



HTAsiaLink

NEWSLETTER TO STRENGTHEN COLLABORATION AMONG HTA AGENCIES IN ASIA

The Role of HTA in the New Normal: Driving the post-COVID health systems through evidence-informed decisions

- Recaps from 10th HTAsiaLink Annual Conference in Pattaya, Thailand
- Interview of presentation award winners
- HTAsiaLink member updates



Editor's Talk

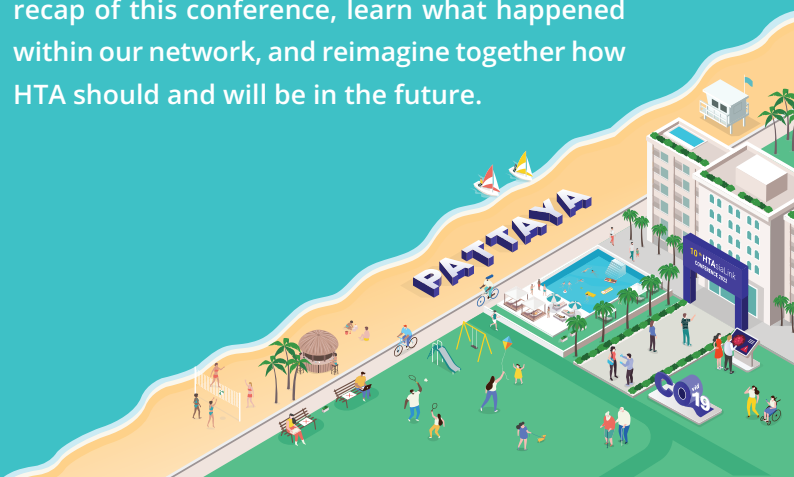
"if COVID-19 has taught us anything, it is that our health systems need to be equipped with resilience they need to respond to foreseen and unforeseen challenges, and we need to and can be creative about how health services are delivered."

– Professor Vicharn Panich, Opening Remark, 10th HTAsiaLink Annual Conference

2020 - 2022 were years of uncertainties, and health systems faced numerous challenges which emphasised areas for improvements for different sectors and fields across health and medical communities. Now that the situations have improved, there is no better time to revisit and get prepared for next challenges to come.

The 10th HTAsiaLink Annual Conference is the first physical conference after the pandemic hit for HTAsiaLink network.

Under the theme 'The Role of HTA in the New Normal: Driving the post-COVID health systems through evidence-informed decisions,' a broad range of discussions were sparked and would continue. Let's turn to the next pages, find a recap of this conference, learn what happened within our network, and reimagine together how HTA should and will be in the future.



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HTAsiaLink is a network to support collaboration among health technology assessment (HTA) agencies in Asia-Pacific region. It focuses on facilitating HTA research by accelerating information and resources sharing and developing an efficient methodology for HTA in the region.

Become an HTAsiaLink member

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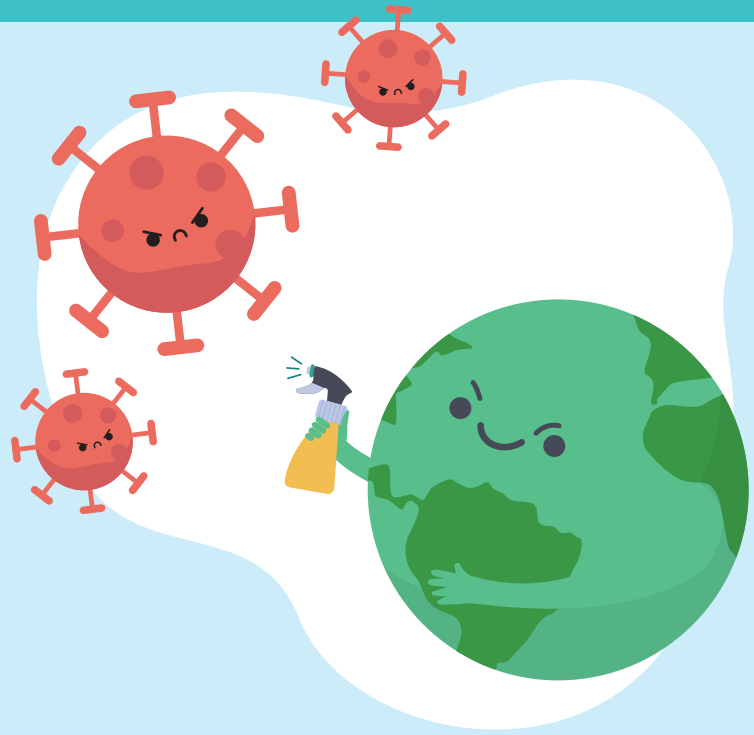


