



# Annual Report 2015 Health Intervention and Technology Assessment Program (HITAP)

Appropriate health interventions and technologies for Thai society  
[WWW.HITAP.NET](http://WWW.HITAP.NET)



*"..., HITAP, does assessments that policy-makers can use when deciding which new health technologies (vaccines, drugs, diagnostics and devices) to include in the benefit package..."*

Dr. Suwit Wibulpolprasert  
Deputy Chairman of the International Health  
Policy Program Foundation (IHPF)



*The Health Intervention and Technology Assessment Program (HITAP) of Thailand is an exemplary health technology assessment agency. In its commitment to achieving universal health coverage, HITAP evaluates and utilizes all available evidences at its disposal to increase access to good quality affordable healthcare for all Thais. I pay special tribute to the work of HITAP because it shows that despite resource constraints, access to healthcare irrespective of ability to pay is possible.*

Sir Michael David Rawlins  
Chairman of the National Institute for Health  
and Clinical Excellence (NICE)  
from 1999 - 2012



# Table of contents

|  |    |
|--|----|
| About HITAP  | 4  |
| Vision, Mission, Background  | 6  |
| HITAP's Operation  | 8  |
| Summary of HITAP's work (2007 - Present)   | 10 |
| Projects categorized by impact (2007 - Present)  | 11 |
| Projects categorized by topic selection<br>(2007 - Present)                                    | 12 |
| Research Project In 2015   | 13 |
| International Research Project In 2015   | 17 |
| Financial support  | 19 |
| HITAP's organizational structure   | 22 |
| HITAP's Staff  | 23 |
| Research alliances   | 25 |
| Example of HITAP's Work that Generate Impact at<br>Societal, National and International Levels | 28 |
| Research Dissemination   | 31 |
| Activities and Achievements from<br>January – December 2015                                    | 42 |



# Health Intervention and Technology Assessment Program (HITAP)

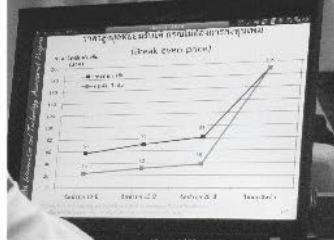
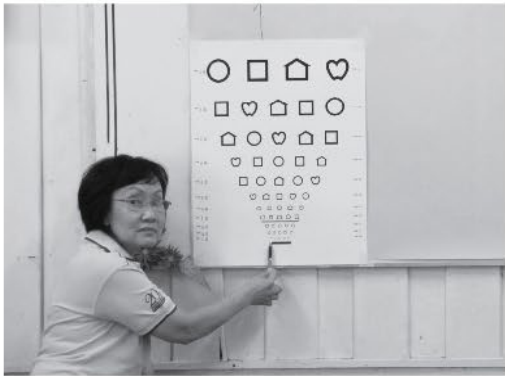
The Health Intervention and Technology Assessment Program (HITAP) is a semi-autonomous research unit under Thailand's Ministry of Public Health. It was established in 2007 as a non-profit organization in order to take responsibility for appraising a wide range of health technologies and programs, including pharmaceuticals, medical devices, interventions, individual and community health promotion, and disease prevention as well as social health policy to inform policy decisions in Thailand.

In 2013, HITAP established an international unit, drawing on its experiences locally and internationally, to work at the global level with overseas development aids, international organizations, non-profit organizations, and overseas governments to build capacity for health technology assessment.

We place emphasis on systematic and transparent work as well as the aims to cultivate the public interest and encourage participation from all sectors of society in order to efficiently distribute and allocate the limited resources to full-fill its public objectives.









## Vision

Appropriate health interventions and technologies for Thai society

## Mission

- To efficiently and transparently appraise health interventions and technologies using international, standard and qualified research methodologies;
- To develop systems and mechanisms to promote the optimal selection, procurement and management of health technology as well as appropriate health policy determination;
- To distribute research findings and to educate the public in order to make the best use of health interventions and technology assessment results.

## Background

- In 2007, Health Intervention and Technology Assessment Program (HITAP) was formally established under the Bureau of Policy and Strategy, Ministry of Public Health.
- In 2008, HITAP supported the development of a quality of life measurement tool, which is necessary for the conduct of HTA.
- In 2008, HITAP in collaboration with Mahidol University developed a standard cost list for health care services with the aim that academia, researchers, and those who are interested were equipped with needed data on cost items.
- In 2009, cost-effectiveness of drugs was added to the criteria for drug inclusion considerations for the National List of Essential Medicine (NLEM). HITAP has acted as a member of Health Economic Working Group (HEWG) under the Subcommittee for development of National List of Essential Medicine since then.
- In 2009, the Subcommittee for Development of Benefit Package and Service Delivery(SCBP), National Health Security Office (NHSO) appointed the





International Health Policy Program (IHPP) and HITAP to work as the secretary of the SCBP, producing methodologically sound researches to inform decisions for the development of the benefit package under the Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

- In 2009, HITAP and other experts in HTA developed methodological guidelines for the conduct of HTA in Thailand. The guidelines were endorsed by the Subcommittee for Development of National List of Essential Medicine as a national standard methodology for conducting such studies in Thailand.
- In 2010, HITAP, in collaboration with Consortium of Thai Medical Schools, promoted rational use of drugs. As a mentor, HITAP provided technical support to medical school personnel in conducting HTA studies.
- In 2010, HITAP together with HTA bodies in Korea, Taiwan and Malaysia established HTA network for countries in Asia region, referred to as 'HTAsia-Link'.
- In 2010, HITAP Foundtion (HITAF) was established to manage and support HITAP's work.
- In 2011, HITAP issued HTA process guidelines, detailing the steps for conducting a HTA study.
- In 2013, HITAP and other experts in health made a move to push through the Resolution of the World Health Organization (WHO) regional committee for South-East Asia on Health Intervention and Technology Assessment in Support of Universal Health Coverage.
- In 2014, HITAP International Unit (HIU) was established with the objective to provide technical and other supports on HTA for developing countries for institutionalized HTA system in those countries.
- In 2014, HITAP and other experts in health made a move to push through the Resolution of the World Health Organization (WHO) on Health Intervention and Technology Assessment in Support of Universal Health Coverage.
- In 2014, as the secretary of the Thailand National Health Assembly, HITAP assisted in drafting the decision on development of system and process for the conduct and the use of HTA in Thailand.
- In 2014, HITAP updated the quality of life measurement tool and the methodological guidelines for the conduct of HTA in Thailand. Curenly, the guidelines are at their second edition.

# HITAP's Operation

**H**ITAP's goal is to make health technology 'available', 'accessible', and 'appropriately utilized' in Thai society. To achieve the goal, process and criteria for efficient and transparent assessment of health technology using research methodology that meet international standard is crucial. Moreover, the results of the assessment need to be disseminated to stakeholders in the society, including policy-makers, health professionals, and general population in order that the results are taken to account when they make decisions related to the issue. This is exceptionally important for the organizations that involve in the health system to incorporate information and evidence from the assessment, e.g. effectiveness, safety, quality, and necessity of the health technology in their considerations on the technologies. In this regard, system and mechanism to support selection, procurement, and management of health technologies and policy decision-makings need to be developed.

According the conceptual framework, HITAP adopts 5 strategies which relate, support and lead to achievement in the development of HTA system and institutionalize organizations that have expertise in the field of HTA in Thailand, as follow.







### **Strategy 1: Research and development of a fundamental system for HTA**

To establish a national standard and body of knowledge for health technology assessment in Thailand that not only achieves an international standard but also takes into account the resources and infrastructure constraints in the Thai setting.

### **Strategy 2: Capacity strengthening for HTA at both individual and organizational levels as well as for the Thai Health systems**

To build up the individual's competence and capacity regarding health technology assessment for serving HTA organizations in both the short and long-term, as well as to gather related knowledge and develop a principal for expanding human capacity.

### **Strategy 3: Assessment of health technologies and policies in regard to public priority**

To conduct comprehensive technology assessments using the methodological guidelines developed in strategy I and research from strategy II. HITAP will be the central forum for representatives from national organizations to identify important research topics for HTA. A number of HTA studies

will be conducted with other relevant organizations; as a result, the creation of a network will make research more effective. Outcomes of the research will then be used as information to assist policy decision makers in making resource allocation decisions regarding health technologies.

### **Strategy 4: Research dissemination to policy makers, medical practitioners, and the general public**

To explore the past experience of HTA introduction in Thailand as well as in other settings, and draw lessons to support the development of a national HTA institution, well-equipped with a necessary infrastructure and effective, transparent and coherent management mechanisms. The operation of this organization has to be suitable for the Thai context and well accepted by the general public.

### **Strategy 5: Development of organizational management and encouragement of connections between academics and involved parties at both national and international HTA organizations**

- To develop systems of good governance
- To evaluate organizations' working procedures together with the effects of HTA research on the society as a whole
- To develop a systematic mechanism for topic prioritization and selection of HTA in Thailand
- To initiate and develop a network for HTA organizations in Thailand
- To build international collaborations

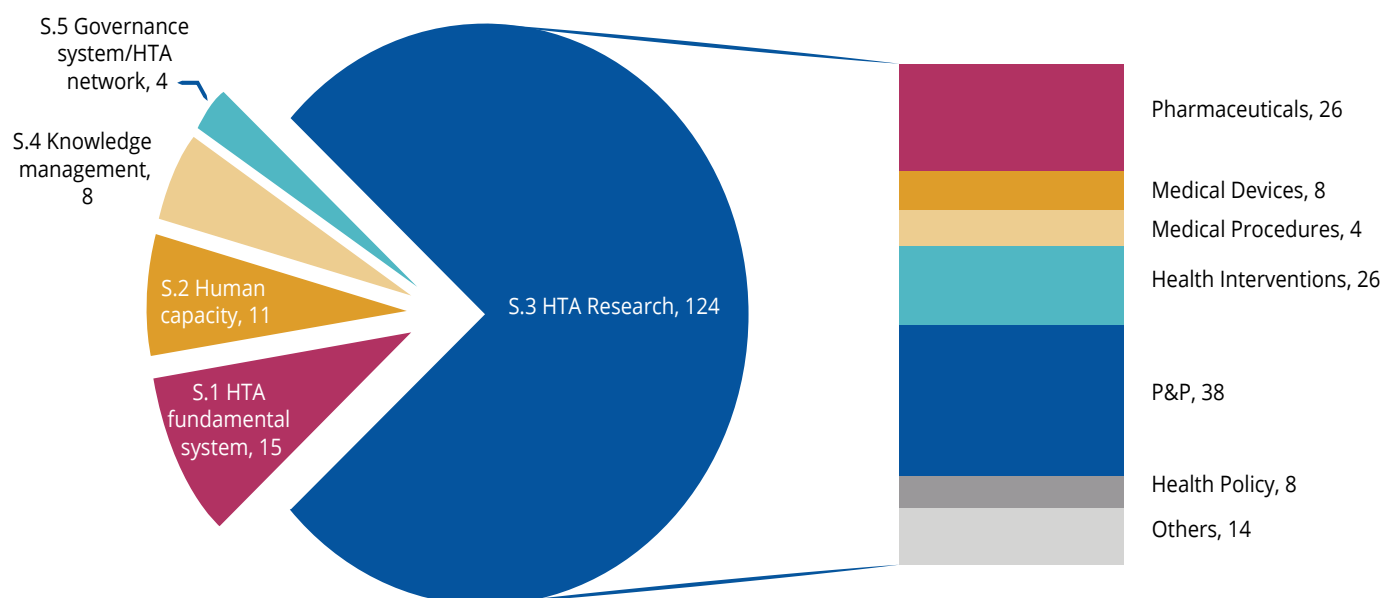
# Summary of HITAP's Work (2007-Present)



Since 2007 until now, HITAP has been working on 178 projects, however regarding some of international projects are in the initial phases. Therefore, only domestic projects are presented in this summary.

## Projects categorized by strategies

During the past 8 years, HITAP has produced 162 projects. Fifteen studies (9%) are related to methodological development, (HTA and cost) databases and guidelines. Nineteen studies (12%) are about KTE and capacity development. Four studies (2%) are about HTA governance and HTA network. There are 124 technology assessment projects (77%) per se (i.e. 26 HTAs on drugs, 8 on medical devices, 4 medical procedures, 38 on disease prevention and health promotion measures, 26 on packages of care—mixing screening and treatments, 22 on other public health policies such as evaluation of the Thai's government compulsory license policy".



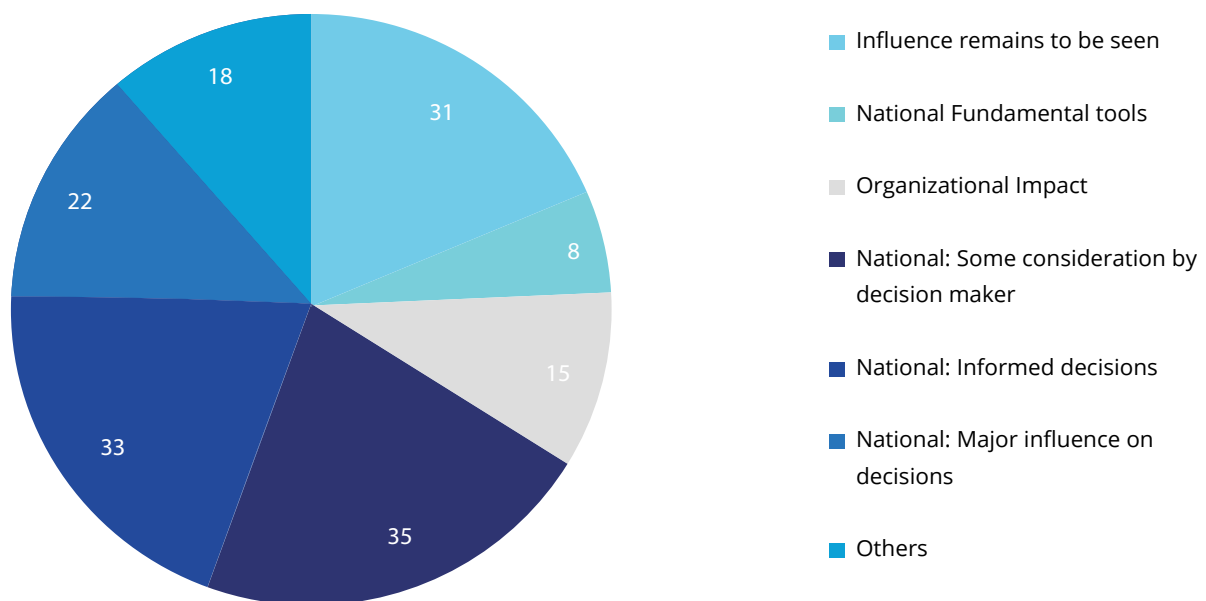
# Projects Categorized by Impact

## (2007-Present)



categorized all HITAP's project by its impact to policy use, from 162 projects, there are 22 projects that show major influence on policy decision process at national level. Thirty three projects have been used to inform national policy makers without implementation. Thirty five of HITAP projects have been used for some consideration by policy makers at national level.

