Volume 19, Jan – Jun 2024

HTAsiaLink

- **Highlights from the 11th HTAsiaLink Annual Conference in Malaysia**
- **Insights from Presentation Award Winners**
- **HTAsiaLink member updates and initiatives**

Editor's Talk:

"We must invest in the capacity of HTA agency, strengthen collaboration between public health authority, regulator, researcher, and HTA agency. It's crucial to streamline data-sharing, expedite assessment, and support evidence-based decision-making."

YB Dato Lukanisman Bin Awan Sauni
(Minister of Health Malaysia)

Opening remarks
of HTAsiaLink 2023

The 11th HTAsiaLink Annual Conference took place in Putrajaya Malaysia, centered around the theme "Reshaping and Reshifting HTA in Navigating the Future Landscape". Key discussions revolved around accelerating access to technologies, evaluating public health interventions and addressing challenges in HTA. Our newsletter unfolds the narrative of diverse activities and uplifting member updates. Discover the wealth of insights on every page and stay tuned for a glimpse of compelling events we eagerly anticipate being a part of this year. Your adventure begins in the following pages!

HTAsiaLink Newsletter

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

Become an
HTAsiaLink member

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Reshaping and Reshifting:
Health Technology Assessment
in Navigating the Future Landscape

The world is entering a new era of health system transformation after the major global crisis, COVID-19 pandemic, which has tested the health system resilience and capacity to adapt to unforeseen critical changes. Health technology assessment (HTA), which aims to inform health policy with the ultimate goal of better health systems and the health of the population, is not an exception. Disruption happens all the time, regular revisits of HTA may warrant to ensure its relevance to ever-changing policy-making context.

To explore this topic, the 11th HTAsiaLink Annual Conference 2023 was hosted under the theme 'Reshaping and Reshifting HTA in Navigating the Future Landscape' on 4th – 7th September 2023 by Malaysia Health Technology Assessment Section (MaHTAS), Ministry of Health, Malaysia. Joined by international experts and more than 200 participants, the conference explored how HTA can contribute in accelerating access to health technologies, discussed its role and application in assessing public health interventions, and delved deep into innovative approaches to tackle challenges in HTA.

Plenary 1: Access to the right technologies at the right time: Streamlined HTA process with patient involvements

In the first plenary session, experts convened to tackle the universal issue of the need to expedite access to health technologies, a challenge brought into sharp focus by the COVID-19 pandemic. The discussion pivoted around the vital need to navigate uncertainties in healthcare, a persistent dilemma both during crises and in regular times, with an emphasis on accelerating the availability of crucial health technologies.

The European Union's approach to Health Technology Assessment (HTA) is an impressive model of collaboration which helps streamline processes through shared information hence less duplication of efforts. This emphasises the importance of joint assessment by regulators and HTA bodies and the harmonization of HTA practices. The European experience underscored the significance of collaborative projects, frameworks, and patient involvement in enhancing the effectiveness and trust in HTA across member states.

What's more, patient perspectives are crucial in the HTA process. Acknowledging the hurdles faced by patients in accessing healthcare, the discussion recognized the invaluable insights patients offer into diseases and healthcare systems, underscoring their role in shaping health technologies.

Advancing global healthcare hinges on collaborative efforts, meaningful patient involvement, and adapting HTA methodologies to fit diverse local contexts.

Plenary 2: Role of HTA in assessing public health intervention

The second plenary of HTAsiaLink 2023 delved into the complexities of assessing public health interventions (PHIs). The session highlighted the long history of public health models and their significance in understanding complex health scenarios. The complexities inherent in PHIs, including their multi-dimensional nature and the necessity for inter-ministerial collaboration, were also a key focus.

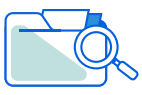
Assessment of public health interventions can be complex and models are essential tools for assessing them as conducting clinical trials or real-world studies of public health interventions may be unethical, expensive, time-consuming and can be confounded by external factors.