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Looking Back at HTA During the Pandemic to Plan for the Future

As the world is transiting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the healthcare community is facing challenges of raising the resiliency of healthcare systems to address multiple issues encountered during and after the crisis. While new technologies are rapidly evolving in response to the need to tackle the issues, health technology assessment (HTA) is more essential than ever to assist decision makers in adopting suitable technologies in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

In search of solutions to raise the resiliency of health systems, the 10th HTAsiaLink 2022 Conference was held at Royal Cliff Grand Hotel, Pattaya, Thailand, from 30th November 2022 to 2nd December 2022, with the aim to promote, support and improve HTA utilisation. Hosted by Health Intervention Technology Assessment Program (HITAP), the conference was attended by almost 300 participants from 34 member organisations across the Asia-Pacific region and other partnered countries.



The conference provided a forum for discussions and debates under the theme “ **The Role of HTA in the New Normal: driving the post-COVID health system through evidence-informed decisions**”. Here are some takes from the discussions.

A Need to Better HTA and Rapid HTA Methodologies

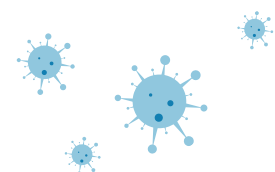
The hectic time of pandemic forced decision makers and HTA researchers to act quick and work on living evidence and be innovative on how to engage with people. Rapid HTA has potentially become a way out for quick evaluations of health technologies due to a shorter period needed compared to HTA. On the other hand, improvement in transparency and legitimacy will be required to ensure goodwill of political players in the use of rapid HTA. Another thing to keep in mind is that health systems interventions involve opportunity costs and should be subjected to the same HTA methods. HTA methodologies itself also need to further develop to include different aspects such as equality, which is a concern during the pandemic because COVID-19 affects some groups of people more than others. Moreover, it is suggested that HTA processes have to be more adaptive as some HTA methodologies are not well standardised, especially for diagnostics tests and traditional medicines. Pandemic preparedness should be one of the main focus for health systems and one of the key solutions to these challenges could be HTA institutionalisation , as it is important to establish trust and credibility from general public.

HTA agencies in Asia-Pacific region are facing similar challenges in terms of duplicating work across HTA agencies. How do we think we can reduce these post-COVID?

Discussion: Is there any specific regulation established by the government to convince the implementation of HTA recommendation in India ?



Speakers and moderators for Plenary Session 1 - Reimagining the Post COVID-19 Health System and HTA



Real-World Evidence Brings in Many Possibilities for HTA

Real-world evidence (RWE) could level up healthcare decision making, through real-world data (RWD) utilisation. The data holds potential to allow outcomes that are better account for real-world practice than randomised controlled trial (RCT). RWE had been previously applied elsewhere, demonstrating the significant roles it played in shaping the responses to regulatory queries and requirements. It has brought out some exciting results, such as drawing disease burden and disease trajectory in population level, retrieving patients' satisfaction, describing patients' journey, and understanding the major cost drivers in specific health resource utilisation. However, RWE comes with its limitations such as its time- and resource-intensive nature and needs to be handled with care to ensure potential confounding factors in the data are properly addressed. Guidance in using RWE such as the REALISE Guidance (see <https://hiper.nus.edu.sg/realise-guidance/>) should be used optimally to deal with these challenges.