Moreover, there are 15 projects that have been used to support decision making process at the organizational level. There are also 8 projects that have been promoted as HTA national fundamental tools. Finally, there are 31 projects that their influences remain to be seen.

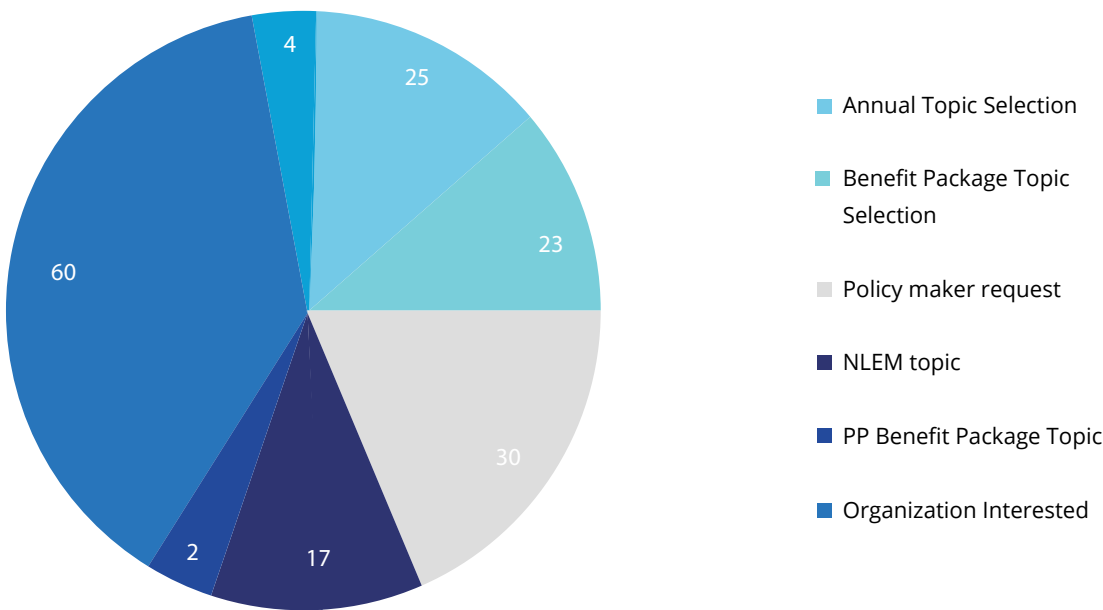


# Projects Categorized by Topic Selection

(2007-Present)



ITAP obtains its research topic through 6 channels namely annual topic selection (2007-2012), topic selection for benefit package, topic selection for national list of essential medicine, policy makers’ request, topic selection for development of health promotion and disease prevention program, and research topic of organizational interest.





# Research Project In 2015

## Strategy 1: Research and development of a fundamental system for HTA

| Project Code               | Project Title   | Contact Person    | Funder                           |
|----------------------------|---|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| 201-108-2553<br>(On going) | Development of the National Database for Health Technology Assessment in Thailand (Phrase II) 2010-2012 | Dr. Nattiya Kapol | Thai Health Promotion Foundation |

## Strategy 2: Capacity strengthening for HTA at both individual and organizational levels as well as for the Thai Health systems

| Project Code              | Project Title  | Contact Person                                     | Funder   |
|---------------------------|--|--|--|
| 17-207-2555<br>(Finished) | Thailand Research Fund Senior Research Scholar Program on the Development of Health Technology Assessment Capacity in Thailand | Ms. Maneechotirat Santi<br>Dr. Yot Teerawattananon | Thailand Research Fund Senior Research Scholar |

## Strategy 3: Assessment of health technologies and policies in regard to public priority

| Project Code                                    | Project Title  | Contact Person   | Funder                                |
|---|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| 11-303-2552(1)<br>and 01-346-2553<br>(On going) | Research for Development of Health Benefit Package under Universal Coverage Scheme | Mr. Suradech Doungthip-sirikul<br>Ms. Nitichen Kittiratchakool | National Health Security Office (NHS) |

| Project Code                    | Project Title  | Contact Person  | Funder                                     |
|---------------------------------|--|---|--|
| 201-357-2554<br>(Finished)      | Economic Evaluation of Renal Replacement Therapy in Thailand: 5-years Revision of the National Program   | Ms. Pitsaphun Weray-<br>ingyong   | Thai Health Promotion<br>Foundation        |
| 211-372-2555<br>(On going)      | Safety and Effectiveness of Intra-<br>vitreal Bevacizumab and Ranibi-<br>zumab Injections for Treatment<br>of Retinal Disease Patients: An<br>Observational study    | Ms. Sermsiri Sangroon-<br>gruangstri  | Health Systems Research<br>Institute(HSRI) |
| 11-3-003-2557(19)<br>(Finished) | Treatment and Prevention of<br>Childhood Asthma  | Ms. Suthasinee Kumlu-<br>ang  | National Health Security<br>Office (NHS)   |
| 11-3-089-2557(2)<br>(Finished)  | Economic Evaluation of the Use<br>of Biologic Disease-modifying<br>Anti-rheumatic Drugs in the<br>Treatment of Patients with Rheu-<br>matoid Arthritis               | Ms. Varit Chantarasta-<br>pornchit<br><br>Ms. Benjarin Santati-<br>wongchai | National Health Security<br>Office (NHS)   |
| 11-3-089-2557(3)<br>(Finished)  | Cost-utility Analysis of Adjuvant<br>Imatinib in Patients with High<br>Risk of Recurrence after Gastro-<br>Intestinal Stromal Tumour (GIST)<br>Resection in Thailand | Ms. Thanaporn Bussa-<br>bawalai   | National Health Security<br>Office (NHS)   |
| 11-3-089-2557(4)<br>(Finished)  | Economic Evaluation of Adjuvant<br>Chemotherapy in Patients with<br>Resectable Metastatic Colorectal<br>Cancer in Thailand   | Dr. Juntana Pattanaphe-<br>saj  | National Health Security<br>Office (NHS)   |
| 11-3-089-2557(5)<br>(Finished)  | Economic Evaluation of the Use<br>of Gadoteric Acid (Primovist) for<br>the Diagnosis of Hepatocellular<br>Carcinoma) with Electromagnetic<br>Devices                 | Ms. Satanun Maneeon   | National Health Security<br>Office (NHS)   |

| Project Code                        | Project Title  | Contact Person                | Funder   |
|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|
| 11-3-089-2557(6)<br>(Finished)      | Economic Evaluation of Iodized Oil Fluid Injection (Lipiodol Ultra Fluid) for the Treatment of Hepatocellular Carcinoma                    | Ms. Satanun Maneeon           | National Health Security Office (NHS)                                      |
| 11-3-091-2557<br>(Finished)         | The Development of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Program in Thailand (2015)  | Dr. Sitaporn Youngkong        | National Health Security Office (NHS)                                      |
| 11-3-092-2557<br>(Finished)         | The Evaluation of School Health Program in Primary Schools   | Dr. Naiyana Praditsitthikorn  | National Health Security Office (NHS)                                      |
| 30-3-090-2557<br>(Finished)         | The Reform of Health Consumer Protection in Thailand   | Dr. Inthira Yamabhai          | Food and Drug Administration (FDA)   |
| 31-3-093-2558<br>(On going)         | Cost-utility Analysis of Oral Cancer Screening in High Risk Population   | Ms. Chutima Kumdee            | Bureau of Dental Health, Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health   |
| 11-3-089-2557(7)<br>(On going)      | Cost-utility and Budget Impact Analysis of Hepatitis C Virus Treatment with Sofosbuvir-based Regimens in Thailand                          | Ms. Waranya Rattanavipapong   | National Health Security Office (NHSO) & Health Systems Research Institute |
| 11-3-003-2558<br>(20)<br>(On going) | Hearing aid compliance by people with hearing loss under UCs : Current situations in Thailand  | Mr. Suradech Doungthipsirikul | National Health Security Office (NHS)                                      |
| 11-3-095-2558<br>(On going)         | Developing Health Care Quality Indicators and Improving the QOF Program for the Thai Universal Health Coverage – Part 2                    | Dr. Roongnapa Kham-pang       | National Health Security Office (NHS)                                      |
| 11-3-094-2558<br>(Finished)         | The development of appropriate procurement policy of coronary balloon catheters and coronary stents under Universal Health Coverage Scheme | Dr. Inthira Yamabhai          | National Health Security Office (NHS)                                      |

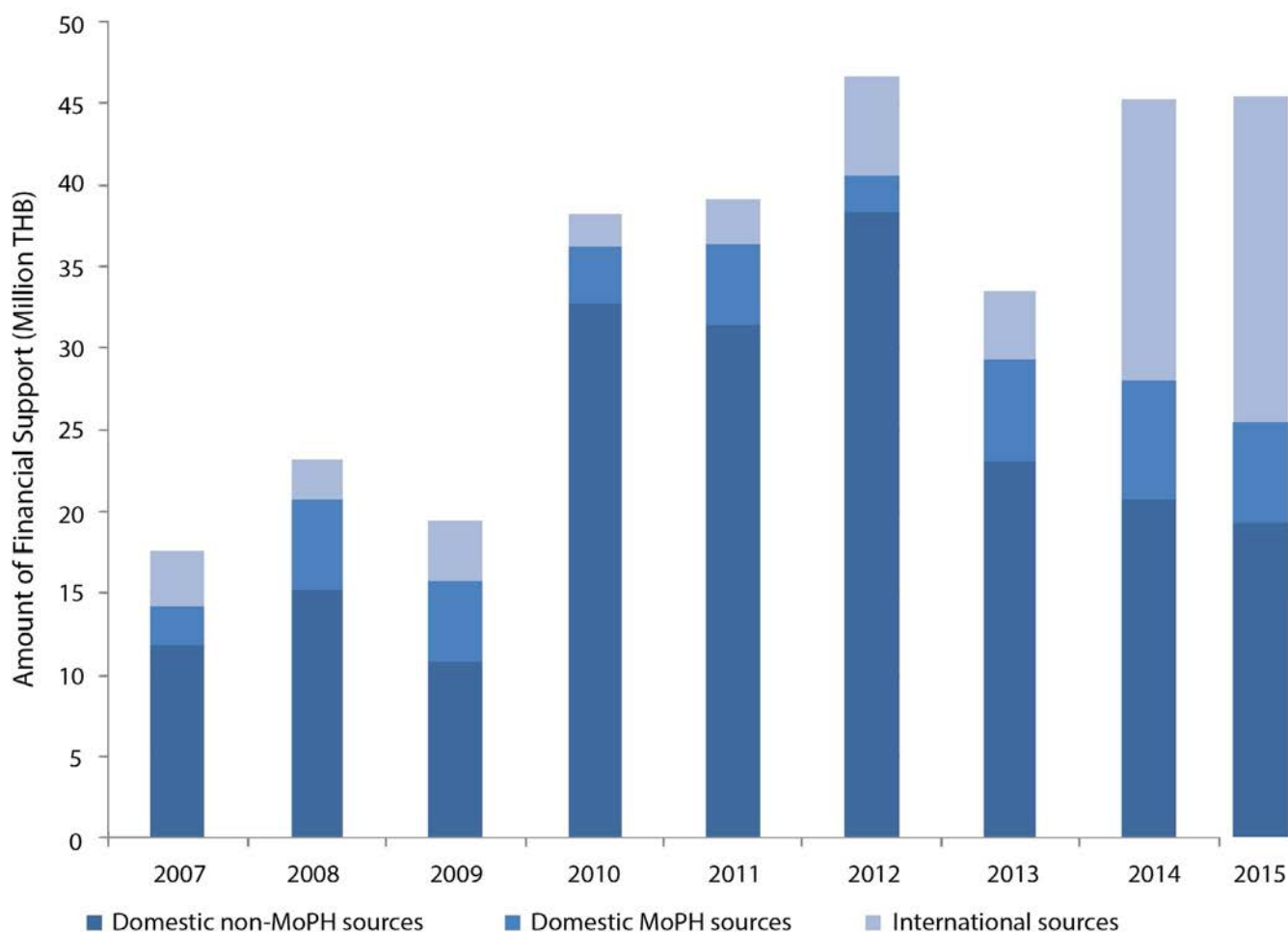
| Project Code                        | Project Title  | Contact Person                 | Funder                                |
|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 11-3-096-2558<br>(On going)         | The universal health coverage benefit package of thailand                                      | Mr. Suradech Doungthip-sirikul | National Health Security Office (NHS) |
| 11-3-003-2558<br>(21)<br>(On going) | A study on feasibility of investing in and access to spirometry service in community hospitals | Mr. Songyot Pilasant           | National Health Security Office (NHS) |
| 11-3-099-2559(1)<br>(On going)      | An Economic Evaluation of Biologic Treatment in Systemic Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis         | Ms. Nitichen Kittiratchakool   | National Health Security Office (NHS) |



