

15 - 17 January 2016

Bangkok, Thailand

REPORT

on the 1st Assembly of the Regional Network on HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health

<http://www.ashm.org.au/international-programs/international/regional-network>



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ashm Supporting the HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Workforce



The 1st Assembly of the Regional Network in HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health was held in Bangkok, Thailand from the 15th – 17th January 2016 co-hosted by ASHM, HIVNAT and the Faculty of Medicine, King Chulalongkorn University.

The Assembly was successful in facilitating links between clinical societies in the Asia & the Pacific regions with 53 delegates from 42 different organisations and societies from 16 countries (*an evaluation summary can be found on [page 16](#)*). Activities were designed to encourage Network member organisations and societies to explore opportunities and challenges in their various national responses to HIV, viral hepatitis and sexual health. These included learning from experiences, sharing of technical knowledge, educational needs, best practice dissemination, collaboration between organisations and external advocacy. Limitations and challenges such as limited resources and funding, inadequate government responses and a lack of political commitment and leadership were explored. Panels and workshops identified how to strengthen organisations through a Regional Network. Workshops developed SMART\$ (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time-bound, Funding) goals in guidelines and professional standards, research, developing clinical capacity and the role of laboratory across HIV, viral hepatitis and sexual health medicine. Next steps included acknowledging the need of the Regional Network to continue and strengthen collaborative approaches. This report summarises those recommendations and provides an action plan for the Regional Network.

Panel and workshop recommendations:

Identifying professional needs and gaps panel conclusions - Mr David Fowler ASHM, Dr Tawesak Tanwandee CEVHAP, Dr Razia Pendse, WHO Regional Office for South East Asia, Dr Annette Sohn TREAT Asia, Mr Steven Kraus, UNAIDS

- ✓ *Transferring skills of an HIV health workforce to that for viral hepatitis will require effort and higher number of health workforce as compared to HIV. More capacity building needs to happen in the viral hepatitis workforce including training.*
- ✓ *Keeping up to date with best practice and dissemination of best practice within the region and Regional Network will help to address these issues.*
- ✓ *Political commitment is an essential part of policy making in this area and hence Regional Network organisations with their connections to local government needs to advocate for policy for better health*
- ✓ *Finding different opportunities and avenues for funding is essential as financing becomes scarce.*

Workshop 1: *Research – Operations, Quality, Training, Promulgation* A/Prof Mark Boyd, ASHM & Dr Nagalingeswaran Kumarasamy, YR Gaitonde Centre for AIDS Research and Education

Recommendations/Activities

-
- ✓ Although professional societies do not generate data, societies can provide capacity building in the form of training, workshops and mentoring to research enthusiasts
 - ✓ Professional societies can effectively link research to clinical service provision and have a critical role in this regard.

Workshop 2: *Guidelines and Professional Standards*, Dr Ying-Ru Jacqueline Lo, WHO, Western Pacific Regional Office and Dr. Maria Isabel E. Melgar, AIDS Society of the Philippines

Recommendations/Activities

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- ✓ Societies have a role in the development of professional standards and ethical conduct.
 - ✓ Professional societies can play a role in promulgating relevant guidelines inventories, mapping national recommendations, mental health guidance, therapeutic and non-therapeutic guidelines and dissemination of WHO guidelines.
 - ✓ Professional societies can help develop professional standards and observe ethical conduct by incorporating them into curriculum and by building partnerships with statutory bodies such as medical council, nursing council etc.

Workshop 4: *What do you need from your laboratory and what it needs from you?* Ms Sasiwimol Ubolyam, HIVNAT and Mr Phillip Cunningham, St Vincents Hospital Sydney

Recommendations/Activities

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- ✓ In the absence of a regulatory body, the Regional Network can promote standards, quality, training and develop protocols along with other information (testing strategies and algorithms) related to laboratories.
 - ✓ The Regional Network can provide a link between laboratories and community by creating information for community testing, supporting laboratory staff with Point of Care Testing policies and procedures.
 - ✓ Workshop participants recommended that the Regional Network should participate with the CDC and WHO on laboratory standards and the associated roll out to provide input and promulgate (i.e. locate local members to participate in various consultations for cost efficiency).

