

**REGIONAL HTA NETWORKS -
EFFECTIVE WAY FOR CAPACITY
STRENGTHENING &
KNOWLEDGE SHARING IN ASIA**

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INTRODUCTION

- setting up of new programme – many challenges - competing priorities – buy in from policy makers, health care providers
- justifying need for HTA - difficult - appears to conflict with acquisition & adoption of latest technologies – HTA viewed as obstacle
- bigger challenge - capacity building in HTA methodology

ASIAN HTA NETWORK

- ISTAHC Annual Meeting 1996 - Special Interest Groups in Developing Countries
- Asian HTA network - pool available resources & maximise them - benefit many countries
- set up HTA capability in those countries where it did not exist
- strengthen capability in countries with HTA
- capacity building.

REGIONAL COOPERATION IN HTA

- 1st meeting – 1996- Kuala Lumpur Malaysia - Bangladesh, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore (later China)
- Meetings - 1997, 1998 - sharing experiences – setting model for other countries to adopt/adapt & capacity building
- 2000 meeting jointly with International Clinical Epidemiological Network
- emphasis on cost effectiveness, effectiveness of technologies (especially sophisticated, expensive medical equipment) e.g. CT scans

CAPACITY BUILDING

- HTA Training courses in Malaysia – participants from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Iran Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka
- Asian Regional HTA Conference in collaboration with ISTAHC, WHO & MSQH - 2000 - 350 participants from 20 countries
- Asian Regional HTA Conference jointly with WHO & MSHTA- 2003 - 300 participants from 12 countries
- Asian Regional HTA Conference – 2005 - Philippines

JOINT PROJECTS

- study -1997-1998 - diffusion & utilization of MRI in Asia - Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, China (Shanghai & Hong Kong), India (Tamil Nadu state)
- MRI/population - not as high as most OECD countries - major share of health resources - devoted to expensive high-technology devices

NEW HTA AGENCIES

- Thailand - HSRI
- Korea – university
- Indonesia – hospitals
- Pakistan – NGO network, hospitals

REGIONAL COOPERATION IN HTA

- experiences in Malaysia used as basis for other countries
 - e.g. Philippines - HTA reports used in policy formulation by Philippines Health Insurance Corporation

WAY FORWARD

- share experiences
- share resources - knowledge sharing - adapt/adopt – “why reinvent the wheel”?
- optimise resources – training trainers
- peer training of key personnel – opinion builders, clinicians