ISPOR 19th Health Technology Assessment Roundtable
Sharing Health Technology Assessment Information across Asia

3-4 October 2013
Meralco Case Room, Asian Institute of Management (AIM), Makati City, Philippines

Organizer
HTAnetAsia (AsiaNetHT) of ISPOR Asia Consortium, in Coordination with the ISPOR Philippines Chapter

Co-Chairs*
Kenneth Hartigan-Go, MD, President, ISPOR Philippines Chapter
Jie Chen, PhD, 2012-2014 Chair, ISPOR Asia Consortium HTA Agencies Committee

Delegates*
Nasirah Bahaudin, Erie Gusnellyanti, Takashi Fukuda, Junho Jang, Kookhee Kim, Ira Miranti, Raoh-Fang (Jasmine) Pwu, Yingpeng Qiu, Jitendar Sharma, Yen-Huei (Tony) Tarn, Bong-Min Yang, Faridah Aryani MD Yusof

Guests of Honor*
Micheal F. Drummond, Dale Huntington, Finn Børlum Kristensen, Klara Tisocki

ISPOR Staff*
Zandra Z. Yin

ISPOR Philippines Chapter Staff*
Pura Angela Wee, Davidson Teh, Camille Mendoza, Jed Cyrus Yparraguirre

*Refer to the Roundtable Delegate List for details.

Summary

Objective
The purpose of this roundtable was to provide a platform for information sharing and dialogue among HTA assessors and health care decision-makers from countries in Asia and to explore the possibility of close collaboration on further HTA initiatives in the region.

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Keynote Presentation

EUnetHTA

“EUnetHTA”: Dr. Finn Kristensen presented an overview of how the European Network for HTA (EUnetHTA) was established along with the network’s objectives and operations. Dr. Kristensen also provided a background on the network’s projects, deliverables, and output and discussed its various collaborations with other European HTA organizations.

Guest of Honor Presentations

World Health Organization

“The Role of Health Technology Assessment in Achieving Universal Health Coverage”: Dr. Klara Tisocki gave an overview of the World Health Organization’s priorities in the years 2014 to 2019 and how Universal Health Coverage can be achieved through HTA efforts. Dr. Tisocki also discussed WHO’s priority areas such as the strengthening of policies and actual processes of payers for the selection of effective, quality-assured medicines, and health technologies in publicly financed programs and social health insurance coverage, among others. Dr. Tisocki ended with a background on new dimensions and how WHO could collaborate and partner with HTA agencies in Asia to augment HTA initiatives in the region.

HTA Key Principles

“Can We Reliably Benchmark HTA Organizations?”: Dr. Mike Drummond presented the 15 Key Principles for the Improved Conduct of HTA for Resource Allocation Decisions. A study on 14 HTA entities in 9 countries was done to assess whether these principles were supported by and/or implemented in an entity’s conduct of HTA. Dr. Drummond concluded that the benchmarking of HTA is currently controversial but is feasible and new approaches for the study need to be developed.

Delegate Presentations

HTA in Asia

“Health Technology Assessment in a Resource Constrained Setting: Real Challenges Facing Asia”: Dr. Bong-Min Yang discussed about the current impediments and obstacles of HTA in Asia. Health financing has remained to be a primary concern in expanding HTA activities in the region; therefore, it is strongly recommended for stakeholders to adhere to a rational and efficient allocation of resources. Although, HTA frames in Asia are still much influenced by Western models, partial networking and collaboration of HTA agencies in Asia has gained momentum and the goal now would be to build a context-specific HTA framework.

HTA in Korea

“Focusing on Drug Pricing and Reimbursement System”: Dr. Junho Jang highlighted the existing HTA organizations in Korea, the Health Insurance Review Agency (HIRA) and the National Evidence-based healthcare Collaborating Agency (NECA), and how these agencies approach and facilitate HTA initiatives in the country. Dr. Junho Jang also provided an informative overview on Korea’s Drug Formulary and Reimbursement System as well as the Drug Review process in HIRA. The country is aiming to reduce the drug review period and modify economic evaluation by 2014 to improve patient access to drugs and prevent debilitating out-of-pocket expenses.
HTA in Taiwan
“Taiwan Update”: Dr. Raoh-Fang (Jasmine) Pwu gave an overview of Taiwan’s HTA from the perspective of the Center for Drug Evaluation (CDE). Dr. Pwu presented the process for new drug application utilizing HTA reports and emphasized on its swift turnaround—approximately 42 days. Currently cost-effective analysis (CEA) is still under development. The lack of capacity and manpower as well as the difficulty in finding and accessing information on new technologies are a couple of issues that need to be addressed.