# International Research Project In 2015

| Project Code                                  | Project Title  | Contact Person                | Funder  |
|---|--|-------------------------------|---|
| 26-1-011-2556<br>(Finished)                   | Assessing Decision Maker Needs and the Transferability of Information Across Countries and Regions   | Dr. Inthira Yamabhai          | 1.Tufts Medical Center<br><br>2.Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation   |
| 20-2-008-2556<br>(Finished)                   | International Decision Support Initiative (IDSI): The Philippines  | Ms. Sarocha Chootipongchaivat | 1.Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation<br><br>2.Rockefeller Foundation   |
| 27-3-084-2557,<br>10-2-016-2558<br>(On going) | International Decision Support Initiative (IDSI): Indonesia  | Ms. Nattha Tritasavit         | 1.Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation<br>2.Department for International Development, UK<br>3.Rockefeller Foundation |
| 20-2-012-2557<br>(Finished)                   | Building a Global Agenda and Institutional Capacity for Priority Setting   | Ms. Nattha Tritasavit         | Rockefeller Foundation  |
| 20-2-012-2558<br>(Finished)                   | One-Week Intensive Training Course: Health Technology Assessment (HTA) and HTA Systems Development for Vietnam   | Ms. Nattha Tritasavit         | Ministry of Health, Vietnam (World Bank)  |
| (Finished)                                    | Groundwork: Pre-conditions for Successful Healthcare Priority Setting  | Ms. Nattha Tritasavit         | Department for International Development, UK  |
| 10-2-011-2557<br>(Finished)                   | Phase 1: Mobilizing Technical Expertise to Develop a Study Protocol for Performing an Analysis of Cost-effectiveness of Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Introduction in Nepal | Ms. Nattha Tritasavit         | World Health Organization   |

| Project Code                    | Project Title   | Contact Person                  | Funder                                |
|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 10-2-011-2557<br>(On going)     | Phase 2: Mobilizing Technical Expertise to Develop a Study Protocol for Performing an Analysis of Cost-effectiveness of Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Introduction in Nepa | Ms. Alia Luz                    | World Health Organization             |
| 10-3-085-2557<br>(Finished)     | Mid-term Review of Maternal and Child Health Voucher Scheme   | Ms. Nattha Tritasavit           | World Health Organization             |
| 10-2-016-2558<br>(Finished)     | Package of Essential Non Communicable Disease (PEN) interventions in Indonesia  | Ms. Alia Luz                    | World Health Organization             |
|                                 | Technical Assistance on the Development of Nepal's Free Drugs List  | Ms. Alia Luz                    | World Health Organization             |
|                                 | Study on Health, Social and Economic Costs of Tobacco and Alcohol Use in Sri Lanka  | Ms. Benjarin Santati-wongchi    | World Health Organization             |
| (Finished)                      | Framework Convention on Tobacco Control: Reflecti g on a Decade of Achievement and Strengthening a Multi-Sectoral Approach to Implementation                            | Dr. Montarat Thavorn-charoensap | Asia-Pacific Ec - nomic Cooper- ation |
| (Finished)                      | Reviewing Health Economic Evaluations Conducted in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: Information for Standardizing Methodology  | Mr. Kittiphong Thiboon-boon     | World Health Organization             |
| 10-2-017-2558<br>(1) (Finished) | Technical assistance to perform an econom- ic analysis to assess the cost-effectiveness of introducing seasonal infl enza vaccines                                      | Dr. Yot Teerawattananon         | World Health Organization             |
| 10-5-004-2557<br>(Finished)     | Policy Brief: Conducive Factors to HTA De- velopment in Asia  | Ms. Sarocha Chootipong- chaivat | World Health Organization             |
| 33-4-007-2558<br>(Finished)     | PMAC 2016: Priority Setting for Universal Health Coverage   | Ms. Nattha Tritasavit           | Prince Mahidol Award Founda- tion     |



## Financial Support

HITAP is financially supported by government bodies and non-profit organizations of which the goals are in line with HITAP's mission. These supports are from both domestic and international. For domestic side, the main supporters are Ministry of Public Health, NHSO, and Thailand Research Fund Senior Research Scholar Program, National Health Commission, etc. Meanwhile, international supports are from donors like World Health Organization (WHO), the Rockefeller Foundation, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and NICE International, etc.

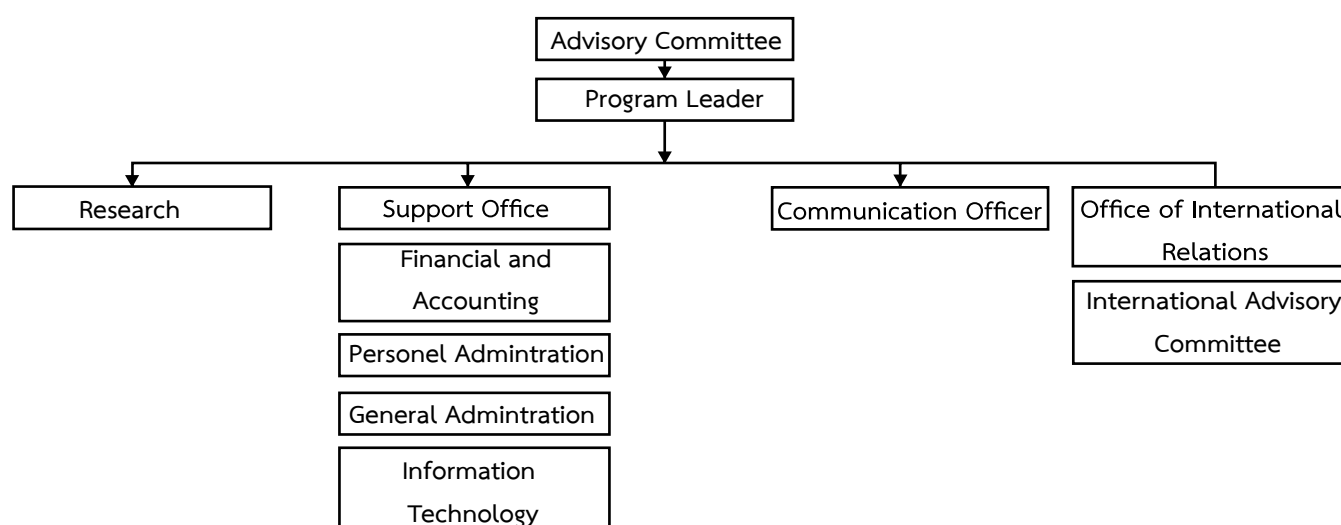
In order to assure neutrality and to avoid the problems due to conflict of interest, HITAP do not directly or indirectly receive any grants or support from a for-profit organization or an institute funded by a for-profit organization.

| Year | Domestic Funders  | International Funders   |
|------|---|---|
| 2007 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thai Health Promotion Foundation (ThaiHealth)</li> <li>• Health Systems Research Institute (HSRI)</li> <li>• Bureau of Policy and Strategy, Ministry of Public Health</li> <li>• Center for Alcohol Studies (CAS)</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World Bank</li> <li>• Global Development Network (GDN)</li> </ul>                      |
| 2008 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thai Health Promotion Foundation (ThaiHealth)</li> <li>• Health Systems Research Institute (HSRI)</li> <li>• Health Insurance System Research Office (HISRO)</li> <li>• Center for Alcohol Studies (CAS)</li> <li>• Bureau of Policy and Strategy, Ministry of Public Health</li> <li>• Thaihealth-Global Link Initiative Project (TGLIP)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Global Development Network (GDN)</li> <li>• World Health Organization (WHO)</li> </ul> |
| 2009 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thai Health Promotion Foundation (ThaiHealth)</li> <li>• National Health Security Office (NHSO)</li> <li>• Health Systems Research Institute (HSRI)</li> <li>• Health Insurance System Research Office (HISRO)</li> <li>• Thaihealth-Global Link Initiative Project (TGLIP)</li> <li>• Center for Alcohol Studies (CAS)</li> </ul>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Global Development Network (GDN)</li> </ul>  |
| 2010 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thai Health Promotion Foundation (ThaiHealth)</li> <li>• National Health Security Office (NHSO)</li> <li>• Health Systems Research Institute (HSRI)</li> <li>• Ministry of Public Health</li> <li>• Thaihealth-Global Link Initiative Project (TGLIP)</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World Health Organization (WHO)</li> </ul>   |
| 2011 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thai Health Promotion Foundation (ThaiHealth)</li> <li>• National Health Security Office (NHSO)</li> <li>• Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health</li> <li>• Health Systems Research Institute (HSRI)</li> <li>• Thaihealth-Global Link Initiative Project (TGLIP)</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World Health Organization (WHO)</li> </ul>   |



| Year | Domestic Funders  | International Funders   |
|------|---|---|
| 2012 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Health Security Office (NHSO)</li> <li>• Health Systems Research Institute (HSRI)</li> <li>• Thai Health Promotion Foundation (ThaiHealth)</li> <li>• Thaihealth-Global Link Initiative Project (TGLIP)</li> </ul>                      |   |
| 2013 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health</li> <li>• The Institute of Health Promotion for People with Disability</li> <li>• Thaihealth-Global Link Initiative Project (TGLIP)</li> <li>• Burden of Disease Project</li> </ul>             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bill &amp; Melinda Gates Foundation</li> <li>• United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)</li> </ul>   |
| 2014 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Health Security Office (NHSO)</li> <li>• Thaihealth-Global Link Initiative Project (TGLIP)</li> <li>• Foundation of Thai Gerontology Research and Development Institute</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• London School of Hygiene &amp; Tropical Medicine through WHO support</li> <li>• Bill &amp; Melinda Gates Foundation (via NICE International)</li> <li>• Department for International Development, UK (via NICE International)</li> <li>• Rockefeller Foundation (via NICE International)</li> <li>• World Health Organization</li> </ul> |
| 2015 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Health Security Office (NHSO)</li> <li>• Thaihealth-Global Link Initiative Project (TGLIP)</li> <li>• Food and Drug Administration (FDA)</li> <li>• Bureau of Dental Health, Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bill &amp; Melinda Gates Foundation (via NICE International)</li> <li>• Department for International Development, UK (via NICE International)</li> <li>• Rockefeller Foundation (via NICE International)</li> <li>• World Health Organization</li> </ul>   |

# HITAP's Organizational Structure



## Board Committee of the HITAP foundation

### **Professor Vicharn Panich, M.D.**

Chairman of HITAP Foundation

### **Dr. Suwit Wibulpolprasert**

International Health Policy Program Thailand (IHPP)

### **Dr. Viroj Tangcharoensathien**

International Health Policy Program Thailand (IHPP)

### **Dr. Sapon Mekthong**

Department of Disease Control,  
Ministry of Public Health

### **Dr. Pongpisut Jongudomsuk**

The National Health Security Office (NSHO)

### **Assoc. Prof. Churnrurtai Kanchanachitra**

Institute for Population and Social Research,  
Mahidol University

### **Dr. Yot Yeerawattananon**

Program Leader of the HITAP and  
Secretary to HITAP foundation

### **Dr. Sripen Tantivess**

Health Intervention and Technology Assessment  
Program (HITAP)

### **Ms. Rojarek Leksomboon**

Health Intervention and Technology Assessment  
Program (HITAP)

### **Ms. Pitsaphun Werayingyong**

Health Intervention and Technology Assessment  
Program (HITAP)

## Advisory committee on international work

### **Dr. Suwit Wibulpolprasert**

International Health Policy Program Thailand (IHPP)

### **Dr. Somsak Chunharas**

The National Health Foundation (NHF)

### **Dr. Toomas Palu**

The World Bank

### **Assoc. Prof. Churnrurtai Kanchanachitra**

Institute for Population and Social Research,  
Mahidol University

### **Dr. Supakit Sirilak**

Office of the Permanent Secretary,  
Ministry of Public Health

### **Natalie Phaholyothin**

The Rockefeller Foundation

### **Dr. Peerapol Sutiwisesak**

National Health Security Office (NHSO)