Panel: *Funding-Opportunities and Challenges* - Dr Ying Ru Jacqueline Lo WHO, Western Pacific Regional Office, Mr Tony Lisle, UNAIDS Asia Regional Support Team, Bangkok, Thailand and A/Prof Mark Boyd, ASHM

Recommendations/Activities from the panel discussion

- ✓ Building a social enterprise can assist funding e.g. Blue D dating site funds sexual health clinic in China, Taiwan and Thailand. Other option is finding a way to encourage public-private partnership.
- ✓ Professional Associations have linkages to the government and can use such links to raise issues with parliamentarians.
- ✓ Professional Organisations and not-for-profits may be able to access funds from philanthropic or charitable sources(i.e. tax benefits for donating companies and/or individuals)
- ✓ The possibility of involving big pharmaceutical companies, and advocating, such as how they were involved to reduce the price of ART. We can learn from experiences in HIV field to expand and implement strategies into the viral hepatitis and sexual health sector.

The role of the Regional Network as a word cloud: delegates' perceptions



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1st Assembly of the Regional Network on HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health - Recommendations and next steps:

Issue	Recommendation	Action
How can professional societies engage with research efforts	Professional societies are integral to the implementation of research and societies can effectively link research to clinical service provision.	The Regional Network will explore opportunities to create and support links between research findings and service provision.
Professional guidelines are not evenly implemented and utilised across all health sectors i.e. public, private, NGO and faith based organisations.	Professional societies are made up of health providers from a variety of sectors and thus have wide and broad reaching penetration.	Members of the Regional Network will promulgate guidelines through members, networks and events in all sectors
Professional Standards are underdeveloped and where they exist underutilised or not enforced.	Professional societies can help develop professional standards and promote ethical conduct.	The Regional Network will assist with the development of professional standards and advocate for the incorporation of professional standards into curriculum and by building partnerships with statutory bodies.
There is a region wide need to increase clinical capacity for the testing, treatment and management of HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexually Transmissible Infections.	- Professional societies can share training materials and experts to assist with increasing clinical capacity through task shifting with other HCWs	The Regional Network can assist in developing in-country clinical capacity by promulgating best practice approaches, training materials sharing expertise and deliver clinical education.
Absence of/weak laboratory regulatory bodies	Promotion of laboratory standards, quality and training.	The Regional Network will promote laboratory standards, quality, training and develop protocols along with other information (testing strategies and algorithms) related to laboratories.
Absence of links between laboratories and community for collaboration on community testing.	Develop information on community testing and support laboratory staff with PoCT policies.	The Regional Network will provide a link between laboratories and community by creating information for community testing, supporting laboratory staff with PoCT policies and procedures.
Varying levels of laboratory standards and underutilisation of existing	Utilise Regional Network expertise and networks to implement WHO and CDC	Regional Network members provide input and promulgate CDC and WHO Laboratory standards.

Issue	Recommendation	Action
standards.	laboratory standards.	
Convening of the Regional Network and sub groups (both disease and country specific sub groups)	Utilise relevant events associated with Regional Network members to hold side meetings and events	Regional Network members provided a list of upcoming events in the region (see appendix 1). Side meetings in the form of education and Regional Network meetings will be held alongside planned events.

Day 1 Opening Plenary: Setting the scene – examples of effective collaboration and key issues for discussion



“The purpose of this Assembly is to introduce member organisations and societies of the Regional Network to each other with the aim to foster collaboration between these organisations. Over three days professional societies will explore opportunities for capacity building and professional development, form networks with other regional organisations and get an understanding of the regional program. We aim that this will encourage a healthy and broad discussion about opportunities, areas of need and role of regional network.”
A/Prof Levinia Crooks, CEO, Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine (ASHM)

The Development of HIVNAT – a demonstration of development capacity and workforce development: Prof. Praphan Phanuphak, Director, Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Centre

- ✓ The evolution of HIVNAT through national ownership supported by international collaboration from early difficult days to being a model in the region was described
- ✓ The critical importance of properly including consumers of services meaningfully and collaborating to not only identify their needs but also effective and acceptable solutions was emphasised.
- ✓ Successes can only be measured when scientific knowledge translates into clinical practice and this is a critical role of societies to achieve this.

- ✓ Practitioners should ensure they are advocates for health and not forget that political and local activism is also critical for success and a legitimate role of an organisation or society.