Speakers, moderator, and coordinators for Plenary Session 2

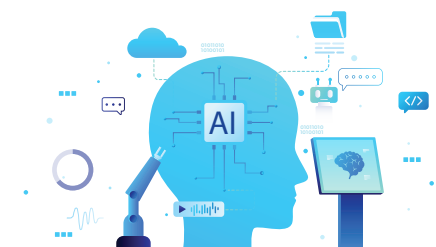
- Accelerating the Impact of Real-World Evidence in Global HTA Community: The past, the present, and the future



Are Disruptive Technologies the Answer?

The COVID-19 pandemic accelerates the development and clinical adoption of disruptive technologies, such as artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, health information technologies (HIT), telehealth, and telemedicine. These technologies can be positive transformation as they are more cost-effective and efficient in terms of providing better health outcomes.

While new technologies are rapidly evolving, the optimisation of horizon scanning is crucial to flag whether an innovation as being disruptive. Considering the roles of HTA in this context, the standard approach for the evaluation of disruptive technologies has not been developed. The speed of technological advancement is a lot faster than the development of its assessment, resulting in inefficient HTA methods for evaluating advanced technologies. Therefore, HTA needs to appropriate more aspects/ dimensions for the assessment of disruptive activities, as well as standardisation of guidelines to resolve other issues that may arise upon the utilisation of new technologies, such as challenges around the equity i.e., in identification of access / financial viability to use this technology, improving digital literacy, extend the framework, interoperability, and data source scarcity.



Speakers and moderator for Plenary Session 3

- Searching for the Holy Grail Solution for Our Health Systems: Are Disruptive Technologies the Answer?

Looking Ahead

Effective HTA methodologies must be established to support decision making in healthcare systems, in the wake of hastened evolution of technological innovations induced by the COVID-19 pandemic. Actions must be taken in the most efficient and cost-effective way to attain significant improvement in healthcare systems that are well prepared to cope with the issues that may arise during post COVID pandemic and severe disease outbreak in the future.

Congratulations to all the presenters at the conference

As always, the **10th HTAsiaLink Annual Conference** also offered an opportunity for young researchers to acquire invaluable practical experience in presenting relevant research projects. They had the chance to obtain feedbacks and advices on their performances and the research projects themselves from experts and specialists in three specific research tracks of economic evaluations, health services, and other fields related to HTA. This session received enthusiastic responses from all young researchers across the globe with 57 abstracts presented in oral presentation and 22 abstracts presented in poster presentation. The works presented were interesting and inspiring, and the discussions were fruitful. The presentation awards were given to the researchers with outstanding performances in recognition of their contributions to the relevant fields of research and the research community as a whole. Turn to the next page to learn more about them.



10th HTAsiaLink 2022 Award Winners



Oral Presentation



Economic Evaluation track:

- ★ Celestine Grace Cai XueTing, National University of Singapore
- ★ Firdaus Hafidz As Shidieq, Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), Indonesia
- ★ Chittawan Poonsiri, HITAP, Thailand

Health Services Research track:

- ★ Tan Hui Xuan Sharon, National University of Singapore
- ★ Dian Faradiba, HITAP, Thailand
- ★ Jayne Eunice U. Yang, Department of Health (Philippines) and Azuwana Supian, Pharmaceutical Services Programme, Ministry of Health, Malaysia
- ★ Honorary mention: Thanakorn Jalearnkittiwut and Chayapat Rachatan from HITAP, Thailand



Other track (Evidence synthesis, systematic review, data science, real-world evidence):

- ★ Gaurav Jyani, Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), India
- ★ Rozar Prawiranegara, Management Sciences for Health, Indonesia
- ★ Tanawan Kongmalai, Mahidol University, Thailand

Poster Presentation



- ★ Natthakan Chitpim, Mahidol University, Thailand
- ★ Puttarin Kulchaitanaroaj, Mahidol Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit MORU, Thailand
- ★ Nguyen-Thi Ha, Mahidol University Health Technology Assessment, Thailand

Interview with 1st Place Winner of Each Track

Oral Presentation Awards



Celestine Grace Cai XueTing, National University of Singapore, Singapore
Abstract title: Cost Benefit Analysis of Alternative Testing and Quarantine Policies for Travellers for Infection Control: a Case Study of Singapore during the COVID-19 Pandemic