### **Prof. Visanu Thamlikitkul**

Subcommittee for development of the National List  
of Essential Medicines

# HITAP's Staff

HITAP staff consists of government officials under the Ministry of Public Health, lecturers and researchers from universities and the direct employees of HITAP. As of the end of December 2015, HITAP has 50 members as follows:

| No. | Name                           | Position                                    |
|-----|--------------------------------|---|
| 1   | Dr.Yot Teerawattananon         | Program Leader                              |
| 2   | Dr.Sripen Tantivess            | Senior Researcher                           |
| 3   | Ms.Jomkwan Yothasamut          | Researcher                                  |
| 4   | Dr.Juntana Pattanaphesaj       | Researcher                                  |
| 5   | Ms.Pritaporn Kingkaew          | Researcher                                  |
| 6   | Dr.Pattara Leelahavarong       | Researcher                                  |
| 7   | Ms.Wantanee Kulpeng            | Researcher                                  |
| 8   | Ms.Waranya Rattanavipapong     | Researcher                                  |
| 9   | Ms.Rukmanee Butchon            | Researcher                                  |
| 10  | Dr.Roongnapa Khampang          | Researcher                                  |
| 11  | Mr.Kittiphong Thiboonboon      | Researcher                                  |
| 12  | Mr.Songyot Pilasant            | Researcher                                  |
| 13  | Mr.Suradech Duongthipsirkul    | Researcher                                  |
| 14  | Ms.Thanaporn Bussabawalai      | Research Assistant                          |
| 15  | Ms.Chutima kumdee              | Research Assistant                          |
| 16  | Ms.Suteenoot Tangsathitkulchai | Research Assistant                          |
| 17  | Ms.Suthasinee Kumluang         | Research Assistant                          |
| 18  | Mr.Witthawath Pantumongkoln    | Research Assistant                          |
| 19  | Ms.Sarocho Chootipongchaivat   | Research Assistant                          |
| 20  | Ms.Thanthima Suwanthewornkul   | Research Assistant                          |
| 21  | Mr.Danai chinnacom             | Research Assistant                          |
| 22  | Ms.Nitichen Littiratchakool    | Research Assistant                          |
| 23  | Mr.Pien Ploenbannakit          | Research Assistant                          |
| 24  | Ms.Orapan Phothihang           | Research Assistant                          |
| 25  | Ms.Natthida Malathong          | Research Assistant                          |
| 26  | Ms.Boontharika Rachatasetanant | Research Assistant                          |
| 27  | Ms.Sonvanee Tanuchit           | Research Assistant                          |
| 28  | Mr.Supapawat Permpolsuk        | Research Assistant                          |
| 29  | Ms.Pitsaphun Werayingyong      | Project Manager                             |
| 30  | Mr.Natthawat Inchaeng          | Project Assistant                           |
| 31  | Ms.Siranee Kasamrut            | Human Resources                             |
| 32  | Ms.Nattha Tritasavit           | International Project Coordinator           |
| 33  | Ms.Alia Luz                    | International Project Coordinator           |
| 34  | Ms.Benjarin Santatiwongchai    | International Project Coordinator           |
| 35  | Ms.Nisa Yothasmutr             | International Project Coordinator           |
| 36  | Ms.Ekanong Fungladda           | International Project Coordinator           |
| 37  | Ms.Saudamini Vishwanath Dabak  | Overseas Development Institute (ODI) fellow |
| 38  | Ms.Pethlada Saiyarat           | Administrative staff                        |

| No. | Name                       | Position                          |
|-----|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 39  | Ms.Sukrudee Duangkota      | Administrative staff              |
| 40  | Ms.Rojarek Leksomboon      | Accountant                        |
| 41  | Ms.Pornpimol Sansaard      | Financial Staff                   |
| 42  | Ms.Suchana Suksawat        | Financial Staff                   |
| 43  | Ms.Chalarntorn Yothasmutra | Communication Offic               |
| 44  | Ms.Apinya Mattadet         | Communication Offic               |
| 45  | Mr.Narintron Chanpaijit    | Communication Offic               |
| 46  | Mr.Warrut Lertsarawut      | Communication Offic               |
| 47  | Ms.Anongwadee Danpan       | Communication Offic               |
| 48  | Ms.Karlana Luz             | International Communication Offic |
| 49  | Ms.Maneechotirat Santi     | Secretary to the program leader   |
| 50  | Ms.Maream Prompalad        | Housekeeper                       |



# Research alliances

HITAP works together with administrators, academics and involves parties at both local and international institutions for the recognition, transparency, and conformity to the actual context and strive to make a connection to the users of the studies. At the same time, the personnel's capacity at allied institutions is developed. They understand and prepare themselves for future systemic HTA.

## Domestic partnerships

### Governmental Organization

- Ministry of Public Health ,i.e., Bureau of Policy and Strategy, Department of Health, Department of Medical Services, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Disease Control, Department of Mental Health, Department of Medical Sciences
- Subcommittee for development of the National List of Essential Medicines
- Health Systems Research Institute (HSRI)
- National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA), Ministry of Science and Technology
- Health Insurance System Research Office (HISRO)
- International Health Policy Program (IHPP)
- The Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Centre
- Institute for Population and Social Research (IPSR), Mahidol University
- Thailand Research Fund (TRF)
- National Health Security Office (NHSO)
- Comptroller General's Department (CGD), Ministry of Finance
- National Health Commission Office of Thailand
- Health Accreditation Institute (Public Organization)
- Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI)
- Clinical Research Collaboration Network (CRCN)
- Center for Alcohol Studies (CAS)
- Thai Health Promotion Foundation (ThaiHealth)
- Thai Health-Global Link Initiative Project (TGLIP)

## Royal College, Association, Societies

- Royal College of Ophthalmologists of Thailand
- Royal College of Radiologists of Thailand
- Royal College of Pediatricians of Thailand
- The Endocrine Society of Thailand
- National Association of the Deaf Thailand
- Thai Medical Device Technology Industry Association (ThaiMed)
- Nuclear Medicine Society of Thailand
- The Royal Thai College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
- Royal College of Orthopaedic Surgeons of Thailand
- Thai Osteoporosis Foundation
- The Hearth Association of Thailand
- Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers Association (PReMA)
- Thailand Regional and General Hospital Society
- Rural Doctor Society

## Academics

- Faculty of Pharmacy, Chiang Mai University
- Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Khon Kaen University,
- Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Chulalongkorn University
- Faculty of Pharmacy, Srinakharinwirot University
- Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Prince of Songkla University
- Faculties of Medicine, Naresuan University
- Faculty of Medicine, Chulalongkorn University
- Faculty of Public Health, Thammasart University
- Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Naresuan University
- Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Ubon Ratchathani University
- Faculty of Pharmacy, Mahidol University
- Faculty of Pharmacy, Silapakorn University
- Mahidol University Faculty of Medicine Ramathibodi Hospital
- Faculty of Medicine, Prince of Songkla University
- Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University
- Faculty of Science, Kasetsart University

## Other organizations

- Thaihealth-Global Link Initiative Project (TGLIP)
- Government Pharmaceutical Organization (GPO)
- Thailand Convention & Exhibition Bureau (TCEB)

## International partnerships

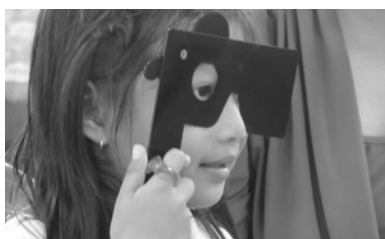
- Center for Drug Evaluation (CDE), Taiwan
- University of York, United Kingdom
- Department of Health Economics and Epidemiology Research, University of Tokyo, Japan
- Health Care, Technology and Place (HCTP) Program,
- Health Economics Group, University of East Anglia, United Kingdom
- Health Technology Assessment, Ministry of Health, Singapore
- International Network of Agencies for HealthTechnology Assessment (INAHTA)
- London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), United Kingdom
- National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), United Kingdom
- Nijmegen International Center for Health Systems Research and Education (NICHE), Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Center, The Netherlands
- Ministry of Health, Myanmar
- Health Strategy and Policy Institute (HSPI), Vietnam
- World Health Organization (WHO)  
World Health Organization (Thailand)  
World Health Organization (Myanmar)  
WHO South-East Asia Region (SEARO)  
WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMRO)
- Centre for Health Economics (CHE),
- Department of Essential Health Technology, World Health Organization
- Global Development Network (GDN)
- Department of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation, University of Toronto, Canada
- Health Insurance Review Agency (HIRA), Korea
- Health Technology Assessment International (HTAi)
- International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcome Research (ISPOR)
- National Evidence-based Healthcare Collaboration Agency (NECA), Korea
- School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Universiti sains Malaysia, Malaysia
- Center for Global Development (CGD), USA
- PRICELESS South Africa Ministry of Health, Indonesia
- Asia Pacific Observatory on Health Systemsand Policies, WHO

# Example of HITAP's Work that Generate Impact at Societal, National and International Levels



- **Research for development of an optimal policy strategy for prevention and control of cervical cancer in Thailand**

The results showed that cervical cancer screening was more cost-effective than Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccinations. The findings led to vaccine price negotiations and the expansion of cervical cancer screening program at national level.



- **The Potential of Provider-initiated Voluntary HIV Counseling and Testing at Healthcare Settings in Thailand**

HIV screening in every patient visiting a health facility was found to be cost-effective. Policy impact from the findings came in the form of free-of-charge HIV screening for all Thai population.



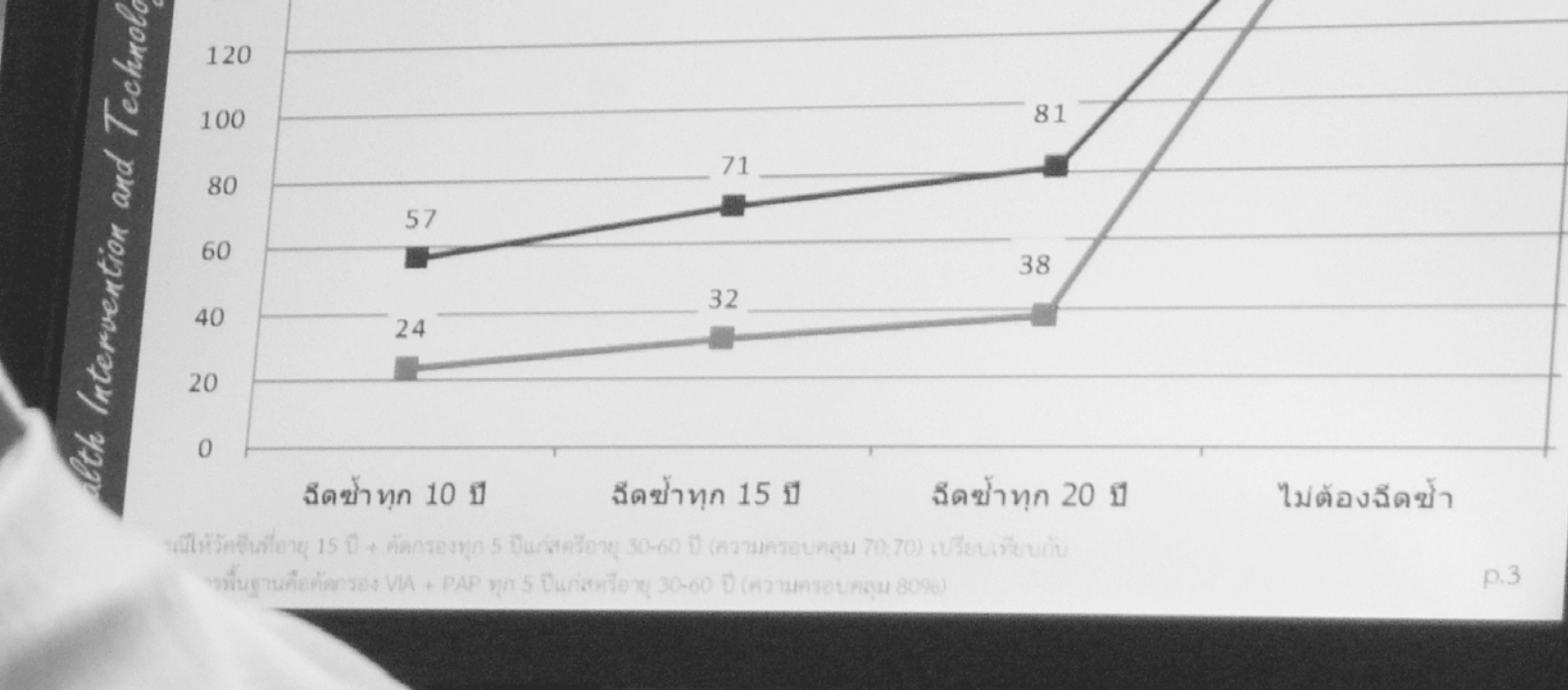
- **A study on cost of social, health and economic consequences of alcohol consumption in Thailand**

Social costs from alcohol abuse in Thailand was estimated to be 0.15 trillion Thai Bahts per year. Health promotion organization used the information to plan their activities.

- **Assessing the implications of Thailand's government use licenses, issued in 2006-2008**

Having achieved the UHC in 2001, drugs for treatment of HIV patients in Thailand were provided free-of-charge. This led to continuous increase in national health expenditure. In order to contain the expenditure, Thai government resorted for compulsory licensing (CL) of 7 drugs in 2006-2008, namely drugs for the treatment of cancer, drugs for the treatment of HIV, and drugs for cardiovascular diseases. This led to debates in political and economic aspects. HITAP conducted a research to evaluate the impact of the CL in terms of health, economic, and social to generate concrete evidence for the debates and for stakeholder considerations. This work was used as an input in a National Health Commission meeting as well as was presented to government committee.

- **Economic evaluation and feasibility analysis of using three-drug antiretroviral regimens as the standard regimens for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV in Thailand**



The cost-effectiveness result indicated that three-drug regimen for HIV treatment was cost-saving when prescribed to mothers in order to reduce rate of virus infection in their children. The Subcommittee for development of the benefits and servicing system in HIV and TB diseases, NHSO decided to suggest the use of the three-drug instead of the two-drug regimen for the prevention of vertical virus transmission from mother to child.

- **Cost-Utility analysis of hematopoietic stem cell transplantation for severe thalassemic patients**

Transplantation of blood stem cell derived from siblings was found to be more cost-effective than other treatment alternatives. The SCBP agreed to include the transplantation in the benefit package, but feasibility of the service provision needed to be studied.

- **The development of health promotion and disease prevention policies for children aged 0-5 years in Thailand**

Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Program Research team for children aged 0-5 years old, consisting of the Royal College of Pediatricians of Thailand; Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health; Burden of Disease Project (Thailand); and HITAP examined and analyzed Thai children health problems. The finding suggested that there were 6 health issues that are significant in Thai

children, namely unintended pregnancy; congenital disorders e.g. Down Syndrome, thalassemia, and hypothyroidism; developmental disorder, both mentally and physically; malnutrition; vision and hearing problems; and under quality child development centers. The government used the findings as an input to the operation of the Thai future for Child Health Development Program.

- **A research development of the system for screening of refractive errors and providing spectacles among pre-primary and primary school children in Thailand**

The study revealed that 1 of 10 Thai children who aged 3-12 years old had vision problems. However, they were not screened or treated due to shortage in pediatric ophthalmologist. HITAP in collaboration with the Royal College of Pediatricians of Thailand and the Royal College of Ophthalmologists of Thailand conducted feasibility study of doing eye screening in children by teachers before referring the children who are detected as having an eye problem to ophthalmologists. The findings suggested that this approach was beneficial in the sense that children could access screening and were provided eyeglasses in case they needed. The Ministry of Public Health developed a policy on children eye screening based on the findings.