Adapting WHO global guidelines for a regional response: Dr. Ying-Ru Jacqueline Lo, Coordinator HIV, Hepatitis and Sexually Transmitted Infections Unit, Regional Office for the Western Pacific, World Health Organization

- ✓ WHO guidelines help to develop a standard of care within service delivery and provide a blueprint from an evidence-based response across countries when properly and broadly adopted.
- ✓ Adoptions of these guidelines are mainly limited to public sector overseen by ministries of health but often do not penetrate the private sector.
- ✓ It is imperative that HIV, viral hepatitis and sexual health guidelines are used in all sectors.
- ✓ Professional societies and organisations are well positioned to promote their usage, collaboration between public and private sector ultimately ensuring quality service delivery and advocating for patient groups.
- ✓ This however is challenging with current limited funding opportunities for specific disease programs and innovation is required.
- ✓ <https://vimeo.com/154911418/f38eb20f53>

Role of Professional Societies in HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health: A/Prof Mark Boyd, President, ASHM

- ✓ UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have recently transitioned into an era of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDGs comprise broader aims, with health itself being merely 1 of 17 targets and many more indicators.
- ✓ Professional societies have opportunities to learn from past experience especially in HIV to achieve similar success in the era of SDGs e.g. in last decade with increased ART distribution attributed to collaboration between private, public and NGO sectors which helped transform strategies and facilitate change.
- ✓ Similar coherent, compelling and collaborative ideas are required for an SDG era.
- ✓ <https://vimeo.com/154911450/cd28086b39>

Vietnam Clinical HIV/AIDS Society (VCHAS) – the role of a professional society in Vietnam: Dr Nguyen Van Kinh, Chair, VCHAS

- ✓ VCHAS is a highly successful peak organisation of health professionals working in HIV, viral hepatitis and related conditions in Vietnam.
- ✓ It originated with support and collaboration from different organisations and societies and is endorsed by government.
- ✓ VCHAS provides training and mentoring to health professionals and assists the MoH in developing national guidelines, national targets and disseminating information.
- ✓ VCHAS aspires to scale up the capacity of the sexual health workforce along with becoming a regional thought leader for HIV, viral hepatitis and sexual health.
- ✓ <https://vimeo.com/154911442/a30f7d52e8>

Pacific Society for Reproductive Health (PSRH) – perspectives from the Pacific: Dr Alec Ekeroma, Secretariat, PSRH

- ✓ Pacific Island countries, states and territories share both similarities and differences in terms of their challenges in the health sector

- ✓ PSRH is a success story in the Pacific, working towards goals of reducing maternal morbidity and mortality, integrating HIV-STI into reproductive health, research and developing health workforce and capacity building.
- ✓ However too often the Pacific is not linked to broader initiatives in the Asia Pacific region and while different in many aspects opportunities exist to learn from each other through collaboration, sharing experiences and sharing resources.
- ✓ <https://vimeo.com/154911446/3a9ec5f850>

Harry Prabowo (APN+)

- ✓ Clinical service engagement with the community sector is critical to service provision.
- ✓ Advocacy and stigma reduction can be delivered in partnerships between multiple sectors and actors, with professional societies playing a key role.
- ✓ Training and ongoing education will allow further progress across disease areas.

What to expect from the Assembly – goals and aims: A/Prof Levinia Crooks

- ✓ ASHM has been had an international program since 2001.
- ✓ ASHM has previously provided support to Regional Professional Societies in organisational matters and professional development.
- ✓ <https://vimeo.com/154915323/c7501eba31>

Day 2 Showcasing effective activities and collaborations – examples from the region



Strengthening the Indonesian Health Workforce on HIV, Viral Hepatitis, and Sexual Health: Collaboration between ASHM, the Indonesian Medical Association (IDI), and Angsamerah Foundation, 2012-2015: Dr Nurlan Silitonga, Director Angamerah Foundation

- The collaboration between Angsamerah Foundation, ASHM and its Indonesian professional society partners (Indonesian Medical Association) aims to equip general practitioners, particularly from the private sector, with comprehensive basic knowledge related to the clinical management of HIV, STIs, viral hepatitis, tuberculosis and recreational drug use, thus strengthening the private sector's contribution to the national sexual and reproductive health programs.
- Since July 2014 general practitioners have been provided with a comprehensive training and support package, delivered through workshops and bedside teaching trainings at the two

Angsamerah private clinics in Jakarta. The trainings engaged a wide range of experienced national experts on HIV and AIDS, STI, HIV and hepatitis co-infection, HIV and tuberculosis co-infection, addiction medicine, gender and sexuality, counselling, communication and self-motivation.

