APO HAS A NEW BOARD MEMBER
The Pacific Community (SPC) joins the Asia Pacific Observatory on Health Systems and Policies

The Asia Pacific Observatory on Health Systems and Policies (APO) is pleased to welcome the Pacific Community (SPC) as a full member. The collaboration, which is co-sponsored by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) of the Government of Australia, will enable the SPC and the APO to achieve their objectives to generate evidence for policy, and develop knowledge products to improve health systems and policies on health and health care, in the Asia Pacific Region. As a member of the APO, SPC will work towards its fulfilment of its aim to improve policies on health and health care in the Asia Pacific Region. Having SPC as a board member will support the development of knowledge products and generate evidence on health policies and systems in the Pacific region. There will be greater opportunity to leverage the experience and knowledge of experts from the region, along with the experience and support of the APO in generating relevant products.

APO HAS A NEW CHAIRPERSON
The APO bids farewell and thanks the Philippines for their role as Chair to the APO Board from 2019-2021. The APO would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Australia as the new chair of the APO board in January 2022.

FUNDING UPDATE
The secretariat is working with the Global Fund to get funding for work in LAOS PDR. Discussions on this are ongoing.

PUBLICATION UPDATE 2020-21

COVID-19 Health System Response Monitor
In 2020, the APO launched the COVID-19 Health System Response Monitor. The series of publications present a systematic approach to collect and collate country policy responses to COVID-19 to help with understanding the global COVID-19 response and allow easy comparison of activities at national and sub-national levels. The COVID-19 HSRM reports are updated to document the changes in strategies taken by countries to respond to COVID-19. The HSRM series is the result of a collaboration between the APO, the European Observatory on
Health Systems and Policies (OBS) and WHO through its regional offices for Europe, Eastern Mediterranean, South East Asia and Western Pacific as well as Headquarters. COVID-19 HSRM publications launched between 2020-21 are:

**Indonesia: COVID-19 Health System Response Monitor** (September 2021)
**Singapore: COVID-19 Health System Response Monitor** (updated August 2021)
**Republic of Korea: COVID-19 Health System Response Monitor** (December 2020, updated February 2021)
**New Zealand: COVID-19 Health System Response Monitor** (April 2021)
**Japan: COVID-19 Health System Response Monitor** (January 2021)
**Thailand: COVID-19 Health System Response Monitor** (September 2020, updated November 2020)

**Health System in Transition Reviews (HiT)**

**Sri Lanka health system review** Sri Lanka achieved strong health outcomes over and above what is commensurate with its income level. The country has made significant gains in essential health indicators, witnessed a steady increase in life expectancy among its people, and eliminated malaria, filariasis, polio and neonatal tetanus. At the same time, Sri Lanka’s health system faces challenges arising from a rapidly ageing population, and the need to address the burden of non-communicable diseases which currently contributes to nearly 75% of deaths in the country. [Read more](#)

**Comparative Country Studies**

**Integrated care for chronic diseases in Asia Pacific countries** Ageing populations, increasing burden of chronic diseases, the need to manage chronic conditions are some factors which have triggered the need for, and implementation of, integrated care models in the Asia Pacific region. This CCS presents findings from a scoping review, and case studies on integrated care programmes from six countries in the Asia Pacific region. [Read more](#)

**Moving towards culturally competent, migrant-inclusive health systems: a comparative study of Malaysia and Thailand** Malaysia and Thailand have taken different approaches to developing a migrant-inclusive health system. By featuring two countries at different stages of development of migrant-inclusive health systems, the case studies highlight there is no “one size fits all” solution, and that different policy options can be considered. [Read more](#)

**Policy Brief**

**Use of e-health programmes to deliver urban primary health-care services for noncommunicable diseases in middle-income countries** This policy brief presents a synthesis of the insights gained from systematic reviews of the published scientific as well as grey literature and in-depth interviews in four MICs – China, Nepal, Philippines and Kenya. MICs have to deal with an increasing burden of NCDs but have different demographic structures, socioeconomic status and e-health development landscape. The focus of this brief is on the use of e-health at the PHC level for NCD management in urban settings. [Read more](#)
Journal publications:

Du, Q, Wang, L, Long, Q, Zhao, Y, Abdullah, AS. Systematic review and meta-analysis: Prevalence of diabetes among patients with tuberculosis in China. Trop Med Int Health. 2021; 26: 1553–1559. Read the article here