- **Development of population-based screening package in Thailand**

Previously, out-of-pocket health check-up expenditure in Thai people was as high as 2.2 billion Thai Bahts. However, there had not been a systematic assessment on how health check-up package should be designed for people at different age ranges. Moreover, UHC and Social Security Scheme had not yet included health check-up as a part of the benefit package. HITAP conducted a study to develop appropriate benefit package for health screenings in Thai population to present to NHSO as information for decision-makings on health check-up benefit package development.

- **Cost-effectiveness and budget impact of using imiglucerase for in patients with Gaucher's disease**

The cost-effectiveness result pointed out that the drug was not cost-effective in Thai context. However, as the drug were the only treatment that could cure the disease, and its costs were so high that catastrophic health expenditure could be caused, the Subcommittee for Development of National List of Essential Medicine employed the study result to develop a copayment scheme between the government and private sectors to make the drug accessible for the patients.

- **The use of pegylated-interferon 2a and pegylated-interferon 2b for the treatment in patients with hepatitis C virus genotype 2 and 3 infection**

The findings that the drugs were cost-effective were used to support the decision to include pegylated-interferon 2a and 2b in the NLEM for the treatment of hepatitis C virus genotype 2 and 3 infection. The indications for using the drug to treat patients with the virus genotype 1 and 6 and for patients with HIV co-infection were under consideration of the Subcommittee.

- **Safety and effectiveness of intravitreal bevacizumab and ranibizumab injections for treatment of retinal disease patients: an observational study**

Bevacizumab, which was a drug that was registered for the treatment of cancers, was also prescribed for intravitreal injection to treat age-related macular degeneration (AMD) through its

anti-vascular endothelial growth factor property. This property of the drug was similar to that of ranibizumab, which was registered specifically for the eye disease treatment. However, the use of bevacizumab was off-label. In 2012, HITAP's assessment suggested that bevacizumab was as effective for treatment of AMD as ranibizumab was but at a much lower cost. As a result, on 7 August 2012, the NLSO board agreed to include the drug in the NLEM to make the drug accessible for all UHC patients. HITAP was now conducting a clinical trial comparing bevacizumab and ranibizumab on the safety of the drugs. The result is expected to finish in 2016.

- **Asia Pacific Observatory Policy Brief: Conducive factors to the development of Health Technology Assessment in Asia**

The Universal Health Coverage (UHC) had become the norm for many low- and middle-income countries in order to meet the health care need. However, implementing the UHC went side by side with an increase in the health care budget. In order to maintain the UHC's sustainability, Health Technology Assessment (HTA) had been introduced as a tool in order to set priorities. This work explained about the conducive factors as well as barriers to HTA development, based on the experiences from six Asian countries.

- **International Decision Support Initiative (iDSI)**

iDSI was an innovative global partnership between leading government institutions, universities, and think tanks in the field of healthcare priority-setting. iDSI uniquely provided intellectual insight with hands-on field expertise, and delivered peer-to-peer support to policymakers and international funders. The project aimed to support countries in achieving and sustaining Universal Health Coverage (UHC) through helping policy makers and donors make better healthcare spending decisions. Currently, HITAP was working with Indonesia, Vietnam, Philippines, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar under iDSI project.



# Research Dissemination

## Publications in the academic journals

| No. | International journals   |
|-----|--|
| 1   | Cooper BS, Kotirum S, Kulpeng W, Praditsitthikorn N, Chittaganpitch M, Limmathurotsakul D, et al. Mortality Attributable to Seasonal Influenza A and B Infections in Thailand, 2005-2009: A Longitudinal Study. Am J Epidemiol. 2015 Apr 20. PubMed PMID: 25899091.  |
| 2   | Guerrero AM, Genuino AJ, Santillan M, Praditsitthikorn N, Chantarastapornchit V, Teerawattananon Y, et al. A cost-utility analysis of cervical cancer screening and human papillomavirus vaccination in the Philippines. BMC Public Health. 2015;15:730. PubMed PMID: 26223975. Pubmed Central PMCID: 4520072. |
| 3   | Haasis MA, Ceria JA, Kulpeng W, Teerawattananon Y, Alejandria M. Do Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccines Represent Good Value for Money in a Lower-Middle Income Country? A Cost-Utility Analysis in the Philippines. PLoS One. 2015;10(7):e0131156. PubMed PMID: 26131961.   |
| 4   | Hofman KJ, McGee S, Chalkidou K, Tantivess S, Culyer AJ. National Health Insurance in South Africa: Relevance of a national priority-setting agency. S Afr Med J. 2015;105(9):739-40.  |
| 5   | Khampang R, Assanangkornchai S. Uptake of HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C testing among injection drug users in Thailand. International Journal of Prevention and Treatment of Substance Use Disorders. 2015;1(3-4):38-54.  |
| 6   | Khampang R, Assanangkornchai S, Teerawattananon Y. Perceived barriers to utilise methadone maintenance therapy among male injection drug users in rural areas of southern Thailand. Drug Alcohol Rev. 2015;doi: 10.1111/dar.12268.   |
| 7   | Kingkaew P, Werayingyong P, Aye SS, Tin N, Singh A, Myint P, et al. An ex-ante economic evaluation of the Maternal and Child Health Voucher Scheme as a decision-making tool in Myanmar. Health Policy Plan. 2015 Sep 26. PubMed PMID: 26412858.   |
| 8   | Meeyai A, Praditsitthikorn N, Kotirum S, Kulpeng W, Putthasri W, Cooper BS, et al. Seasonal influenza vaccination for children in Thailand: a cost-effectiveness analysis. PLoS medicine. 2015 May;12(5):e1001829. PubMed PMID: 26011712.  |
| 9   | Pattanaphesaj J, Thavorncharoensap M. Measurement properties of the EQ-5D-5L compared to EQ-5D-3L in the Thai diabetes patients. Health Qual Life Outcomes. 2015;13(14).   |
| 10  | Santatiwongchai B, Chantarastapornchit V, Wilkinson T, Thi boonboon K, Rattanavipapong W, Walker DG, et al. Methodological Variation in Economic Evaluations Conducted in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: Information for Reference Case Development. PLoS One. 2015;10(5):e0123853. PubMed PMID: 25950443.  |

| No. | International journals  |
|-----|---|
| 11  | Siribumrungwong B, Noorit P, Wilasrusmee C, <a href="#">Leelahavarong P</a> , Thakkestian A, <a href="#">Teerawattananon Y</a> . Cost-utility analysis of great saphenous vein ablation with radiofrequency, foam and surgery in the emerging health-care setting of Thailand. Phlebology / Venous Forum of the Royal Society of Medicine. 2015 Sep 4. PubMed PMID: 26341394. |
| 12  | Siribumrungwong B, Noorit P, Wilasrusmee C, <a href="#">Teerawattananon Y</a> , Thakkestian A. Quality of life after great saphenous vein ablation in Thai patients with great saphenous vein reflux. Asian journal of surgery / Asian Surgical Association. 2015 Nov 25. PubMed PMID: 26626098.  |
| 13  | <a href="#">Suwanthawornkul T</a> , <a href="#">Anothaisintawee T</a> , Sobhonslidsuk A, Thakkestian A, <a href="#">Teerawattananon Y</a> . Efficacy of Second Generation Direct-Acting Antiviral Agents for Treatment Naive Hepatitis C Genotype 1: A Systematic Review and Network Meta-Analysis. PLoS One. 2015;10(12):e0145953. PubMed PMID: 26720298.                    |
| 14  | <a href="#">Teerawattananon Y</a> , <a href="#">Anothaisintawee T</a> , <a href="#">Tantivess S</a> , Wattanadilokkul U, Krajaisri P, Yotphumee S, et al. Effectiveness of Diapers among People with Chronic Incontinence in Thailand. Int J Technol Assess Health Care. 2015 Jul 22;1-7. PubMed PMID: 26198392.  |
| 15  | <a href="#">Teerawattananon Y</a> , <a href="#">Tritasavit N</a> . A learning experience from price negotiations for vaccines. Vaccine. 2015 May 7;33 Suppl 1:A11-2. PubMed PMID: 25919150.   |
| 16  | <a href="#">Thiboonboon K</a> , <a href="#">Leelahavarong P</a> , Wattanasirichaigoon D, Vatanavicharn N, Wasant P, Shotelersuk V, et al. An economic evaluation of neonatal screening for inborn errors of metabolism using Tandem Mass Spectrometry in Thailand. PLoS One. 2015;10(8):e0134782.doi:10.1371.   |
| 17  | <a href="#">Werayingyong P</a> , Phanuphak N, Chokephaibulkit K, <a href="#">Tantivess S</a> , Kullert N, Tosanguan K, et al. Economic Evaluation of 3-Drug Antiretroviral Regimens for the Prevention of Mother-to-Child HIV Transmission in Thailand. Asia Pac J Public Health. 2015 Jan 2016;27(2):866-76.   |
| 18  | <a href="#">Youngkong S</a> . Incorporating Cost-Effectiveness Data in a Fair Process for Priority Setting Efforts; Comment on "Use of Cost-Effectiveness Data in Priority Setting Decisions: Experiences from the National Guidelines for Heart Diseases in Sweden". Int J Health Policy Manag. 2015;4.  |

| No. | Domestic journals  |
|-----|--|
| 1   | Tantipisitkul, K., Sirisamutr, T., Pilasant, S., Dounghitsirikul, S., Kulpeng, W., Kingkaew, P. & Teerawattananon, Y. Medical Rehabilitation Services for Person with Disabilities: The Perspectives of Clients, Providers and Policymakers. Journal of Health Systems Research. 2558; 9 (4): 358-368.       |
| 2   | Pilasant, S., Tantipisitkul, K., Sirisamutr, T., Dounghitsirikul, S., Kulpeng, W., Kingkaew, P., & Teerawattananon, Y. Disabled Persons Satisfaction with Rehabilitation and Assistive Devices Services Provided by Public Hospital in 8 Provinces. Journal of Health Systems Research. 2558; 9 (4): 369-381 |
| 3   | Pilasant, S., Tantivess, S., Kotirum, S., Sirisamutr, T., Dounghitsirikul, S., & Tantipisitkul, K. Medical Assistive Devices Benefit under Public Health Insurance Scheme for Disabled People in Thailand. Journal of Health Systems Research. 2558; 9 (4): 312-322  |
| 4   | Sirisamutr, T., Pilasan, S., Dounghitsirikul, S., Tantivess, S., & Teerawattananon, Y. Utilization and Reimbursements of Assistive Devices for People with Disabilities under Thai Public Health Insurance Schemes. Journal of Health Systems Research. 2558; 9 (4): 323-333                                 |
| 5   | Kulpeng, W., Kingkaew, P., Keawsawang, S., Tantivess, S., & Teerawattananon, Y. Outcomes and Factors Influencing Access to Assistive Device for Mobility Disabled People. Journal of Health Systems Research. 2558; 9 (4): 344-357   |
| 6   | Tantivess, S., Sirisamutr, T., Pilasan, S., Dounghitsirikul, S., Kulpeng, W., Kingkaew, P., & Teerawattananon, Y. A Review of benefit package of and access to assistive device service in Thailand. Journal of Health Systems Research. 2558; 9 (4): 306-311  |
| 7   | Dounghitsirikul, S., Sirisamutr, T., Tantipisitkul, K., Ingsrisawang, L., Pienriwatchara, E., Banpoun, V., & Teerawattananon, Y. Evaluation of the Implementation of the Health Promotion Plan for Elders and Disables, Year 2013. Journal of Health Science, 24(5), 938-949.                                |
| 8   | Dounghitsirikul, S., Sirisamutr, T., Kotirum, S., Pilasant, S., Tantipisitkul, K., Tantivess, S., & Teerawattananon, Y. Medical Rehabilitation Services for People Living with Disabilities in Thailand: Current Situations in Public Hospitals. Journal of Health Systems Research. 2558; 9 (4): 334-343    |

# Presentation

## Studies submitted to policy decision makers

| Title  | Committee   | Venue, date   | Researcher(s)   |
|--|---|---|---|
| Cost-utility analysis of Self-monitoring blood glucose in diabetes mellitus type 1 and 2 who using insulin in Thailand | The subcommittee for development of the benefit and servicing system in the project of improvement of benefits under a universal coverage scheme 1/2015 | National Health Security Office<br>21/1/2015                                      | Ms.Preyanuch Deebukkham                                     |
| The cost-effectiveness of population-based screening for alcohol use disorder in Thailand                              | The subcommittee for development of the benefit and servicing system in the project of improvement of benefits under a universal coverage scheme 2/2015 | National Health Security Office<br>26/2/2015                                      | Ms. Varit Chantaratapornchit                                |
| Economic evaluation of adjuvant chemotherapy in patients with resectable metastatic colorectal cancer in Thailand      | The Subcommittee for Development of the National List of Essential Medicine   | Office of Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Health, Nonthaburi<br>24/3/2015 | Dr. Juntana Patanaphesaj                                    |
| HITA on Package of Essential Non Communicable Disease (PEN) interventions in Indonesia                                 | Indonesian Policy makers and stakeholders meeting   | Jakarta, Indonesia<br>30/4/2015   | Dr. Dewi Indriani (WHO Country office, Indonesia) and HITAP |
| The Analysis of cost and appropriateness of using surgical navigation in Thailand                                      | The subcommittee for development of the benefit and servicing system in the project of improvement of benefits under a universal coverage scheme 4/2015 | National Health Security Office<br>28/5/2015                                      | Ms.Thanaporn Busabawalai                                    |
| Colorectal and Rectal Cancer Screening   | The subcommittee for development of the benefit and servicing system in the project of improvement of benefits under a universal coverage scheme 6/2015 | National Health Security Office<br>17/9/2015                                      | Ms.Kankamon Kittrongsiri                                    |

| Title  | Committee   | Venue, date  | Researcher(s)                                       |
|--|---|--|---|
| Economic Analysis of Chromosome Testing in Couples with a Previous Structural Chromosome Abnormality Child   | The subcommittee for development of the benefit and servicing system in the project of improvement of benefits under a universal coverage scheme 6/2015 | National Health Security Office<br>17/9/2015                                       | Ms.Wantanee Kulpeng                                 |
| Meeting of the Subcommittee for the development of the health promotion and the disease prevention under the universal coverage scheme 5/2015              | The Sub-committee for development of the health promotion and the disease prevention under the universal coverage scheme 5/2015                         | National Health Security Office<br>22/9/2015                                       | Ms.Chutima kumdee<br><br>Dr.Kanlaya Teerawattananon |
| A research development of the system for screening of refractive errors and providing spectacles among pre-primary and primary school children in Thailand | Ministry meeting led by Prof.Dr.Rajata Rajatanavin, Minister of Public Health   | Office of Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Health, Nonthaburi<br>23/6/2015  | Dr.Yot Teerawattananon                              |
|  | Sub-committee for development of the health promotion and the disease prevention under the universal coverage scheme                                    | National Health Security Office<br>28/9/2015                                       |   |
|  | National Health Security Office Board   | National Health Security Office<br>1/10/2015                                       |   |
|  | Ministry meeting with Thai Health Minister  | Office of Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Health, Nonthaburi<br>15/12/2015 |   |

