Potential Collaborations among HTA Agencies in Asia Meeting

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Participants list

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This collaboration meeting is the first time to discuss about potential collaboration among HTA agencies in Asia.

Introduction

The meeting was started with a brief introduction of the Thai health care system and Health Intervention and Technology Assessment Program (HITAP) presented by Ms. Jomkwan Yothasamut, HITAP's researcher. The process of HTA at HITAP includes topic selection, assessment, and research dissemination. HITAP is a research organization under the Thai Ministry of Public Health which provides evidence to support policy decisions at national level.

Then Dr. Jeonghoon Ahn, Senior Director Office of Health Technology Assessment (NECA) shared background of the NECA. The organization was established in June 2007 by Korean government. In December 2007 the first boards were appointed by Korean minister of health, welfare and family,

then the NECA was officially established in March 2009, and started calling for topics which were mainly submitted by academia. Up until now there were 300 topics submitted. NECA conducted a study on willingness to pay to explore how much Korean people would like to pay for 1 QALY. In general population would like to pay more than the government. Moreover, the New Health Technology Assessment Committee (NHTAC) which focuses on new medical devices and technology and its supporting center has moved from HIRA (Health Insurance Review Agency) to be a part of NECA.

Concerning capacity building plan and human resource of NECA, there are no bachelor degree officers; at least individual academic staff earned master degrees. Currently there are 60 staffs working at NECA, of which 10 are PhD and 50 are Masters with ages around 30 years old, so they are young and active. NECA offered a rather competitive incentive for their staffs.

After that Dr. Asrul Akmal Shafie from Universiti Sains Malaysia presented background information about HTA agency in Malaysia. The first HTA agency in Malaysia was established in 1996, with focuses on medical devices rather than drugs. Another HTA unit was embedded in the South Malay University and was recently developed 5 years ago. Most researches are experts on the policy and practice. Their ongoing studies are (1) the development of EQ-5D 3 levels by using the TTO approach under the collaboration with Singapore and China, (2) Cost-Effectiveness threshold study.

Collaborations between three organizations

Dr. Montarat Thavorncharoensap presented a study on the societal value of the ceiling threshold in Thailand conducted in 2008. There are several problems occurred for the previous study. The result from multivariate is not far from the previous threshold used by the subcommittee for the National List of Essential Drugs at 100,000 baht/QALY (~ 1 GDP).

Korean CDC has the most consistent tariff compared to the other 2 on the basis of 5 scenarios/dimensions. They are trying to estimate the range of threshold. They expected to finish the report by the end of this year. Meanwhile, HITAP made an initial agreement with the Thai Health Promotion Foundation to estimate the new Thai threshold within 2013.

It was agreed among collaborated agencies that there a cross countries study on ceiling threshold should be conducted within Asia. Therefore, a proposal to organize a meeting at the beginning next year (2011) and to establish a working group was agreed. In principle, individual organizations should support themselves to join such collaborative activities. NECA offered to host the first meeting in Seoul, Korea and two experts from Europe will be invited with support from the NECA. Dr. Jeremy Lim Fung Yen, Dr. Raoh-Fang (Jasmine) Pwu, Dr. Takashi Fukuda and Ataru Igarashi will be informed of this initial agreement of conducting meeting.

In addition, it was suggested a directory of the HTA in Asia and e-mail group should be created. Dr. Yot Teerawattananon will contact Dr. Surachat Ngorsuraches, a program committee co-chairs for ISPOR 4th Asia-Pacific Conference who will be able to provide the contact list of ISPOR participants in Asia. HITAP will produce HTA newsletter to update HTA activities including trainings in Asia within the region quarterly. The first newsletter should include a short survey to examine what kind of training is preferred among people working in HTAs.