HTA in Japan
“Reimbursement and Decision Process in Japan”: Dr. Takashi Fukuda presented the recent development of HTA in Japan focusing on Health Insurance Coverage, Reimbursement, and Drug Pricing. The Central Social Insurance Medical Council (Chu-I-Kyo) remains to be a key component of the country’s decision-making body. Issues on methodology and the use of economic evaluation are continuously being discussed in the Cost-Effectiveness Evaluation Committee. Some matters to be looked into are the following: a formal HTA process, timing of evaluation, organization of HTA, and guidelines on evaluation.

HTA in Malaysia
“Health Technology Assessment: Ministry of Health Perspective”: Dr. Faridah Aryani MD Yusof discussed about HTA development in Malaysia zooming in on the Ministry of Health’s Drug Formulary Listing Process highlighting the significance of and need for pharmacoeconomic evidence-based research especially in the country setting. The Pharmaceutical Services Division (PSD) has developed a pharmacoeconomic guideline for Malaysia which will serve as a standard for the conduct of research in the country. The PSD is also currently developing a scoring method to assist in formulary decision-making.

HTA in Indonesia
“Health Technology Assessment in Indonesia”: Dr. Nasirah Bahaudin presented the current state of HTA in Indonesia and briefly discussed about the country’s Drug Formulary and Reimbursement System. Dr. Bahaudin accentuated the lack of awareness and information in Indonesia, especially within the National Health System, on the importance of HTA and the publication of HTA activities and results. The need for a National HTA organization, capacity-building, and a robust HTA database should be addressed.

HTA in India
“Roles and Goals of Practice”: Dr. Jitendar Sharma introduced the current state of HTA in India underlining that the country’s HTA is used mainly as a tool for defining and selecting the priority services based on generated evidence that could be provided and financed by the government. In the span of 10 months, Dr. Sharma stated that India has made 17 HTA evaluations and among the recently successful initiative implementations are the replacement of IFA (Iron Folic Acid) supplementation to IMMN (Iron Multi-Micronutrient), the promotion of the Non-Pneumatic Anti-Shock Garment (NASG), the mobilization of Mobile Eye Surgery Units (MESU), and the creation of a Maternal Safety Checklist. To strengthen and promote capacity-building, an International Fellowship on HTA was organized which will hold regular sessions to undertake HTA projects and perform evidence-based studies on potential health interventions.
HTA in Mainland China

“Introduction of Health Technology Assessment in China”: Yingpeng (Steven) Qiu began by explaining the active role of the China National Health Development Research Center (CNHDRC) in HTA development and health policy-making in China as manifested in recent cost-effective analyses and conduct of health systems review and clinical pathway studies. Lack of human resource and the absence of an institutionalized HTA system have remained a challenge. The country then looks into capacity-building and information dissemination as possible solutions to their concerns. Government demand for HTA and the commitment of decision-makers to institutionalize HTA brings a promising resolve as well.

WHO & HTA: Mainland China Case
Dr. Jie Chen outlined the World Health Organization’s HTA projects which aim to direct HTA efforts to new medical devices and technology, the formulation of a guideline to use high-tech devices, and the facilitation of access to and adoption of appropriate Health Technologies that are acceptable, available, and affordable. WHO has granted $90,000 to fund HTA development in China which will focus on forming a network that includes HTA evidence-based medicine and policy, building a Data Framework to serve as a repository of international and domestic HTA information, and helping in Capacity Building.

HTA in the Philippines
Dr. Kenneth Hartigan-Go, presented the developments of HTA in the Philippines. Filipinos are eager and interested in new technologies and discoveries. However, the persisting lack of political will and support, along with a multi-stakeholder approach on decision-making, inhibits HTA progress in the country. Dr. Hartigan-Go outlined the current advances in HTA in the Philippines such as the drafting of National guidelines for conducting HTA and economic evaluation, the ongoing partnership with HTA agencies on capacity-building, planned reforms on Drug Pricing, and the prospective application of the QALY in the local context. The creation of a Health Research Hub to execute the health system research agenda, as well as an HTA Unit, along with the promotion of an active stakeholder engagement and collaboration with national, regional, and global networks are part of the action plan to further HTA in the Philippines.

