Summary of experiences and lessons learned in the conduct of the studies <i>Speaker: Dr. Montarat Thavorncharoensap</i>
20 min	Open discussion – Potential HITA implementation and capacity development in LMICs or in other regions <i>Lead discussants: Dr. Dean Jamison from University of Washington, Dr. Anthony Culyer from University of York, and Dame Anne Mills from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine</i>
20 min	Open the Floor for Discussions
10 min	Coffee Break
40 min	Panel discussion: Perspectives on and Development of HITA <i>Speaker: Dr. Adham Rashid Ismail Abdel Moneim (EMRO), Dr. Klara Tisocki (WPRO)</i>
20 min	Open Discussion – The need for global and regional support and future steps for HITA implementation <i>Lead Discussants: Dr. Adham Rashid Ismail Abdel Moneim (EMRO),</i>

20 min	<i>Dr. Klara Tisocki (WPRO)</i> Open the Floor for Discussions
10 min	WHO Global Perspective on the Development of HITA <i>Speaker: Dr. Tessa Edejer</i>
15 min	Summary of the Discussions <i>Lead discussants: Dr. Dean Jamison, Dr. Anthony Culyer, and Dame Anne Mills</i>
10 min	Conclusion <i>Chairs: Dr. Phyllida Travis and Dr. Toomas Palu</i>