- <https://vimeo.com/154915355/b92c58f6d0>

TREAT Asia/ASHM – clinical collaboration: Dr Annette Sohn, Director, TREAT Asia

- TREAT Asia is the Bangkok-based program of amfAR –The Foundation for AIDS Research and is a network of clinics, hospitals, and research institutions working with civil society. ASHM and TREAT Asia collaborated to develop a HIV educational resource, “Is it HIV?” including editing and reviewing content and promoting the resource.
- <https://vimeo.com/154916674/f6647d5191>

Evolution of a regional resource to be country specific: Dr Nguyen van Kinh

- VCHAS developed a version of the HIV educational resource “Is it HIV?” for Vietnam. The Vietnamese edition received positive evaluation and feedback. Health care workers received training on how to utilise the resource. The resource assisted with early detection of HIV and associated conditions.
- <https://vimeo.com/154916680/ef6e166562>

Upskilling of HIVNAT’s Research Capacity: Dr Kiat Ruxrungtham , Deputy Director HIVNAT

- The HIV Netherlands Australia Thailand Research Collaboration began 14 years ago; Dr Ruxrungtham charted the development of HIVNAT’s research capacity to become an internationally recognised research centre.
- HIVNAT was supported by international collaboration from the initial stages to become an exemplary case to be replicated within the region.
- Engagement with the consumer sector allowed the identification of needs and development of solutions.

INFORM ASIA: USAID’s Health Research Program: A collaboration between RTI and the Thai Red Cross AIDS Research (TRCARC): Ms Shanthi Noriega Minichiello

- The collaboration between RTI and TRCARC consists of technical and operational collaboration with the intention of creating a regional centre of excellence for health research and building research capacity.
- The purpose of the Inform Asia Centre of Excellence is to support evidence based research to address information gaps, build a sustainable cadre of regional health researchers, and create a platform to enhance information sharing across sectors and stakeholders.
- <https://vimeo.com/154916672/843ee4e015>

Clinical mentoring in Papua New Guinea and Clinical collaboration in the Pacific Region: Dr John Millan, President, Papua New Guinea Sexual Health Society and Dr Arvin Chaudhary, President, Oceania Society for Sexual Health and HIV Medicine

- A clinical mentoring project has been ongoing for over 14 years between Papua New Guinea Sexual Health Society, ASHM and the Collaboration for Health in Papua New Guinea (CHPNG).

- The Oceanic Society for Sexual Health and HIV Medicine has been in partnership with ASHM since 2006, with a focus on resource development, clinical mentorship and governance development.
- Clinical skill development in Papua New Guinea and the Pacific through ongoing and sustained clinical mentoring has been a critical hallmark of the program and its success in delivering high quality services.
- <https://vimeo.com/154916712/9106cae382>

Eliminating Hepatitis C: National Coordinated Response: Dr Rosmawati Mohamed, Professor, University of Malaya

- The goal of the “My Commitment to cure” coalition is to work in partnership with relevant stakeholders to facilitate the development of a strategic road map to drive the Hepatitis C response in Malaysia.
- It is necessary to have all elements of the Four Axes of the WHO Global Hepatitis Framework in place to enable a comprehensive national response.
- A partnership approach is required to reduce the disease burden associated with chronic HCV in all countries including Malaysia.
- <https://vimeo.com/155476342/c46845b5be>

Collaboration between Clinical units to provide regional training program – a training curriculum in development: Dr Sophia Archuleta, head, National University of Singapore, HIV Program

- The development of an HIV training program, beginning with approaching local partners, conducting a needs assessment and convening an organising committee was described.
- The training program will be held 30th November to 4th of December 2016 for Nurses, Social Workers, Pharmacists and non-ID trained physicians who work in HIV in the Asia Pacific Region and utilising materials from partner agencies including ASHM.
- <https://vimeo.com/154921291/d0dd6fb2e2>

Taking a regional approach – a regional chapter of International Union Against Sexually Transmitted Infections in Asia and the Pacific: Dr Somesh Gupta, Regional Director Asia-Pacific, International Union Against Sexually Transmitted Infections

- IUSTI was founded in 1923 and it is organized on both a global and regional basis, IUSTI’s objective is to foster international cooperation in the control of sexually transmitted infections including HIV/AIDS.
- The Asia Pacific chapter focuses on facilitating research, training, developing guidelines, cooperation with national societies working in STI and HIV and holds regional conferences bi-annually.
- <https://vimeo.com/154921294/ca85ed0bbb>