“ This would not be possible without the amazing project team at Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health who have all worked hard putting this project together this past year! We built a mathematical model predicting the health and economic impacts of different COVID travel border restriction policies and applied it to the Singapore setting. We varied the quarantine length, type and frequency of diagnostic testing, as well as vaccination status of travellers. This model can be used to inform evidence based decision making and we hope that it helps policy-makers balance health and economic trade-offs for border restriction policies during pandemics. ”

Tan Hui Xuan Sharon, National University of Singapore (NUS), Singapore
Abstract title: Impact of financial subsidies on oral health care utilisation among persons with disabilities



“ The research that I presented at the HTAsiaLink Annual Conference 2022 was done under the guidance of one of my very first teachers in public health, Dr Rahul Nair, who passed away unexpectedly early last month. I am eternally grateful to Dr Rahul for his mentorship and friendship, and would like to dedicate this award to him. The study assessed the impact of financial subsidies on oral health care utilisation among persons with disabilities. Our study focused on health services research and found that current financial subsidies for persons with disabilities from low-to-middle income families are inadequate in encouraging the uptake of regular oral health care services. More should be done to address the barriers to care faced by persons with disabilities to achieve health equity. ”



Gaurav Jyani, Economic Evaluation Specialist, Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), India
Abstract title: Health-Related Quality of Life Among the Indian Population: The EQ-5D Population Norms for India

“ My work I presented is about the baseline health related quality of life if Indian population. The contemporary or public health medical practice is predominantly value-based, and in this type of practice the most important outcome is what and how the patients feel. In terms of health technology assessment contribution, the results from these kinds of studies will be used in all economic evaluations and will be commissioned by the Government of India in the future. Although this study is very context specific, but I believe that we could develop similar kind of study using this as a reference to assess and promote the quality of life of the people in other countries for the better. ”

Poster Presentation Awards



Natthakan Chitpim, Faculty of Pharmacy, Mahidol University, Thailand

Abstract title: Cost-Utility Analysis of Molecular Testing for Tuberculosis Diagnosis in Suspected Pulmonary Tuberculosis in Thailand

“ Receiving this award is beyond my expectation and I feel very glad. My work that I presented is about the cost-utility analysis of molecular testing for tuberculosis (TB) diagnosis in suspected pulmonary tuberculosis in Thailand. It is a new technology that could diagnose tuberculosis patient which is more rapid than conventional diagnosis in Thailand now. In contribution to health technology assessment (HTA), I think my work can be used as an example to showcase how using evidence-based research could support policy makers for policy-making decisions moving forward. ”



Puttarin Kulchaitanaroaj, Mahidol-Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit, Thailand

Abstract title: Development of An Impact Evaluation Tool for Translational Research Projects persons with disabilities

“ Receiving this award is very exciting and surprising because at the beginning my poster was not selected. We didn't have much time to prepare, but we did our best. The presentation is about a tool to evaluate the potential impact. Our research unit would like to evaluate research projects for their potential impact because we don't want researchers to only do the research and then publish and then that's it. We would like to encourage them to think about the research impact that they are going to make. This can show policy makers or decision makers to see what kind of research we join and what kind of impact we join. ”



Nguyen-Thi Ha, Mahidol University Health Technology Assessment, Thailand

Abstract title: Health utilities in patients with chronic hepatitis B: A systematic review and meta-analysis

“ No words can express my feeling at the time when our poster was announced in the Awards Ceremony. It was the first time I have had a chance to join and learn from numerous professors and colleagues from over 20 countries. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the organizers for this wonderful event. In our systematic review and meta-analysis, we tried to systematically search, screen, and synthesize utility values of chronic hepatitis B (CHB) patients stratified by disease stages (non-cirrhotic, cirrhotic, hepatocellular carcinoma, etc.) and instruments. Therefore, we hope that the results from our study could provide valuable input data for EE when primary data collection for utility values was not feasible. ”

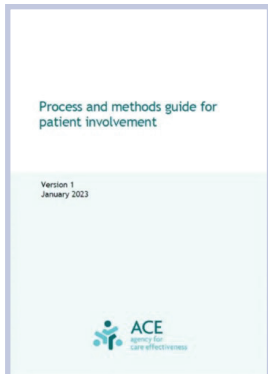
Learn more about HTAsiaLink Annual Conference 2022
and watch all Plenary speakers interviews
at HTAsiaLink Playlists on Youtube.