# Oral presentation in academic conference

| Title   | Committee                             | Venue, date            | Researcher(s)                   |
|---|---------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Cost-utility analysis of adjuvant imatinib in patients with high risk of gastrointestinal stromal tumour (GIST) recurrence in Thailand  | 4 <sup>th</sup> HTAsiaLink conference | Taiwan<br>12-15/5/2015 | Ms.Thanaporn Busabawalai        |
| Economic evaluation of the use of biologic dis-ease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs in the treatment of patients with rheumatoid arthritis   | 4 <sup>th</sup> HTAsiaLink conference | Taiwan<br>12-15/5/2015 | Ms. Varit Chantara-stapornchit  |
| Does the WHO Package of Essential Non-commu-nicable disease (PEN) interventions represent good value for money in resource-limited settings                                       | 4 <sup>th</sup> HTAsiaLink conference | Taiwan<br>12-15/5/2015 | Ms.Waranya Rattanavipapong      |
| Identifying the priority methodological research for conducting economic evaluation in low- and middle- income countries: Finding the Holy Grail                                  | 4 <sup>th</sup> HTAsiaLink conference | Taiwan<br>12-15/5/2015 | Ms.Benjarin Santatiwongchai     |
| Effectiveness of interferon-free compared with interferon-based regimens for treatment naïve and null responders HCV genotype 1 infection: A sys-tematic review and meta-analysis | 4 <sup>th</sup> HTAsiaLink conference | Taiwan<br>12-15/5/2015 | Ms.Thanthima Suwanthewornkul    |
| Effectiveness of the risk assessment tools for cardiovascular disease prevention in adults in Thailand: A comparison between WHO/ISH pre-diction chart and Thai ASCVD score.      | 4 <sup>th</sup> HTAsiaLink conference | Taiwan<br>12-15/5/2015 | Ms.Chutima kum-dee              |
| The journey to HTA in low- and middle-income countries: conducive factors and barriers to HTA development   | 4 <sup>th</sup> HTAsiaLink conference | Taiwan<br>12-15/5/2015 | Ms.Sarocho Chooti-pongchaivat   |
| Review of Maternal and Child Health Voucher Scheme: Review of the First Six Months  | 4 <sup>th</sup> HTAsiaLink conference | Taiwan<br>12-15/5/2015 | Mr.Songyot Pilasant             |
| Prevalence and Factors associated with obesity among Thai elderly: the 2013 Thai elderly health survey  | 4 <sup>th</sup> HTAsiaLink conference | Taiwan<br>12-15/5/2015 | Mr.Suradech Duongthipsirkul     |
| Development of health promotion program for informal sector in Thailand under Universal Health Coverage scheme  | 4 <sup>th</sup> HTAsiaLink conference | Taiwan<br>12-15/5/2015 | Ms.Suteenoot Tang-sathitkulchai |



| Title   | Committee   | Venue, date   | Researcher(s)                 |
|---|---|---|-------------------------------|
| Effectiveness of bevacizumab and ranibizumab in the real world: An observational study in patients with retinal diseases in Thailand  | 4 <sup>th</sup> HTAsiaLink conference   | Taiwan<br>12-15/5/2015  | Ms.Suthasinee Kumluang        |
| Effectiveness of diapers among people with chronic incontinence in Thailand   | 4 <sup>th</sup> HTAsiaLink conference   | Taiwan<br>12-15/5/2015  | Dr.Thunyarat Anothaisinthawee |
| Economic loss due to inaccessibility of assistive devices in Thailand   | 4 <sup>th</sup> HTAsiaLink conference   | Taiwan<br>12-15/5/2015  | Ms.Wantanee Kulpeng           |
| Evidence-informed decision making for including health promotion and disease prevention interventions in the universal health coverage benefit package for Thai adults: a review of effectiveness | 4 <sup>th</sup> HTAsiaLink conference   | Taiwan<br>12-15/5/2015  | Mr.Witthawath Pantumongkoln   |
| What is the best value for money for preventing carbamazepine-induced severe drug reactions in Thailand?  | Annual conference<br>Faculty of Medicine<br>Prince of Songkla University 2015 | Faculty of Medicine<br>Prince of Songkla University<br>6/8/2015 | Ms.Waranya Rattanavipapong    |

# Research reports

| Title   | Writer   |
|---|--|
| A research report on a cost-utility and budget impact analysis of the sunitinib risk-sharing scheme for the treatment of metastatic RCC and for advanced GIST after failure of imatinib | Ms.Pritaporn Kingkaew<br>Mr.Kittiphong Thiboonboon<br>Ms.Thanthima Suwanthewornkul<br>Dr.Yot Teerawattananon         |
| A research report on an Economic evaluation of adjuvant chemotherapy in patients with resectable metastatic colorectal cancer in Thailand   | Dr. Juntana Pattanaphesaj  |
| A research report on the development of health promotion and disease prevention program in Thailand (2015)  | Dr.Sitaporn Youngkong<br>Dr. Juntana Pattanaphesaj<br>Ms. Suteenoot Tangsathitkulchai<br>Mr.Witthawath Pantumongkoln |
| A research report on an Economic Evaluation of Iodized Oil Fluid Injection (Lipiodol Ultra Fluid) for the Treatment of Hepatocellular Carcinoma   | Ms. Satanan Maneeon<br>Dr.Usa Chaikledkaew<br>Dr.Yot Teerawattananon   |
| A research report on a Cost-utility analysis of adjuvant imatinib in patients with high risk of recurrence after gastrointestinal stromal tumour (GIST) resection in Thailand           | Ms.Thanaporn Bussabawalai<br>Mr.Kittiphong Thiboonboon<br>Dr.Yot Teerawattananon                                     |
| A research report on an Economic Evaluation of the Use of Gadoxetic Acid (Primovist) for the Diagnosis of Hepatocellular Carcinoma) with Electromagnetic Devices                        | Ms. Satanan Maneeon<br>Dr.Usa Chaikledkaew<br>Dr.Yot Teerawattananon   |

# Books and other media

| Title  | Writer   |
|--|--|
| A Star in the East: A Short History of HITAP   | Anthony J. Culyer<br>Dr.Chai Podhisita<br>Ms.Benjarin Santatiwongchai  |
| Terrible Beauty: A Short History of NICE The National Institute of Health and Care Excellence                | Nicholas Timmins<br>Sir Michael Rawlins<br>John Appleby  |
| Policy Brief and Working Paper: Conducive Factors to the Development of Health Technology Assessment in Asia | Ms.Sarocho Chootipongchaivat<br>Ms.Nattha Tritasavit<br>Ms.Alia Luz<br>Dr.Yot Teerawattananon<br>Dr.Sripen Tantivess |
| Spot radio on the The reform of health consumer protection in Thailand                                       | Ms.Chalarntorn Yothasmutra   |
| Documentary podcast on the reform of health consumer protection in Thailand                                  | Ms.Chalarntorn Yothasmutra   |

# Newsletters

| Title  |
|--|
| Newsletters Vol.8 Issue 23 (January-April 2015)      |
| Newsletters Vol.8 Issue 24 (May-August 2015)         |
| Newsletters Vol.8 Issue 25 (September-December 2015) |
| HTAsiaLink newsletter 6th issue: Sharing Information |
| HTAsiaLink newsletter 7th issue: HTA to Support UHC  |
| HITAP UPDATE Vol. 3 Issue 18 (January 2015)          |
| HITAP UPDATE Vol. 3 Issue 20 (March 2015)            |
| HITAP UPDATE Vol. 3 Issue 21 (April 2015)            |
| HITAP UPDATE Vol. 3 Issue 22 (May 2015)              |
| HITAP UPDATE Vol. 3 Issue 23 (June 2015)             |
| HITAP UPDATE Vol. 3 Issue 24 (July 2015)             |
| HITAP UPDATE Vol. 3 Issue 25 (August 2015)           |
| HITAP UPDATE Vol. 3 Issue 26 (September 2015)        |
| HITAP UPDATE Vol. 3 Issue 27 (October 2015)          |
| HITAP UPDATE Vol. 3 Issue 28 (November 2015)         |
| HITAP UPDATE Vol. 3 Issue 29 (December 2015)         |

# Activities and Booth

| Title  | Host  | Venue, date  |
|--|---|--|
| PMAC 2015 Global Health Post 2015 Accelerating Equity  | Prince Mahidol Award Conference                                   | Centara Grand At Central World<br>26-31/1/2015                 |
| Regional Research Expo 2015  | National Research Council of Thailand                             | Prince of Songkla University<br>26-28/3/2015                   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Health Technology Assessment Training and Workshop   | The Health Intervention and Technology Assessment Program (HITAP) | Richmond Hotel Nonthaburi<br>1-3/4/2015                        |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> HTAsiaLink Annual Conference 2015  | The Center for Drug Evaluation (CDE)                              | Chientan Youth Activity Center Taiwan<br>12-15/5/2015          |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference The National Health Commission office Health care reform and reform consciousness democratic life. | The National Health Commission offi                               | IMPACT Arena, Exhibition and Convention Center<br>10-12/6/2015 |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> Health Economic Evaluation Training (EE Training)   | The Health Intervention and Technology Assessment Program (HITAP) | Richmond Hotel Nonthaburi<br>20-24/7/2015                      |
| Booth displayed at the reform of health consumer protection in Thailand  | The Health Intervention and Technology Assessment Program (HITAP) | The Food and Drug Administration<br>2-4/9/2015                 |
| Annual Conference: Ministry of Public Health 2015  | Ministry of Public Health   | Ambassador City Jomtien Pattaya<br>14-16/9/2015                |

# Activities and Achievements from January – December 2015

## 1. Research Development Activities

### **UCBP holds a forum for suggestions on health problems, 1/2015**

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> January 2015, the Secretariat of the Universal Health Coverage Benefit Package of Thailand (UCBP) organized the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting to brainstorm and propose topics/issues or health technologies for the group of Bangkok residents, representatives from central Thailand, Chiang Mai, and northern Thailand. Afterward, participants were asked to propose topics or issues chosen from brainstorming within their respective provinces. These selections would then be brought up in a meeting between the representatives from all four regions, with three topics/issues being proposed to the UCBP for further Meeting for Pediatric Asthma Specialists to develop appropriate diagnosis and treatment procedures

### **Assessing the quality of the School Health Services**

On the 30<sup>th</sup> January 2015, the research team reviewing the School Health Services for primary schools organized a meeting together with various experts on school health services to set the areas of study and indicators of the research. The participants of the meeting included representatives from the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Public Health, experts from the Department of Family Medicine at Ramathibodi Hospital, Mahidol University, and the National Health Security Office (NHSO). This research project was initiated to evaluate school health service performance, including the assessment of access rates to health and disease prevention services such as the health check-ups rates (sight, hearing, and dental), vaccinations rates, continuation rates, health outcomes, the suitability of the indicators used, factors contributing to the services' success, and obstacles in accessing these services.

### **HITAP to evaluate unit cost and budgetary impacts if the government subsidizes batteries for hearing aids for the disabled**

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of March 2015, Mr. Suradech Doungthipsirikul, Lead Researcher of this project, organized a public hearing for the purpose of further developing research on battery subsidies for hearing aids for the hearing-disabled under the Universal Health Coverage scheme. The main part of the hearing dealt with the current subsidization of hearing aids under the Universal Health Coverage scheme, and the usage of hearing aids for the deaf. The public hearing was attended by representatives from many sectors such as the NHSO, the National Association of the Deaf in Thailand, and the National Electronics and Computer Technology Center.



## **Expert meeting on the reform of health consumer protection in Thailand.**

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of March 2015, Dr. Inthira Yamabhai, Researcher in the reform of health consumer protection in Thailand project, organized the 1<sup>st</sup> working group meeting to give an overview of the structure and to create a work plan for conducting a literature review on the consumer protection system in other countries such as the People's Republic of China, Japan, Australia, America, and the Eurozone in order to present the findings at the next working group meeting

## **Expert meeting to identify a suitable intervention for Oral cancer screening in high-risk population**

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of March 2015, researchers from the Thai Dentist against Tobacco, Thai Health Promotion Foundation, Bureau of Dental Health, Department of Health, and HITAP held an expert meeting to retrieve their opinions and comments on the research project proposal. This project comprises of two sub-projects: 1) feasibility of screening oral cancer screening by detecting oral lesions in community health services, and 2) the Cost-Utility analysis of Oral cancer screening in high-risk population

## **HITAP holds the 1<sup>st</sup> progress report meeting for the TRF Senior Research Scholar project on improving the ability to evaluate health technology, 1/2558**

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2015, HITAP held the 1<sup>st</sup> progress report meeting for the TRF Senior Research Scholar project on improving the ability to evaluate health technology. Many members of the Board of Directors of project attended such as Prof. Vicharn Panich, Prof.Paibul Suriyawongpaisal, Ms.Netnapi Suchonwanich, Dr. Samrit Srithamrongsawat MD. Ph.D., Ms. Wanna Iatpraphan , Ms. Phakhamon Silanuphap, and Mr. Niphat Suksaensamran

## **Inefficient budget spending for Stents and balloon for patients with cardiovascular disease problems. HITAP recommended using evidence to try to fix this.**

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of March 2015, HITAP organized an expert meeting to discuss the framework for the optimal features of catheters in expanding coronary arteries with balloons and stents, with Dr. Inthira Yamabhai presenting a brief background of this project. In the past, the costs for catheters used to expand blood vessels and stents were the highest among the costs for equipment and prosthetics. However, it was found that the equipment which the NHSO procured was not approved by the physicians who used them. In addition, some hospitals were unable to purchase the equipment at the recommended set price. Therefore, this meeting was held for the purpose of finding policy recommendations which would make the procurement process better in terms of suitability, quality, and safety.