Identifying professional needs and gaps – a panel discussion

Facilitators: Prof Sharon Lewin, Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity, Melbourne Australia and Dr Roy Chan, Action for AIDS, Singapore

Identifying professional needs & gaps: Mr David Fowler, International Consultant, ASHM

- The key challenges for 2016 are service delivery, financing, politics and professional societies.
- There is significant unmet need in the region; key needs for service delivery in HBV/HCV/HIV differ greatly.
- HIV funding has historically been external; this is no longer the case. HBV/HCV funding has largely been unplanned.
- There is the possibility for a broader range of treatment providers and models of care. Service delivery decision making at sub national levels opens space for new service delivery models and provider roles.
- The new era of SDGs, political support from the UN and other agencies will not continue, professionals and the community sector will need to strengthen their partnerships.
- <https://vimeo.com/154921298/bb7b2e75ec>

Coalition to Eradicate Viral Hepatitis in Asia Pacific, Dr Tawesak Tanwandee, Associate Professor

- The Coalition to Eradicate Viral Hepatitis aims to contribute to the development of national strategies that aim to reduce the burden of this disease. The mission to reduce the significant health, social and economic burden of viral hepatitis in Asia Pacific by using members' knowledge and expertise in the areas of education & capacity-building, policy development and advocacy.
- CEVHAP identified a failure of public policy to address viral hepatitis in the Asia and Pacific regions. Gaps in surveillance data across the Asia and Pacific regions remain a significant issue. There is a significant burden of disease in the Asia and Pacific regions with viral hepatitis resulting in 3 times the deaths caused by HIV/AIDS.
- <https://vimeo.com/154921296/31c6cec62b>

How can professional workforce skills from a long HIV response in the region be adapted for a newer viral hepatitis context? Dr Razia Pendse, Regional Adviser, HIV/AIDS and STI, Regional Office for South East Asia, World Health Organisation

- HIV workforces can be harnessed to scale up the viral hepatitis response, however workforce preparation is needed. Co-infection treatment can be used as a means of progressing to mono-infection treatment. Public health programs for viral hepatitis are lacking in most countries of the region, hepatitis is largely clinician driven.
- Key workforce issues include the fact that viral hepatitis diagnosis and management remains complex, services are centralized, hepatitis disease burden is significant. Professional societies

can facilitate decentralization and task shifting, advocate for legislative changes and engage with the private sector.

- <https://vimeo.com/154922372/b1b6278bbf>

What do we need to know more about to support education programs for the HIV, VH and STI workforce? Dr Annette Sohn, Director TREAT Asia

- In order to support education programs for the workforce, there needs to be a greater understanding of the level of knowledge including relating to screening, diagnosis and guidelines.
- This includes clinical expertise, such as a clinician's ability to order and interpret test results, implement treatment plans and monitor treatment.
- Gaps relating to research include pre-training needs assessment, knowledge of local health context, assessment post training of educational methods and durability of gained knowledge.
- <https://vimeo.com/154922370/6515217321>

Mr Steven Kraus, UNAIDS

- An often overlooked source of difficulties in accessing services especially among key populations is stigma and discrimination among health care workers – this needs to be recognised and tackled.
- Additionally the role of key populations and the community in delivering services should not be underestimated, they can and do undertake for example community based testing.

Workshop Sessions

Workshop 1: Research – Operations, Quality, Training, Promulgation A/Prof Mark Boyd, ASHM & Dr Nagalingeswaran Kumarasamy, YR Gaitonde Centre for AIDS Research and Education

Professional societies need to have a research strategy including policies on how to collaborate on research and opportunities for promulgating research. They are integral to the implementation of research, and able to advocate for change and adaptation of programs based on evidence. Research Advocacy includes connecting people involved in research and providing training for those involved in the various stages of research. *A/Prof Mark Boyd, ASHM*

YGCARE is involved in numerous international research collaborations. YGCARE has 12,000 patients on HAART. Clinical research at YGCARE has resulted in more than 300 manuscripts in peer reviewed journals with significant clinical outcomes including studying the safety and efficacy of generic antiretroviral drugs in Indian patients. YGCARE contributed to WHO guidelines. *Dr Kumarasamy, YR Gaitonde Centre for AIDS Research*

Workshop 2: Guidelines and Professional standards, Dr Ying-Ru Jacqueline Lo, WHO, Western Pacific Regional Office and Dr. Maria Isabel E. Melgar, AIDS Society of the Philippines