HTAsiaLink Member Updates ⁺

+ Agency for Care Effectiveness, Ministry of Health, Singapore

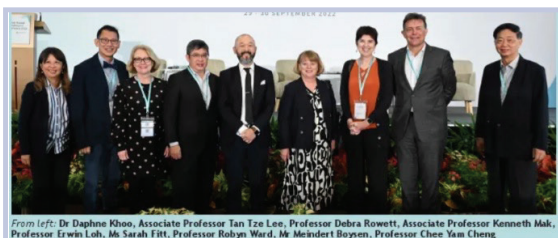
1. ACE's Process and Methods Guide for Patient Involvement



Patient involvement has become integral to health technology assessment (HTA) processes globally. Patients and carers have unique insights about their medical conditions and treatments. Through sharing their experiential knowledge, patients and carers can help MOH Advisory Committee understand what is important to them, address uncertainties in scientific evidence base and real-world implementation, when reviewing evaluations and making funding recommendations. In January 2023, ACE published the “Process and Methods Guide for Patient Involvement” that explains how patients and carers can contribute to healthcare decision making.

[Link: Agency for Care Effectiveness \(ACE\) \(ace-hta.gov.sg\)](https://ace-hta.gov.sg)

2. ACE's Value-Based Healthcare Conference



From left: Dr Daphne Khoo, Associate Professor Tan Yze Lee, Professor Debra Rowett, Associate Professor Kenneth Mak, Professor Erwin Loh, Ms Sarah Fitt, Professor Robyn Ward, Ms Meindert Boyens, Professor Chen Yau Cheng

ACE held its inaugural Value-Based Healthcare Conference on 29 and 30 September 2022. Discussions focused on strengthening Singapore's healthcare system to provide quality and sustainable healthcare for all. Local and international speakers from the fields of health technology assessment (HTA), clinical practice, patient engagement and education were invited to share insights on various topics related to value-based healthcare.

[Link: Agency for Care Effectiveness \(ACE\) \(ace-hta.gov.sg\)](https://ace-hta.gov.sg)

+ Key Lab of Health Technology Assessment, National Health Commission (Fudan University)

1. The 15th China Health Technology Assessment Forum held on Dec. 9-11, 2022 in Shanghai



The 15th China HTA Forum with the theme “Innovative methods and decision-making practices” was held on Dec. 9-11, 2022 in Shanghai by Key Lab of Health Technology Assessment, National Health Commission (Fudan University). Over 1600 decision makers, researchers, and technology developers attended the forum by the hybrid mode of online and offline, representing the public sector, academia, research agencies, industry, hospitals, and nongovernmental organizations. There were 4 plenary sessions, 12 parallel sessions, 1 young scholar forum and 4 oral sessions in the forum.

[Link: https://chta.fudan.edu.cn/a/177](https://chta.fudan.edu.cn/a/177)



+ The Centre for Health Policy, Planning and Management (CHPPM), Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai

1. Capacity Building




Completion of the 12th year of HTA capacity building program [MPH (Health Policy, Economics and Finance)]. A total of 22 graduates received their Master's degree in the convocation ceremony in 2022, in this first and only kind of HTA Masters programme in South Asia, developed in collaboration with the LSE . Over 250 MPH graduates trained in HTA have emerged from this programme since 2010.

2. Research

1. Experiences of the above HTA capacity building programme (SMART framework) was shared by Prof. Kanchan Mukherjee at the plenary session of the HTAi annual meeting at Cologne, HTAi Asia Policy Forum meeting in Singapore (November 2022) and also published.

 Link to publication: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S2211883719300826>

2. The first HTA on COVID-19 diagnostic technology from India (FELUDA test using CRISPR technology innovation) was done to provide evidence on SARS-CoV-2 testing policy and highlight the role of HTA in innovations. The findings of this HTA was presented by Prof. Kanchan Mukherjee in his keynote talk at the 2021 HTAi Asia Policy Forum virtual meeting (hosted by Japan). published.