All in all, assessing public health interventions involve more considerations than assessing medicines. Therefore, many places such as Malaysia has additional criteria and approaches when it comes to dealing with public health interventions, from topic selection step to appraisal step, e.g., to also consider cultural aspects as a part of the intervention review.

Plenary 3: Innovative approaches in tackling HTA challenges

COVID-19 exemplified the dynamic challenges in Health Technology Assessment (HTA). The pandemic highlighted the need for HTAs to rapidly adapt to evolving knowledge about health crises. Key strategies for addressing future urgent health issues discussed in the third plenary session include:

Adaptive HTA (aHTA), or mini HTA/rapid review, which accelerates evidence generation for urgent matters. This method is most effective when there's urgency, lower uncertainty in clinical and cost-effectiveness, and minimal budget impact. However, it has limitations in data transferability and scope.



New HTA (nHTA) for innovative technologies, especially digital health, assessing clinical safety and effectiveness with limited information.

Promoting high-value interventions by disinvesting in lower-value ones, carefully navigating equity concerns, process uncertainties, and professional obligations.

These approaches collectively aim to streamline HTA in fast-paced, uncertain scenarios, ensuring timely access to effective health technologies while addressing resource allocation and value challenges.

Everyone agrees that HTA needs to be more streamlined and adaptive in the world that is always changing at an extremely fast pace and with possible unforeseen circumstances. HTA agencies and researchers and those in HTA fields will also need to adapt to the changes so the HTA work can improve people's health in the best, most appropriate, and most timely manner as possible.

Behind the Scenes:

Discover Winning Strategies

from the 11th HTAsiaLink Award Winners

Questions:

1. What are your top tips when creating a presentation?
2. What is non-negotiable as a first-time presenter?

Oral Presentation First Prize Winner

Health Services Research Track

1 Name: Chanida Ekakkararungroj

Organisation: Health Intervention and Technology Assessment Program, Thailand

1. Define objective: This will guide the structure and content of slides
2. Time Management: Be mindful of presentation length and ensure there is no exceeding the allotted time.
- Rehearse: Practice the presentation multiple times. This helps in getting comfortable with the flow of the presentation, timing, and use of visual aids.

Economic Evaluation Track

2 Name: Dana Beatriz Bayani

Organisation: National University of Singapore, Singapore

1. For concise presentations, focus on essentials and key messages. In the limited 8-10 minutes, avoid excessive background details. Highlight study motivation, key methods in a single slide, and succinctly present results with policy implications. This ensures that the judges and audience grasp your study's essence for a good Q&A.
2. Practice makes perfect! Do a mock presentation to get feedback on content, slide clarity, and speech delivery. Do a few more rounds of solo practice to stick to the allocated time, ensuring a polished and impactful delivery.

Others Track

3 Name: Jarawee Sukmanee

Organisation: Health Intervention and Technology Assessment Program, Thailand

1. When creating a presentation, start by drafting a compelling narrative and concise content. Make sure each slide conveys its own key message. Keep your presentation simple and aesthetic by using appropriate font and maintain consistency throughout. Incorporating effective visuals and high-quality images will make your presentation more appealing. Finally, tiny details, such as spelling and grammar, should not be overlooked.
2. For a first-time presenter, practicing for confidence is non-negotiable, especially if English is not your first language. Ensure your presentation stays within the assigned duration and avoid reading directly from your slides. Lastly, a captivating opening captures your audience's attention, and a strong ending leaves them with a lasting impression.

Poster Presentation
First Prize Winner

Health Services Research Track

1 Name: Nurfarah Aqilah Ahmad Nizam

Organisation: Malaysian Health Technology Assessment Section, Malaysia

1. My top tip in creating a presentation is to organize the content effectively. The presentation's structure must be clear and engaging, with a proper flow to guide the audience through the information.
2. As a first-time presenter, one non-negotiable aspect is thorough preparation to build our confidence and understand our materials well.