Participants in the workshop expressed opinions about current guidelines, participants commented that there are too many guidelines and expressed the need for stratification or development of comparative guidelines so that readers can adopt guidelines. There were discussion about the lack of

guidelines in non-therapeutic fields such as rapid testing in some countries and diagnostics. In addition, there were discussions about rolling out guidelines and using WHO guidelines for policy development purposes. *Dr Ying-Ru Jacqueline Lo, WHO, WPRO*

Professional societies are ideally placed to engage with civil society and community groups to reduce discrimination in the health sector. There were discussions about mandatory training for health professionals and non-health professionals working in BBV and STIs sector. *Dr. Maria Isabel E. Melgar, AIDS Society of the Philippines*

<https://vimeo.com/154924177/b2c793fb97>



Guidelines and Professional standards, Workshop participants

Workshop 3: Developing Clinical Capacity, Dr Kiat Ruxrunghan, HIV-NAT, Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Center and Dr Alec Ekeroma, Pacific Society for Reproductive Health

Professional societies are providing training for doctors and non-doctor medical professionals. Five countries are providing training to non-health care professional, volunteers who are primarily being trained on testing. Strategies including training and legislative changes are required in order to task shift, depending on the country-specific context. This Regional Network can assist in developing in-country clinical capacity by promulgating best practice approaches, training materials and sharing experts. *Dr Kiat Ruxrunghan, HIV-NAT*

Clinical capacity entails more clinicians, programs and increased skills. This is achieved with professional societies, governments and agencies through education, advocacy and recruitment. The development of clinical capacity requires an enabling environment including: infrastructure, career structure, information access and linkages between research and policy. Leadership is required across the key platforms of: policy, research, clinical and operations. *Dr Alec Ekeroma, Pacific Society for Reproductive Health*

Workshop 4: What do you need from your laboratory and what it needs from you? Ms Sasiwimol Ubolyam, HIVNAT and Dr Phillip Cunningham, St Vincents Hospital Sydney Limited
Good clinical practice is the combination of therapy, medical practice and laboratory practice.

Common failures in laboratories include a lack of: training, management support, proficiency testing, quality assurance and infrastructure. A systems approach is required for laboratory quality. The testing cycle was described progressing from the patient at the clinical care stage to the laboratory to the return of results. Successful laboratory testing depends on following factors: accuracy, quality, practical issues and guidelines. There was discussion about the role of laboratory in professional societies and a lack of laboratory representation within professional societies. Participants discussed the lack of: a regulatory body, quality assurance in resource poor settings, education, guidelines and poor infrastructure for transport of samples. *Dr Phillip Cunningham St Vincents Hospital Sydney Limited and Ms Sasiwimol Ubolyam, HIVNAT*

Panel: Funding-Opportunities and Challenges

Dr Ying Ru Jacqueline Lo WHO, Western Pacific Regional Office

- The Regional Network can provide positive opportunities for organisations and professional societies by building partnerships with people with similar interests and create groups within the Regional Network for training, developing clinical guidelines, community based service provision etc.
- Private organisations can be targeted for funding some of these activities, especially companies interested in funding medical education.
- We are in an area which is different to other organisations in terms of attracting private funding, hence we need to be able to communicate what we are doing better. We need to communicate our success.

Mr Tony Lisle, UNAIDS Asia Regional Support Team, Bangkok, Thailand

- There has been de-escalation in funding from the government sector especially in prevention as it is not considered a priority. This will be critical as it may result in reescalation and an increase in the treatment burden.
- There is a need to engage the private sector and look for opportunities in a wider context for funding or through different channels e.g. adopting SDGs and forming national and international partnerships, to move from single disease approach to a more complex vision for funding.
- This assembly and the Regional Network of professional/national networks need to emphasise the importance of national programs, normative standards and research.
- Previous and existing achievements need to be sustained and past learnings incorporated into future strategies.

Evaluation survey results

The majority of attendees worked primarily in HIV. A large number of respondents cited networking and an interest in the role of professional societies in achieving HIV/ HBV/ HCV/ STI goals in region as the main reasons for attending the Assembly. 82% of survey respondents agreed that the Assembly aim to “explore what professionals and their organisations: societies: colleges and informal groups can achieve in supporting HIV, viral hepatitis and sexual health programs across the region” was met. 90% of respondents indicated that they will attend future Regional Network meetings. All respondents agreed that workshop aims were entirely or somewhat met.