## **Meeting for Pediatric Asthma Specialists to develop appropriate diagnosis and treatment procedures**

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of April 2015, HITAP organized a meeting for specialists to recommend improvements to the way Thai children with asthma are taken care of and treated, which is a part of a study called “Treatment and protect Asthma in Thai Children”. This meeting included experts from many organizations involved with asthma such as the Royal College of Pediatricians of Thailand, the National Health Security Office (NHSO), personnel involved with taking care of children with asthma (physicians, pharmacists, and nurses), and the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers Association.

## **Surgical navigation is not yet included in the Thai health benefits package of the UC**

On 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015, Ms. Thanaporn Bussabawalai, Researcher and member of the Analysis of cost and appropriateness of using surgical navigation in Thailand Project under HITAP presented the results of the study to the sub-committee of the Development of the Benefits Package and Service Delivery under the Universal Health Coverage scheme, in the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the sub-committee of 2015 at the National Health Security Office (NHSO). The sub-committee approved of the principles involving surgery via navigation system but did not yet consider its benefits because there were no clear indicators and guidelines in Thailand.

## **HITAP organizes a progress report meeting on The development of appropriate procurement policy of coronary balloon catheters and coronary stents under Universal Health Coverage Scheme**

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June 2015, HITAP organized an expert meeting to update the progress on “The development of appropriate procurement policy of coronary balloon catheters and coronary stents under Universal Health Coverage Scheme”.

Dr. Inthira Yamabhai, Researcher at HITAP, presented a progress update on various aspects of the research such as costs data of hospitals in Thailand which use balloons and stents, current reimbursement trends, number of patients reimbursed for usage of these equipment, and other information from surveys regarding which aspects are needed for balloons and stents.

## **HITAP and IHPP organize working group meeting “Development of Health Benefits Package Under Universal Health Coverage Scheme” 1/2558**

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June 2015, HITAP and IHPP organized the first “Think Thank” meeting, which is an event under the Develop the Benefits Package Under the Universal Coverage Benefit Package Scheme at the National Health Building, Ministry of Public Health. This meeting was held to exchange information and knowledge between academics, public health policy-makers, those with experience related to public health policy, and operations staff

## **HITAP organizes a steering committee meeting for the Quality and Outcome Framework Project**

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 2015, HITAP researchers presented a research plan for Developing health care indicators and improving the QOF program for the Thai Universal Health Coverage Part I (Quality and Outcome Framework: QOF) to the steering committee chaired by Dr. Anuwat Supphachutikun, President of the Healthcare Accreditation Institute (Public Organization). The attendants of this meeting included management and specialists from various organizations involved in this project such as the Ministry of Public Health, the National Health Security Office, and community hospital

## **HITAP held the 3<sup>rd</sup> progress report meeting on the Reform of Health Consumer Protection in Thailand**

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of June 2015, HITAP organized the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting presenting the operational progress of the Reform of Health Consumer Protection in Thailand. The attendants for this meeting came from government organizations involved in setting policy related to consumer protection, consisting of the Thailand Development and Research Institute (TDRI), Thai Drug Watch Organization, and the Department of Biomedical Engineering, Mahidol University.

## **HITAP organized the 4<sup>th</sup> Working Group meeting on Health Economics**

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of June 2015, HITAP organized the 4<sup>th</sup> working group meeting on health economics. In this meeting, the results of 18 drugs up for consideration were presented by the health economics working group based on pharmacoeconomics study. In addition, the research results were also presented to the sub-committee for the development of the National List of Essential Medicines for consideration. The attendants of the meeting came from public health agencies, government organizations involved in health economics, and representatives from pharmaceutical companies involved with health economics.

## **Cost-Effectiveness Evaluation of Plerixafor in marrow cancer and lymphoma patients**

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2015, Dr.Thunyarat Anothaisintawee, Researcher for the cost-effectiveness evaluation of Plerixafor in marrow cancer and lymphoma patients, held a meeting with organizations involved in this project, comprising the National Health Security Office (NHSO), the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers Association (PReMA), Ramathibodi Hospital, and Chulalongkorn Hospital. The purpose of the meeting was to create effective health technologies

## **HITAP organizes an expert meeting with Quality and Outcomes Framework project staff, exchanges viewpoints to further develop efficiency**

On the 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> of July 2015, HITAP held an expert meeting for personnel involved with the first phase of the Quality and Outcomes Framework, or QOF (Developing health care indicators and improving the QOF program for the Thai Universal Health Coverage Part I'). The participants consisted of representatives of the Provincial Health Office six service providers associated with the QOF project, and researchers from the Health Intervention and Health Assessment Technology Program. The purpose of the talks was to exchange and share experiences in operating the QOF, obstacles, and suggestions for further improving the efficiency of the project. The minutes of the meeting can be found at <http://www.hitap.net/research/163354>

## **Research Meeting the QOF project – opinion exchanges on health-related issues**

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> of July 2015, HITAP organized a research meeting for the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) program. The participants of the event included the Ministry of Public Health, the National Health Security Office (both central and provincial offices) various hospitals, representatives from civil society, and representatives from patients. HITAP invited specialists from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) and Birmingham University, the United Kingdom, to be the advisors for this project.

## **HITAP holds a meeting to present the findings of its research on the appropriate and efficient aspects of stents and balloons to specialists?**

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of August 2015, HITAP organized a meeting to present its findings on the optimal features of catheters in expanding coronary arteries with balloons and stents. Specialists, representatives of healthcare providers, representatives of the Government Pharmaceutical Organization, and researchers were asked to give their opinions and suggestions so the research team could incorporate them prior to publicizing the findings

## **Pediatric asthma specialists formulate guidelines for diagnosis, care, and treatment**

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of August 2015, representatives from the Royal College of Pediatricians of Thailand and HITAP held a meeting to present a draft of the guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of children with asthma. This meeting consisted of a hearing from multidisciplinary health providers such as physicians, pharmacists, nurses, officer from the Tambon Health Promoting Hospital, professors from universities, representatives from academia, and representatives from the National Health Security Office. The hearing was held to provide suggestions on the suitability and feasibility of the guidelines for diagnosing and treating children with asthma at the operations level, and also to provide a standard for healthcare providers in treating children with asthma such as pediatricians, general physicians, emergency room nurses, officer from the Tambon Health Promoting Hospital, and pharmacists.

## **HITAP organizes a press conference on its achievements from the “TRF Senior Research Scholar”**

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of August 2015, HITAP organized an event to release its achievements upon completion of the Thailand Research Fund (TRF) for a duration of 3 years. HITAP was able to train 17 new researchers, publish 15 studies in international academic journals, and conduct over 60 research projects with support from the TRF Senior Research Scholar in the past 3 years. This meeting focused on 2 outstanding research projects which were expanded to the entire country: Assessing the Accuracy and Feasibility of a Refractive Error Screening Program Conducted by School Teachers in Pre-Primary and Primary Schools in Thailand and Economic evaluation of HLA-B\*1502 screening for carbamazepine

## **The QoF project chooses 5 health problems to develop indicators**

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of August 2015, the steering committee of the Quality of Framework (QOF) project gathered together to discuss and screen health problems in order to further develop indicators. The steering committee passed a resolution to determine indicators for health problems, which will be used in fiscal year 2017. Five health problems were chosen, composing: 1) chronic diseases (high blood pressure, diabetes, cardiovascular disease); 2) maternal and child health; 3) bedridden patients; 4) proper usage of antibiotics; and 5) asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases.

## **Specialists collectively commented on the structure of Cost-Utility and Budget Impact Analysis of Hepatitis C Virus Treatment with Sofosbuvir-based Regimens in Thailand.**

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of August 2015, researchers from the Cost-Utility and Budget Impact Analysis of Hepatitis C Virus Treatment with Sofosbuvir-based Regimens in Thailand project held a specialist meeting to showcase their literature review findings and present a value-for-money research project, which is currently being conducted. It is expected that the research will be concluded by the end of December 2015.

## **Expert meeting on developing the “Assessing the Accuracy and Feasibility of a Refractive Error Screening Program Conducted by School Teachers in Pre-Primary and Primary Schools in Thailand” project**

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of August 2015, HITAP held a meeting to assess the feasibility of expanding the results of the study on “Assessing the Accuracy and Feasibility of a Refractive Error Screening Program Conducted by School Teachers in Pre-Primary and Primary Schools in Thailand” to the rest of the country. This meeting comprised experts from various fields such as pediatric ophthalmologists, pediatricians, representatives from the NHSO, representatives from the Ministry of Public Health, school teachers, all the way to optometrists and optical shop owners.

## **Expert meeting presents preliminary results on the Reform of Health Consumer Protection in Thailand project**

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of September 2015, Dr. Inthira Yamabhai, Researcher at HITAP, presented the findings and recommendations on developing the system and structure of consumer protection for health products in Thailand to experts to ask for their opinions. These suggestions would then be used to further develop the system and structure. The experts debated on the following topics: the potential of the protection system for 8 consumer health products (medicines, drugs, substances affecting the nervous system, volatile substances, hazardous substances, cosmetics, medical devices, and food); the main activity of regulatory agencies for consumer protection on health products; and current restrictions in providing consumer protection for health products.

## **Expert meeting on assessing school health services in primary schools**

On the 4<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup> of September 2015, Dr. Naiyana Praditsitthikorn, HITAP Researcher in the Evaluation of School Health Services in Elementary Schools project, presented the preliminary results and preliminary policy recommendations from the literature review and surveying of the health services in primary schools. The audience comprised representatives from the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Public Health, and other agencies involved, and the purpose of this meeting was to listen to their opinions on research and policy recommendations. The minutes of the meeting can be accessed at [www.hitap.net/research/82165](http://www.hitap.net/research/82165)

## **NHSO reviews the benefits package for colorectal and rectal cancer screening and prevention screening for the recurrence of babies with chromosomal abnormalities**

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of September 2015, HITAP researchers under the Development of Health Benefits Package under Universal Health Coverage Scheme presented the results to the sub-committee for the Development of the Benefits Package and Service Delivery in its 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of 2015 at the National Health Security Office. Ms. Kankamon Kittrongsiri presented the results of Economic evaluation of colorectal cancer screening among Thai population and Ms. Wantanee Kulpeng presented about Economic Analysis of Chromosome Testing in Couples with a Previous Structural Chromosome Abnormality Child.

## **Meeting to consider preliminary results and policy recommendations derived from the assessment of project implementation: Health promotion and disease prevention program for Universal Health Coverage**

The preliminary assessment results from the implementation of Health promotion and disease prevention program under Universal Health Coverage showed no guarantee that the practice would result in benefit package services being provided because of the dependence on understanding and management of the budget, lack of monitoring and evaluation, and lack of incentives for both service providers and receivers.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of September 2015, Dr. Sitaporn Youngkong, Researcher at HITAP, presented the preliminary results and policy recommendations from the assessment of the implementation of Health promotion and disease prevention program under Universal Health Coverage. The aim of the meeting was to obtain feedback and suggestions from specialists and those involved with the project. The participants who attended included representatives from the Health Systems Research Institute (HSRI); the Faculty of Medicine at Prince of Songkhla University; the Faculty of Medicine at Ramathibodi Hospital; the Institute of Health Promotion for People with Disability; the National Health Security Office; the Queen Sirikit National Institute of Child Health; the Department of Health; the Department of Disease Control; the Department of Mental Health; the Bureau of Inspection and Evaluation; the Bureau of Health Promotion; and the Office of the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Public Health.

## **Research topic meeting on A study on feasibility of investing in and access to spirometry service in community hospitals**

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of September 2015, Mr. Songyot Pilasant, Researcher at HITAP, presented the background on A study on feasibility of investing in and access to spirometry service in community hospitals to experts in the meeting. The research topic was part of the study to develop the benefit package under the Universal Coverage Benefit Package (UCBP), which was presented by the industrial sector and screened by the working group of the project for the purpose of determining the value-for-money and feasibility of introducing the practice prior to inclusion in the benefit package. The meeting aimed to set the research question, with participants from the Thoracic Society of Thailand, the National Health Security Office the Central Chest Institute of Thailand, the Nurses' Association of Thailand, the Medical Device Control Division, the Occupational Medicine Center, the Nopparatrajathanee Hospital, and the Somdet Phrayuppharat Chiang Khong Hospital. For further information or to keep updated on the project, please visit <http://www.ucbp.net>

## **Meeting for opinions on choices for the future Thai consumer protection for health products system and structure**

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2015, the Reform of Health Consumer Protection in Thailand research team organized an expert meeting to seek opinions on the choices for the future Thai consumer protection for health products system and structure, hosted in the Richmond Hotel, Nonthaburi.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Working Group Meeting on Selecting Health Problems and Health Technologies to develop the Benefit Package under the Universal Coverage Benefit Package (UCBP)**

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October 2015, the Health Intervention and Technology Assessment Program (HITAP) and the International Health Policy Program (IHPP) held the 2<sup>nd</sup> working group meeting on selecting health problems and health technologies to develop the benefit package under the Universal Coverage Benefit Package Scheme at the National Health Building, Ministry of Public Health. The working group members consisted of: 1) representatives from a group of medical experts; 2) representatives from academia; 3) representatives from civil society; and 4) representatives from patients.