 Publication on this HTA can be viewed at: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2211883721000034>

3. A paper on the role of HTA in assessing responsible innovations in health using an ecosystems framework, in collaboration with the University of Liverpool was published in the International Journal of Health Technology Assessment.

 Paper can be viewed at: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35549786/>



HTAsiaLink members

As of 26 Jan 2023



Organisational members



Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● The Australian Safety and Efficacy Register of New Interventional Procedures – Surgical (ASERNIP-S)● Health Technology Reference Group (HTRG)● Menzies School of Public Health, University of Sydney● The George Institute for Global Health
Bhutan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Essential Medicines and Technology Division (EMTD), Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Health, Bhutan
China	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Vanke School of Public Health, Tsinghua University● China National Health Development Research Center (CNHDRC)● NHC Key Laboratory of Health Technology Assessment (Fudan University)● Shanghai Health Technology Assessment Research Center, Shanghai Health Development Research Center
India	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Department of Community Medicine and School of Public Health, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh● Institute of Public Health Kalyani (IPHK)● Centre for Health Policy, Planning and Management (CHPPM), Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS)● Department of Health Research (DHR), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India
Indonesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Center for Health Economics and Policy Studies (CHEPS), Universitas Indonesia● InaHTAC (Indonesia Health Technology Assessment Committee), Ministry of Health, Republic of Indonesia
Japan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● HIAS Health, Research Center for Health Policy and Economics, Hitotsubashi Institute for Advanced Study (HIAS), Hitotsubashi University● Center for Outcomes Research and Economic Evaluation for Health (C2H), National Institute of Public Health
Malaysia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM)● Malaysia Health Technology Assessment Section (MaHTAS), Ministry of Health Malaysia● Pharmaceutical Services Program, Ministry of Health, Malaysia

Philippines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● HTA Unit - Philippines Department of Health
Singapore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ministry of Health, Singapore ● Health Services Research Unit, Changi General Hospital, Singapore Health Services (SingHealth) ● Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health ● Health Services Research Institute (HSRI), Duke-NUS Medical School
South Korea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● National Evidence-based Healthcare Collaborating Agency (NECA) ● Department of Health Convergence, Ewha Womans University
Sri Lanka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Health System Research Unit, Department of Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo
Taiwan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Division of Health Technology Assessment, Center for Drug Evaluation (CDE) ● National Hepatitis C Program (NHCP) Office, Ministry of Health and Welfare ● Big Data Research Center, Fu Jen Catholic University
Thailand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mahidol Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit (MORU), Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University ● Health Technology Assessment Program, Mahidol University ● Faculty of Pharmacy, Thammasat University ● Health Intervention and Technology Assessment Program (HITAP) ● Center for Medical and Health Technology Assessment (CM-HTA), Chiang Mai University ● Social, Economic, and Administrative Postgraduate Programs (SEAP), Mahidol University
Vietnam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Health Strategy and Policy Institute (HSPI)

Associate members

Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Health Technology Assessment Unit of the McGill University Health Centre
Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● EuroScan international network
South Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Priority Cost Effective Lessons for System Strengthening (PRICELESS), Wits School of Public Health
UK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Global Health and Development Group, Institute of Global Health Innovation, Imperial College London

