

SCOPE OF WORK

The Network is committed to (1) working in partnership with each other and with the governments in the region, donors and other academic institutions to “broker” knowledge on critical health system strengthening areas through various knowledge-sharing events and senior policy seminars; (2) working with a selected pool of regional and world-renown experts to develop customized training programs with cutting-edge knowledge on health system strengthening and deliver them to the regional clients; (3) examining selected countries’ reform experiences and lessons, to develop evidence-based cases for learning and sharing—seeking synergy with other partners in the region, and (4) helping improve the institutional capacity of the member institutes through training of the trainers, twinning arrangements with international experts, skills building, etc.

PROGRAMS

Types of Programs:

- Senior Policy Seminars (SPS): discussion seminars organized for senior government policy makers to discuss and debate on critical and commonly interested health reform topics
- Training courses for high- and mid-level government policy makers, executives, NGO managers and private sector health executives to provide new knowledge and skills on health system strengthening (EXT training)
- Training of the trainers, courses for the Network faculty (TOT)
- Health systems strengthening lessons exchange and knowledge dissemination forums (Forum)

Modes of Activities:

- Face to face event, regional or country
- Global Development Learning Network video conference (GDLN-VC), regional or global
- Online discussion and sharing
- (future) Online Knowledge Resource Center

TARGET AUDIENCE

The Network programs will target different audience depending on the activities, but in general they will target mid- to high-level government health policy makers, officials who are actively involved in planning or managing the health programs and who can influence policies, community health leaders, senior policy advisors from academic institutions, NGOs, and private sector in East and South Asia.

FINANCIAL SOURCES

The Network derives its financial support from international and regional donors, government, member contribution (including in-kind staff and material support), and activity cost recovery.

ASIA NETWORK FOR HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

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WORLD BANK INSTITUTE
LEARNING FOR DEVELOPMENT



ASIA NETWORK FOR
CAPACITY BUILDING
IN HEALTH SYSTEMS
STRENGTHENING

INTRODUCTION

The Asia Network for Capacity Building in Health Systems Strengthening has been established to satisfy the growing need for a platform for knowledge improvement and exchange in health systems strengthening in the Asia region. The reforms carried out by the countries in the region often demand reference to successful policies and programmatic innovation. In the meantime, the country institutions demand to play an increasing role in the region for capacity building and knowledge dissemination.

Technical demands from the countries vary a lot but common themes emerge. Many countries face a spill-over effect from the rapid economic growth related to the changing needs for health care and protection. Support for analytical work and technical assistance is needed to help address long-term challenges. The policy makers frequently need time-sensitive assistance to help make strategic decisions for the reform or address major implementation challenges. Such information and evidence often exist but need to be collected, organized and provided in a timely fashion. Countries in the East and South Asia Regions expressed a common need for a forum where they can share reform lessons. There is also substantial demand for in-depth knowledge and practical skills in the various areas of health system strengthening. Hence, agreement among nine national institutions and the World Bank Institute (WBI) has been reached to set up a consortium style regional network to support knowledge transfer and capacity building.

The Network is formally launched in July 2009 during the 7th World Congress of the International Health Economics Association (iHEA) in Beijing, China.

OBJECTIVES OF THE NETWORK

The Network aims to

- Better inform the health policy makers in the region through a platform where health system strengthening knowledge can be disseminated and lessons shared.
- Improve the national policy makers' expertise and ability in policy making and implementation through providing them with cutting-edge knowledge and updated analytical information.
- Strengthen the capacity of national institutions and encourage them to become the centers of excellence in knowledge dissemination, training and policy assistance.

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ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNANCE

Member Institutions

The Network is composed of *institution members*. The members are selected because they are nationally or regionally recognized institutes and had sustainable involvement in health system strengthening work. The founding members include:

- Aga Khan University (Faculty of Health Sciences), Pakistan
- Asian Institute of Management, Philippines
- BRAC University (James P. Grant School of Public Health), Bangladesh
- China Network for Training and Research in Health Economics and Financing (including 29 institution members nationwide)
- Chinese University of Hong Kong (School of Public Health), Hong Kong SAR, China
- Chulalongkorn University (Centre for Health Economics), Thailand
- Gadjah Mada University (Centre for Health Service Management, Medical School), Indonesia
- Institute for Health Policy, Sri Lanka
- University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR, China



Governing Structure

The Network has a *Board of Directors (the Board)*. The Board has an elected chairman and consists of a senior representative from each of the member institutions and WBI. The Board is responsible for developing the overall strategy and work program for the Network. It interacts with the donors and provides oversight for the program quality. Working with the Board is a *Secretariat* which ensures the Network's programs will be carried out according to the plan and assists the Board on the day to day administrative matters. In the initial stage of the Network, WBI will play a major role in the Network's strategy planning, program development and training of the trainers.

THE WORLD BANK INSTITUTE (WBI)

The World Bank Institute (WBI) is the capacity development arm of the World Bank. WBI supports the World Bank Group's overall development strategies by integrating capacity development activities into the assistance strategy and programs. WBI programs are designed to build knowledge and skills among groups of individuals involved in policy

formulation and performing tasks. These programs are also intended to strengthen the organizations and sociopolitical environments in which they operate.

The Health Program Team of WBI has worked closely with country level partners, particularly the academic institution partners, in

both East and South Asia for over a decade. With these partners, WBI creates and delivers learning and knowledge exchange events, and other knowledge products to assist health policy makers in problem solving, making informed decisions and setting priorities for reform. The partner institutions have experts with exceptional technical skills

and strong expertise in teaching, case development, and customizing materials for training and other knowledge events. All nine founding members of this Asia Network had prior experience collaborating with WBI in customizing and delivering capacity building events.