De Foo, Chuan et al. Navigating from SARS-CoV-2 elimination to endemicity in Australia, Hong Kong, New Zealand, and Singapore. The Lancet, Volume 398, Issue 10311, 1547 – 1551. Read the article here

Pinter, K. A., Zhang, H., Liu, C., Tran, B., Chokshi, M., Lucerno-Prisno, D. E., ... Tang, S. (2021). Elements and Performance Indicators of Integrated Healthcare Programmes on Chronic Diseases in Six Countries in the Asia-Pacific Region: A Scoping Review. International Journal of Integrated Care, 21(1), 3. Read the article here

Baru R, Nundy M, Bisht R, Thresia C U & Sarma J (2021). Integration of Health Services for Older Persons in Urban India: A Scoping Review. Econ Polit Wkly. 56, (37). Read the article here

Asgari-Jirhandeh N, Zapata T & Jhalani M (2021). Strengthening Primary Health Care as a Means to Achieve Universal Health Coverage: Experience from India. Journal of Health Management. 23, (1): 20-30. Read the article here

For more please visit our journal publications page here

RESEARCH UPDATES

1. Remaining 2021 publications

In-progress and planned 2021-22 publications

| COVID-19 HSRM | 1. Sri Lanka (language editing stage) |
| Health system reviews | 1. Mongolia: Expected in 2022 |
| Policy briefs | 2. India: (with printers – expected launch January 2022) |
| | 3. Viet Nam: Expected in 2022 |
| Comparative country study | 1. Policy brief: Integrated Care for Tuberculosis and Diabetes: Experiences from Asian Countries (2022 - Q2) |
| | 2. Digital health in low- and middle-income countries |
| | 3. Elderly Care in India and China: Scheduled for Q3, 2022 |
| | 4. Comparative country study on capacity assessment of health policy and systems research (HPSR) in China, Viet Nam, and Thailand |
| | 4. A comparative case study of integrated care for tuberculosis and diabetes in Bangladesh, China, Nepal, Indonesia, and the Philippines: health system challenges & opportunities (a request to include India was made by STAC) |
| Others | 1. Series of articles COVID-19: The series will focus on governance, public health measures, essential public health services, and impact on marginalized populations – across six Asian countries |
ACTIVITY UPDATES

➢ Board and STAC meetings 2021: Convened virtually due to COVID-19 pandemic
  o 12th meeting of the Strategic Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) of the APO: 08th February 2021
  o 19th Board meeting of the Asia Pacific Observatory on Health Systems and Policies: 10th February 2021
  o 13th meeting of the Strategic Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) of the APO: 07th October 2021
  o 20th Board meeting of the APO: 08th October 2021

Other External engagements

APO Publications on JSTOR

APO Publications have been curated on JSTOR’s public health collections site. JSTOR will update the publications periodically. These are available accessible free of cost. Click here to access the site

Webinars and external engagements:
October 2021:
  o Presentation at the Sustainable Healthcare in APAC: Sustainable Healthcare in APAC: Financing and Delivery Models by Dr. Nima
  o DoH Philippines & APO Research Forum: the Department of Philippines and the APO hosted a one day special Research Forum. The day-long research forum was conducted virtually and had nearly a 100 attendees. Four panel discussions presenting research activities on the Philippines were presented.
  o Dr. Nima presented at the FT Live and Nikkei webinar on Asia’s Health Sector: Vital Strategies to Build Stronger Health Systems
  o Dr. Nima was panellist at the virtual book launch of Systems Thinking of Health Systems and the Pandemic Recovery

November 2021:
  o Presentation at the Systems Thinking for Health Systems and the Pandemic Recovery by Dr. Nima - UNSW
  o Presentation at the Emerging Voices for Global Health panel discussion by Dr. Nima
  o Dr. Nima interviewed by the EIU on health security for EIU’s Safe City Index 2021

Communication Updates:

Social media: Join our new LinkedIn page for the APO which was started in 2021
https://www.linkedin.com/company/apobservatory/

Website: The APO’s website was migrated to the new WHO platform. The URL for the website http://healthobservatory.asia/ remains the same. The website is also accessible at https://apo.who.int/

Web: www.healthobservatory.asia | email: apobservatory@who.int