Appendix 1 - Upcoming Events in the Asia and Pacific regions

S.No.	Event Name	Country	Event Date	Event Website	Deadline for Abstract Submission	Early Bird Cut off	Conference Organiser
1	8th Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive & Sexual Health and Rights	Myanmar	23- 26 February 2016	http://www.mm8apcrshr.org/	Abstract Submission is closed	Early bird deadline over	8 th APCRSR, Programme Secretariat Office Phone: +95 067419021,067419011 Email: 8apcrshrmyanmar@gmail.com
2	Asia Pacific AIDS & Co-infections Conference 2016	Hong Kong	17 -19 May 2016	http://www.virology-education.com/event/upcoming/apacc2016/	12 Feb 2016	20 March 2016	Virology Education B.V. P: +31 (0)30 230 7140 E: Info@virology-education.com
3	3rd Singapore Hepatitis Conference (SHC 2016)	Singapore	27 - 28 May 2016	http://www.singaporehepatitisconference.com/tellafriend.html	25 March 2016	N/A	Singapore Hepatitis Conference Pte Ltd Phone: +65 6408 9790 Email: info@singaporehepatitisconference.com
4	The 5th Asian Conference on Hepatitis & AIDS (ACHA)	China	28-29 May 2016	http://www.virology-education.com/event/upcoming/5th-acha-2016/	31 March 2016	Early bird deadline over	Virology Education B.V. P: +31 (0)30 230 7140 E: Info@virology-education.com
5	33rd Annual NRL Workshop on Infectious Diseases	Australia	18-20 October, 2016	http://www.nrl.gov.au/Events/33rd+Annual+NRL+Workshop+on+Infectious+Diseases	1 August 2016	4 July 2016	NRL Phone: +61 3 9418 1111 Email: info@nrl.gov.au
6	10th Australasian Viral Hepatitis 2016 Conference	Australia	29 - Oct 1 September 2016	http://www.hepatitis.org.au/ehome/index.php?eventid=152889&	8 May 2016	31 July 2016	ASHM Conference & Events Division Phone: +61 2 8204 0770 Email: conferenceinfo@ashm.org.au

S.No.	Event Name	Country	Event Date	Event Website	Deadline for Abstract Submission	Early Bird Cut off	Conference Organiser
7	2016 Australasian Sexual Health Conference	Australia	14 - 16 November 2016	http://www.sexualhealthconference.com.au/ehome/index.php?eventid=146943&	29 May 2016	11 Sep 2016	ASHM Conference & Events Division
8	Manila HIV National Conference	Manila	6 - 7 October 2016	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
9	2016 Australasian HIV & AIDS Conference	Australia	16 - 18 November 2016	http://www.sexualhealthconference.com.au/ehome/index.php?eventid=146943&	29 May 2016	11 Sep 2016	ASHM Conference & Events Division
10	19th IUSTI Asia Pacific Conference	Japan	1 - 3 December 2016	http://www.med-gakkai.org/19iusti/	TBA	TBA	19th IUSTI Asia-Pacific Conference Med Inc. E-mail: 19iusti@med-gakkai.org
11	Asia Pacific HIV Practice course	Singapore	December 2016	TBA	TBA	TBA	National University Hospital Email: jessica_michaels@nuhs.edu.sg
12	19th Bangkok International Symposium on HIV Medicines	Bangkok	18-20 January 2017	http://www.hivnat.org/bangkoksymposium	TBA	TBA	The HIV Netherlands Australia Thailand Research Collaboration (HIV-NAT) Mrs. Kesdao Nanthapaisal Email: kesdao.n@hivnat.org Tel: +(662) 652 3040 Ext. 123
13	Venereology Conference	Sri Lanka	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
14	National AIDS Conference	Malaysia	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
15	National Conference on HIV/HCV/ID	Vietnam	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA

S.No.	Event Name	Country	Event Date	Event Website	Deadline for Abstract Submission	Early Bird Cut off	Conference Organiser
16	Pacific Sexual & Reproductive Health 2017	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
17	52nd PNG Medical Symposium	Papua New Guinea	TBA	http://www.telikompngsites.com/2015med_symp/	TBA	TBA	TBA

Appendix 2 – Delegate information

Title	First Name	Family Name	Job Title	Organisation	Country	Email Address
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Title	First Name	Family Name	Job Title	Organisation	Country	Email Address
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