Economic Evaluation Track

2 Name: Tabitha Okech

Organisation: Mahidol University Health Technology Assessment, Thailand

1. I consider the amount of time allocated for my presentation to decide how many slides I am going to include in my presentation. Generally, 1-2 minutes per slide depending on the complexity of the content.
2. It is important to understand and internalize the content you're going to present. Then, practice, practice and practice again.

Others Track

3 Name: Farhana Aminuddin

Organisation: Malaysian Health Technology Assessment Section, Malaysia

1. Know the audience to tailor the presentation content to their interests and level of understanding. The presentation should have clear structure & content that is easier for the audience to understand and follow. Putting graphics to enhance the message and rehearse to improve the delivery.
2. It's crucial to exude confidence and be thoroughly prepared. Fully understanding the material, practicing delivery, seeking feedback from colleagues, and anticipating potential questions to boost confidence.

Member Activities

1. NECA Annual Conference

Organisation: National Evidence-based healthcare Collaborating Agency (NECA)

NECA held its Annual Conference on November 14 under the theme of "Healthcare Decision Making Through HTA: Challenges and Tasks." It was the first in-person event held at NECA after WHO declared the end of COVID-19 as a global health emergency. Many stakeholders attended the conference and discussed challenges to reflect New Health Technology Assessment and Health Technology Reassessment in healthcare decision-making.

2. Launch of India's National Health System Cost Databas

Organisation: Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, India

India's National Health System Cost Database launched at the International Symposium on Health Technology Assessment (ISHTA) India's National Health System Cost Database, developed by the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh, India in collaboration with the Government of India's Department of Health Research, and Center for Global Development, Europe was launched during the ISHTA on 10th March, 2023, in New Delhi. Led by Prof. Shankar Prinja, this database offers public access to cost data from a national study which covered 90+ hospitals in 14 states. This study findings have been pivotal for revising health benefit package prices of India's national health insurance scheme – PM-JAY. The symposium, inaugurated by the Hon'ble Vice President of India Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar and chaired by the Health Minister of Central Government Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, focused on HTA for Universal Health Coverage.

3. Distributional Cost-Effective Analysis Pre-conference Session

Organisation: M-VAC - University of Melbourne, HITAP, Keio University, JIPMER, National University of Singapore

Researchers from the Asia-Pacific region ran a half-day pre-conference session at the 2023 HTAsiaLink conference, dedicated to introducing methodology for conducting Distributional Cost-Effectiveness Analysis. The session covered equity in HTA, featuring country case studies from the region, and engaging participants in a hands-on exercise eliciting health inequality aversion parameters.

4. HTAsiaLink Webinar Series

HTAsiaLink has worked with the University of York, Centre of Health Economics, and HITAP to deliver a dynamic 4-part webinar series designed to bolster capacity in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). The first installment kicked off in November, followed by the second part of the series titled “Methods of Estimating Health Opportunity Costs” which aired on the 27th February. This was geared towards academia and policy experts in Southeast Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Meet MIDAS!

We are delighted to announce a new collaboration between the HTAsiaLink members, Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, National University of Singapore, Singapore, and Health Intervention and Technology Amssessment Program (HITAP), Thailand!

Medical Innovation Development and Assessment Support (MIDAS) is the name of the collaborated initiative, which will focus on early health technology assessment (early HTA). Its mission is supporting and enhancing health innovation, identifying innovations with potential, fostering cutting-edge research, and evaluating the value for money of innovations since their developmental stage. With a focus both in Thailand and internationally, MIDAS aims to cultivate an environment that nurtures and guides the value-packed health innovation development, which can be mass-produced, market, and considered for inclusion in benefits package under public health insurance system in countries around the world.