This meeting aimed to select health problems and health technologies under the Universal Health Coverage scheme for the purpose of assessing them before proposing any policy recommendations to the National Health Security Office (NHSO). During the meeting, a total of 10 categories was selected by stakeholders, with 7 categories on treatment and rehabilitation, and 3 categories on prevention.

## **7<sup>th</sup> Working Group Meeting on Health Economics**

On the 27<sup>th</sup> of October 2015, HITAP held the 7<sup>th</sup> Working Group Meeting on Health Economics with the purpose of providing recommendations for two research projects: Cost-utility and budget impact analyses of prasugrel for acute coronary syndrome patients receiving percutaneous coronary intervention or PCI, and Cost-utility and budget impact analyses of three antiretroviral medicines for based-regimen resistant HIV/AIDS patients. The attendees of the meeting consisted of specialists and experts on the matter, researchers from Rajavithi Hospital, and Daiichi Sankyo (Thailand) Limited.



## **HITAP held a meeting titled Developing health care indicators and improving the QOF program for the Thai Universal Health Coverage**

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of October 2015, HITAP held a meeting for experts and operations personnel involved in primary care services with the aim of obtaining opinions and recommendations on the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF). The National Health Security Office (NHSO) assigned HITAP to study the qualitative indicators and primary care services under the Universal Health Coverage scheme. The researchers came up with qualitative indicators and primary care based on five important disease groups: 1) chronic diseases (high blood pressure, diabetes, cardiovascular disease); 2) maternal and child health; 3) bedridden patients; 4) proper usage of antibiotics; and 5) asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases.

During the meeting, debates were brought up regarding the draft indicators, and the suitability and benefit of the indicators that were developed. The suggestions and recommendations obtained would be useful in testing the indicators for primary care services among the five disease groups later on. Updates can be retrieved at <http://www.hitap.net/documents/164365>

## **HITAP hosted a seminar on QOF Project**

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of November 2015, HITAP hosted a seminar to report on the progress of the Quality and Outcomes Framework Project. The research team created a total of 24 qualitative indicators for primary care services to test for their feasibility, efficiency and suitability for use. Personnel involved in the QOF project at both managerial and operational levels, such as service providers and hospital record keepers of services provided, from agencies in Bangkok screened by the NHSO, were invited to the meeting to listen to the report.

## **2. Capacity building activities (Journal Club)**

### **Journal Club on Linear Programming**

**Date:** 16/1/2015

**Presenter:** Ms.Waranya Rattanaipapong

A linear programming is a tool to solve the problem of maximizing or minimizing a linear function subject to a finite number of linear constraints. In health technology assessment (HTA), the linear programming model can be used to identify the optimal resource allocation of healthcare activities.

### **Journal Club on "Estimating the sample size with n4Studies: a hands-on training"**

**Date:** 3/3/2015

**Presenter:** Ms.Sarocho Chootipongchaivat, Mr.Danai Chinnacom, and Mr.Udomsak Narkkul

Sample size calculation is one of the typical steps in designing a study. n4Studies is an application for estimating the sample size on smartphones and tablets.

### **Journal Club on "Leading a group discussion: how to become a well-plan facilitator"**

**Date:** 16/6/2015

**Presenter:** Ms.Pitsaphun Werayingyong, Ms.Varit Chantarastapornchit, and Ms.Thanthima Suwanthawornkul

This workshop aims to develop the communication and collaboration skills of each participant among the group discussion based on the critical-thinking and reasoning concept, as a result, valuable learning community. It consists of the following sessions/activities:

### **Journal Club on "Leading a group discussion: how to become a well-plan facilitator (Phase II)"**

**Date:** 19/11/2015

**Presenter:** Ms. Pitsaphun Werayingyong, and Ms.Thanthima Suwanthawornkul

This journal club aims to develop the communication and collaboration skills of each participant among the group discussion based on the critical-thinking and reasoning concept. It consists of the following sessions/activities:

## Journal Club “Introduction to Epidemiological and Economic Modelling of Infectious Diseases”

**Date:** 9/12/2015

**Presenter:** Ms. Alia Luz and Ms.Pitsaphun Werayingyong

Infectious diseases remain the leading cause of morbidity and mortality in most low and middle income countries. With limited resources at hand, policy makers must identify interventions and strategies that are likely to have the highest positive health gains. In the context of infectious diseases this can be particularly challenging as the impact of interventions such as vaccinations and treatments can manifest both at the individual level but also through knock-on effects associated with reducing transmission in the wider population. Quantifying these effects can benefit from mathematical models that simulate the transmission of diseases in a population and the impact of interventions. Economic models can compare the costs and benefits of alternative interventions alone or in combination to optimise strategies for disease control and elimination.

### **3. Other activities**

#### **Staff from the University of Tokyo and Crecon Medical Technology Assessment visits HITAP**

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January 2015, a group of specialists from Japan – comprising Dr. Isao Kamae, Mr. Takashi Sugimoto, and Ms. Kaoru Yamabe from the University of Tokyo, and Dr. Makoto Kobayashi from Crecon Medical Technology Assessment – visited HITAP to view its operations and exchange information on health technology assessment (HTA). For this event, researchers from HITAP, led by Dr. Sripen Tantivess, presented on HITAP's background, HITAP's operations as a technical advisor on the evaluation of health technologies for non-profit organizations abroad, the development and operations on the assessment of health technologies in Thailand in terms of developing the benefit package under the Universal Health Coverage Scheme and the National List of Essential Medicines, considerations for reimbursement and screening of technologies to be included in the benefit package based on cost-effectiveness, and willingness-to-pay. Afterward, a debate was initiated between the specialists and Dr. Sripen, Dr. Sitaporn Youngkong, and Ms. Varit Chantarastapornchit, which proved to be valuable for further developing the benefits package and National List of Essential Medicines.

#### **Specialists and researchers from various countries debated on factors supporting the development of HTA in the Asia-Pacific region**

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of January 2015, representatives from health and policy assessment agencies in the Asia-Pacific region attended an academic meeting with the topic “Learning from practice: HTA capacity development across Asia” at the Centara Grand at Centralworld Hotel. People in attendance came from China, South Korea, Taiwan, Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia, and Thailand. The aim of the meeting was to debate and share experiences on how to further health technologies so that policy recommendations on factors supporting the development of HTA in the Asia-Pacific region could be gathered and given to the Asia-Pacific Observatory on Health Systems and Policies under the World Health Organization (WHO). The event was organized by the Asia-Pacific Observatory on Health Systems and Policies and the international Decision Support Network (iDSI).

#### **Officers from India attended a seminar on using HTA information in developing the National Essential Medicine List and benefit package under the Thai Universal Health Coverage scheme**

On the 27<sup>th</sup> of January 2015, Mr. Manoj Jhalani, Office from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, India, Dr. Rakesh Srivastana from the Indian Council of Medical Research, Dr. Bhaskar Dasgupta and Dr. Somil Nagpal from the World Bank, attended a seminar about using health technology assessment (HTA) in developing the National Essential Medicine List and benefit package under the Thai Universal Health Coverage scheme. The presenters of this seminar consisted of HITAP, Prof. Visanu Thamlikitkul, Faculty of Medicine at Siriraj Hospital, Dr. Samrit Srithamrongsawat and staff from the National Health Security Office. Following the presentations, Dr. Kalipso Chalkidou and Dr. Ryan Li from NICE International together with HITAP researchers held a debate on these issues.

## **Deputy Health Minister and Officers from the Ministry of Health, Vietnam visit HITAP to assess the possibility of forming an HTA agency in Vietnam**

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of March 2015, the Deputy Health Minister of Vietnam, Mr. Pham Le Tuan, and officer from the Ministry of Health, Vietnam, came to HITAP for a study visit about the assessment of health technology and policy in Thailand, with the intention of using this information to support the creation of a health technology assessment agency in Vietnam. During this visit, the traveling delegate met with high-ranking Ministry of Public Health officials specifically Dr. Somsak Chunharas M.D., M.P.H, Deputy Minister of Public Health, Dr. Suriya Wongkongkathap, Deputy Permanent Secretary of Public Health, and Dr. Suwit ViboonPolprasert, Senior Advisor to HITAP.

## **HITAP sets up a booth at the Regional Research Expo at Hat Yai, Songkhla Province**

On the 26<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> of March 2015, HITAP's Communications officer set up a booth at the 2015 Regional Research Expo for the southern region at the Prince of Songkhla University International Convention Center, Hat Yai District, Songkhla under the theme of "Research Creates Knowledge, Turns to Society". The purpose of this event was to promote high-quality research in the southern region to the public, particularly those who may benefit from the information. HITAP's booth presented the project on developing the benefits package under the Universal Coverage Benefit Package, or UCBP for short, so that the other researchers or the public may take part in suggesting research topics to HITAP staff. Other activities included handing out research papers, brochures, and policy briefs to share knowledge and disseminate information. Booth visitors were also able to conduct a preliminary health checkup via the website [www.mycheckup.in.th](http://www.mycheckup.in.th) and this attracted many participants.

## **Ministry of Health and Population, Nepal invites HITAP to conduct an HTA workshop to develop Nepal's Free Drug List**

HITAP staff were invited by the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) in Nepal to conduct an HTA workshop to develop Nepal's Free Drug List, which is a part of the country's universal health scheme. The workshop was held from 30<sup>th</sup> March – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 with collaboration between the World Health Organization (WHO) and various agencies under the MoHP such as the Primary Health Care and Revitalization Division (PHCRD), the Health Research and Social Development Forum (HERD), the Nepal Health Research Council (NHRC), the Logistics Management Division (LMD) and Epidemiology and Disease Control Division (EDCD) of the Department of Health Services (DoHS), the National Health Training Center (NHTC), the Department of Drug Administration (DDA), and the Health Economics Unit of Bangladesh's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).

## **HITAP holds an HTA workshop and open forum on "HTA for the development of the benefits package under the Universal Coverage Benefit Package"**

From the 1<sup>st</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup> of April 2015, HITAP held a workshop on HTA training and an open forum on "HTA for the development of the benefit package under the Universal Coverage Benefit Package". This was the 3<sup>rd</sup> time to hold a workshop and forum on this topic, and more than 70 participants attended, comprising people from the Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Defense, hospital staff, provincial health offices universities, and research organizations. The aim of the workshop was to promote the principles and importance of HTA through knowledge sharing and understanding.

## **HITAP staff attend the HTAsiaLink Annual Conference 2015 in Taiwan**

From the 12<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> of May 2015, a 20-person research team from HITAP attended the 4<sup>th</sup> HTAsiaLink Annual Conference, with the Center for Drug Evaluation (CDE) of Taiwan as the host for the event. Many activities were held including workshops, plenary sessions, and a forum for promoting various HTA research in Southeast Asia.

## **HITAP staff attends a WHO Regional Office of South-East Asia (SEARO) Conference in New Delhi, India**

On the 4<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> of June 2015, a team from HITAP – comprising Dr. Yot Teerawattananon, Dr. Montarat Thavorncharoensap, Ms. Alia Luz, and Ms. Benjarin Santatiwongchai – and together with Dr. Athasit and Dr. Auttakit Karnjanapiboonwong (representatives from Thailand), attended a WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia (SEARO) conference in New Delhi, India

## **HITAP joined 9<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Health Commission Office (NHCO)**

From the 10<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> of June 2015, HITAP's communication team set up a booth at the 9th anniversary of NHCO focusing on reforming health system to improve the life of Thai people. HITAP team joined this conference and promote its work by distributing policy briefs, research papers, and brochures to conference attendants. Attendants commented that research in the form of policy briefs was interesting and easy to read, due in part to the interesting pictures in the document, making it more accessible to the public. For digital files of these documents, please visit <http://www.hitap.net>

## **HITAP staff presents its academic research at the HTAi 2015 Conference**

On the 15<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> of June 2015, HITAP staff attended the 12<sup>th</sup> Health Technology Assessment International (HTAi) Conference in Oslo, Norway. This year theme was on "Global Efforts in Knowledge Transfer: HTA to Health Policy and Practice". Over 900 participants comprising experts and specialists from various health sectors attended the conference to share their knowledge as well as hold debates regarding the development of HTA.

## **The 11<sup>th</sup> Health Economic EE Training**

From the 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> of July 2015, HITAP hosted the 11<sup>th</sup> Health Economic Training at the Richmond Stylish Convention Hotel, Nonthaburi. This training was divided into two parts: an introductory course and a practical workshop. The introductory course was meant for those without any background in health economic evaluation and drew the interest of 45 people from medical and health personnel from various agencies. The practical workshop, which was suitable for those who had already attended the introductory course, those with basic knowledge about health economic evaluations, or those who wish to further improve their knowledge so it can be used in their line of work, attracted interest from 55 people who were also medical and health personnel from various agencies.

## **Staff from the Ministry of Health, Singapore visit HITAP to explore Thailand's development of health technology assessment**

On the 20<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> of August 2015, staff from the Agency for Care Effectiveness (ACE), the Ministry of Health, Singapore, came to HITAP to explore the health technology assessment (HTA) in Thailand as Singapore had recently set up an agency specifically for HTA. The topic of the study visit included the formation of HITAP and its structure, and also included HITAP's research and link to policy-making, HTA public awareness initiatives, and networking.

## **HITAP staff attends the 2015 Annual Academic Conference hosted by the Ministry of Public Health in Pattaya**

On the 14<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> of September 2015, HITAP staff attended the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Academic Conference hosted by the Ministry of Public Health under the theme "The turning point of Thai health after 2015" at the Ambassador City Hotel, Chonburi province, with Clinical Professor Piyasakol Sakolsatayadorn, the Minister of Public Health, as the Chair of the meeting. The conference presented over 1,205 research, innovations, and inventions from medical health personnel all over the country in order to apply it in practice, and to develop the health service system to better serve the public.





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# Health Intervention and Technology Assessment Program



## Health Intervention and Technology Assessment Program (HITAP)

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