HTA Calendar 2023

15
Mar

7-10
May

24-28
Jun

9-13
Oct

12-15
Nov

More detail



**Eighteenth Meeting
of the WHO Council on
the Economics of Health for All**



World Health
Organization

More detail



ISPOR 2023



ISPOR 2023
#ISPORAnnual

More detail



HTAi 2023 Annual Meeting



HTAi

More detail



ISPOR Europe 2023



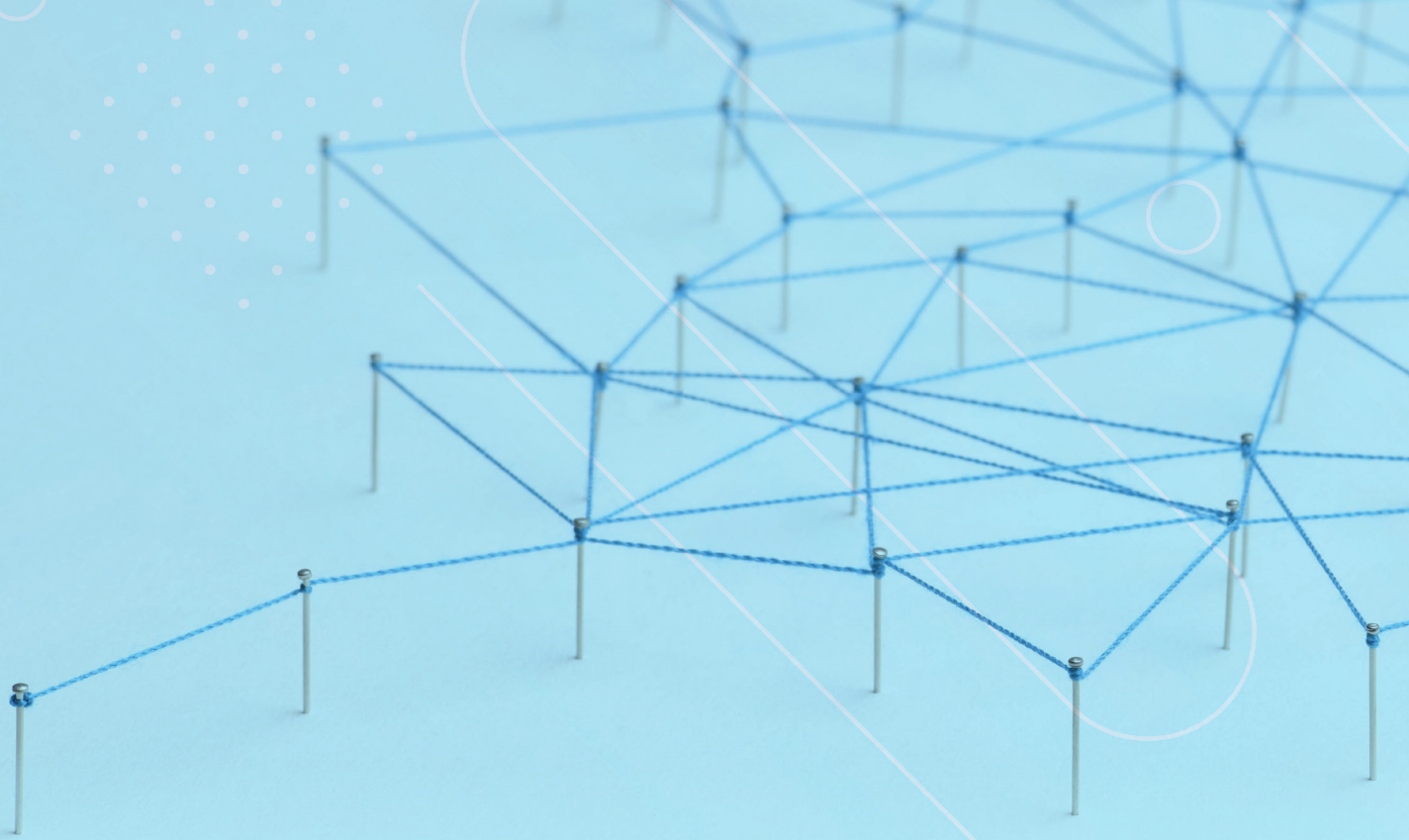
More detail



**Fifty-seventh meeting
of the WHO Expert Committee on
Specifications for Pharmaceutical
Preparations**



World Health
Organization



HTAsiaLink

THE NETWORK TO STRENGTHEN COLLABORATION AMONG HTA AGENCIES IN ASIA



Next HTAsiaLink in Putrajaya, Malaysia

Reshaping and Reshifting Health Technology Assessment
in Navigating the Future Landscape

4 September - 7 September 2023

We hope to see you here!

For more information, please visit
<https://sites.google.com/moh.gov.my/htasialink2023/>

For further inquiries, please contact: htasialink2023.sc@gmail.com