ISPOR & HTA
ISPOR HTA Council
Dr. Finn Kristensen stated that there is so much development going on in many countries in relation to HTA that any opportunity that could be found to facilitate this process of learning from each other should be supported. The ISPOR HTA Council therefore was established to facilitate the utilization of HTA across the globe focusing not only on medicines but rather, in health interventions. Dr. Kristensen then presented the council’s goals, structure, and membership and emphasized the importance of roundtable discussions and the exchange of information among the participating countries.

ISPOR HTA Initiatives in Asia
Ms. Zandra Yin gave a brief introduction about ISPOR and its role in the promotion of global outcomes research and evidence-based health care decisions. Ms. Yin demonstrated how to navigate ISPOR’s website and how to use the decision-maker toolkit which features a web-based questionnaire to assist in HTA evidence assessment. Other features include a Global Health Care
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Systems Road Map, Pharmacoeconomic Guidelines, and an HTA Directory that bears centralized information on worldwide organizations engaged in HTA.

ISPOR HTA Principles Survey in Asia
A Preliminary Status Report: Dr. Yen-Huei (Tony) Tarn outlined the results of the recently conducted survey on the adoption and/or implementation of the HTA Principles in Asian countries. The study was found to be an effective exploratory endeavor but was recommended to undergo rounds of refinement in order to produce more accurate and valid results. Some modifications might include, but are not limited to, the primary exploration of the relevance of these principles to other regions prior to comparing it to Asia, categorization of Asian countries based on HTA presence and development, delegation of the survey to national institutions or focal points for easier facilitation, the utilization of a more user-friendly methodology, and collaboration with the World Health Organization.

Discussions & Follow-up Actions
HTAnetAsia - HTA information sharing system – ISPOR website-based SharePoint
As a main tool for delegates of HTAnetAsia to share information, two phases are planned for the implementation. The current Phase 1 provides the ease of sharing information among delegates and the future Phase 2 will provide the capability of sharing information among the delegates across regions.

In reference to the ISPOR website resource, a suggestion was made to update the ISPOR web-based decision-Maker toolkit, including the reimbursement information.

HTAnetAsia - HTA Training Courses*
As a joint project of WHO-India, an HTA Training Curriculum has been developed and used for the regional needs, which the Indian delegate is willing to share with the HTAnetAsia for further reference, so that an official HTA training could be established and eventually commence. Delegates discussed about the feasibility, along with the possible legalities and cost-sharing concerns, of the proposed plan of action. The possibility of joint training activities between HTAnetAsia and WHO WPRO has been explored**.

HTAnetAsia - HTA Mapping in Asia*
It was suggested that the survey of ISPOR HTA Principles in Asia be redesigned and developed focused on a country-based HTA mapping in Asia and/or a Policy Brief that maps regional experiences with HTA***. The analysis performed on the current survey may be developed into an article to be published on ISPOR CONNECTIONS.

*Leaders of HTAnetAsia held a teleconference on Wednesday, 16 October 2013 (8:30AM - 9:30AM UEST) to further discuss the strategy and content of the collaboration. Drs. Jie Chen, Kenneth Hantigan-Go, Bong-Min Yang, Tony YH Tarn, and Surachat Ngorsuraches participated in the discussion. For details, please refer to the Teleconference Summary.

**Support capacity development needs in related areas (work with international HTA group to facilitate capacity development) – Re: Klara Tisocki’s presentation.
The APO is quite interested in following up on the idea to produce a Policy Brief that maps regional experiences with HTA, drawing out key policy issues for national governments to consider related to the development and use of HTA in the health sector – Re: Dale Huntington’s email (7 October 2013).

HTAnetAsia – Publication Platform Value in Health Regional Issues (ViHRI)
ViHRI, an ISPOR’s official publication, reviews 70 papers in a year and publishes around 20-25 articles. It is attempting to submit application to the PubMed Indexed Journals to receive more papers from researchers and contributors. It was suggested that a promotion of publication be made to raise interest and awareness of HTA. The journal is open to articles about the application of HTA in growing economies and/or those that have a specific relevance to the region, as well as any suggestions, input, and results from roundtable discussions.

HTAnetAsia – Roundtable 2014
It was suggested that the next roundtable be conducted during (instead of post) the 6th Asia Pacific Conference in Beijing, China in 6-9 September 2014 to serve as a follow-through of the previous discussion, which would be Saturday, 6 September – Sunday, 7 September morning. The final schedule is to be confirmed when closer to the conference.

HTAnetAsia – Roundtable Presentation Sharing
It is decided that presentations be shared among the HTA Roundtable delegates for reference.