Early HTA is a process that evaluates the potential impacts that might arise from the use of technology for medical practice or people's daily lives at the early stage of technology development based on various conditions or characteristics of the technology. It can provide input and guidance on how to maximise the chances of success for the innovation development and inform investors and innovators about target characteristics and profile that the technology must achieve, so the technology is most desirable to the market.

What can early HTA do?

Determine innovations to further develop: Evaluate the value for money of each product to determine the potential maximum price of the product and whether it would be cost-effective to invest in research and development.

Set goals for innovation development: Early HTA can guide the target product profile that would make the product worth an investment and increase the chance for inclusion in public health insurance's benefits package.

Inform the design of clinical trials: Insights from early HTA can pinpoint the information which is most impactful to the technology's cost-effectiveness which should be studied in clinical trials. Innovators can then design the trials accordingly to gather such information to reduce uncertainties.

Guide pricing and market: early HTA can provide insights for determining the right price to sell at.

MIDAS

HTAsiaLink members

As of 17 Dec 2023

Organisational members

Australia	• Griffith University Centre for Applied Health Economics (CAHE) • Melbourne Health Technology and Value Assessment Collaboration (M-VAC) • Menzies School of Health Research • Menzies School of Public Health, University of Sydney • The Australian Safety and Efficacy Register of New Interventional Procedures – Surgical (ASERNIP-S) • The George Institute for Global Health
Bhutan	• Health Intervention and Technology Assessment Division, Department of Health Services, Ministry of Health • Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan
China	• 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 • Vanke School of Public Health, Tsinghua University
Hong Kong	• University of Hong Kong Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine
India	• Department of Community Medicine and School of Public Health, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh • Department of Health Research (DHR), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India • Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER) • National Health Authority • Prasanna School of Public Health (PSPH), Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE)
Indonesia	• Center for Health Economics and Policy Studies (CHEPS), Universitas Indonesia • Center for Health Financing Policy and Insurance Management (Pusat KPMAK) • Center for Health Technology Assessment, Universitas Padjadjaran • Clinical Epidemiology and Evidence-Based Medicine (CEEBM), Indonesia • InaHTAC (Indonesia Health Technology Assessment Committee), Ministry of Health, Republic of Indonesia
Japan	• Center for Outcomes Research and Economic Evaluation for Health (C2H), National Institute of Public Health • HIAS Health, Research Center for Health Policy and Economics, Hitotsubashi Institute for Advanced Study (HIAS), Hitotsubashi University
Kazakhstan	• Medical Center Hospital of the President's Affairs Administration of the Republic of Kazakhstan
Lao PDR	• Unit of Health Evidence and Policy (UHEP), Institute of Research and Education Development (IRED), University of Health Sciences,Lao PDR

Malaysia	• Malaysia Health Technology Assessment Section (MaHTAS), Ministry of Health Malaysia • Pharmaceutical Services Program, Ministry of Health, Malaysia • School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM)
Philippines	• HTA Division - Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Philippines • Institute of Health Policy and Development Studies, University of the Philippines
Singapore	• Agency for Care Effectiveness (ACE), Ministry of Health, Singapore • Health Services Research Institute (HSRI), Duke-NUS Medical School • Health Services Research Unit, Changi General Hospital, Singapore Health Services (SingHealth) • Ministry of Health, Singapore • Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health • Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, National University of Singapore
South Korea	• Department of Health Convergence, Ewha Womans University • National Evidence-based Healthcare Collaborating Agency (NECA)
Taiwan	• Big Data Research Center, Fu Jen Catholic University • Division of Health Technology Assessment, Center for Drug Evaluation (CDE)
Thailand	• Center for Medical and Health Technology Assessment (CM-HTA), Chiang Mai University • Faculty of Pharmacy, Thammasat University • Health Intervention and Technology Assessment Program (HITAP) • Health Technology Assessment Program, Mahidol University • Mahidol Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit (MORU), Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University • Social, Economic, and Administrative Postgraduate Programs (SEAP), Mahidol University
Vietnam	• Faculty of Pharmacy – Pham Ngoc Thach University of Medicine • Health Strategy and Policy Institute (HSPI)

Associate members

Canada	• Health Technology Assessment Unit of the McGill University Health Centre
Germany	• EuroScan/international HealthTechScan – iHTS
Kenya	• KEMRI Wellcome Trust Research Programme
UK	• Global Health and Development Group, Institute of Global Health Innovation, Imperial College London • Global Health Economics Centre, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

HTA event calendar

March 20-22 2024

HIPER Symposium 2024

M Hotel Singapore
City Centre (Singapore)

More details

May 5-8 2024

ISPOR 2024

Georgia World
Congress Center
(Atlanta, Georgia, USA)

More details

May 8-10 2024

PRIORITIES 2024 Conference

Bangkok, Thailand

More details

June 15-19 2024

HTAi 2024 Annual Meeting

Seville, Spain

More details

November 17-20 2024

ISPOR Europe 2024

Barcelona, Spain

More details

PRIORITIES 2024 CONFERENCE

Shaping the Future of Health Prioritization: Strategies for Sustainable Solutions

14th International Society for Priorities in Health Conference

The First Priorities Conference in Asia

The Power of Possibility: Prioritizing Healthcare's Emerging Innovations

Seeing the Whole Picture: Taking a Holistic View of Healthcare Prioritization

Priority-Setting During The Crises: Preparing for Future Health Threats

Key activities

- Plenary sessions
- Organized sessions
- Workshops
- Oral presentations
- Poster presentations
- Networking sessions

DEADLINE EXTENDED!

SCAN TO REGISTER

Save the date!

8 - 10 May 2024

Millennium Hilton Bangkok, Thailand

In-person only

New deadline:

23rd April 2024

Open for participants from all sectors, both non-profit and profit organizations.

Hosted by HITAP

For general inquiries: **Info@priorities2024.com**

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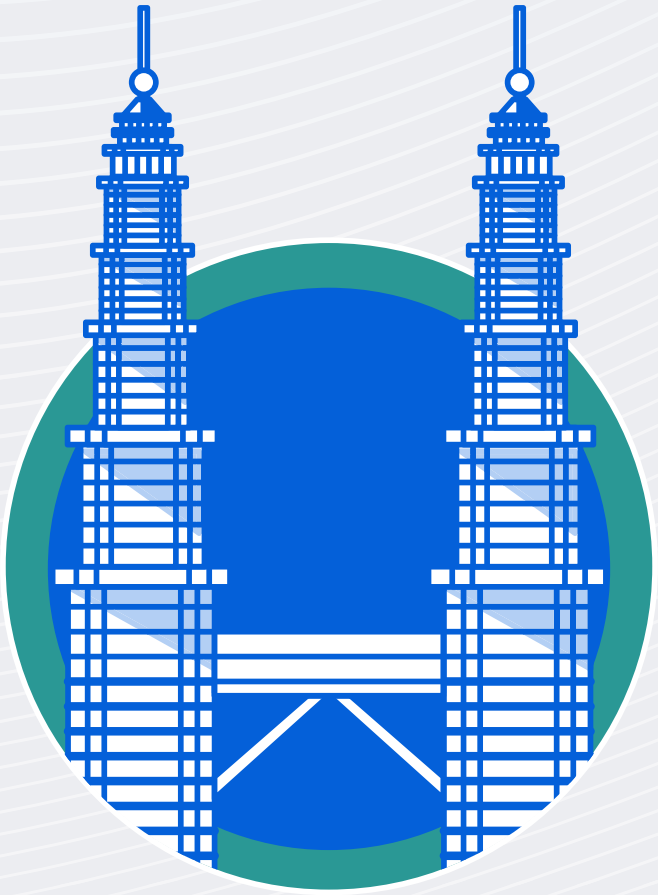


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