About the Event

We are pleased to announce a policy course on "**From evidence to action: The Application of Health Technology Assessment, Priority Setting, and Strategic Purchasing for Population Health in enhancing Health System Performance and Advancing Universal Health Coverage**".

The 2-day course from **June 3-4, 2026 (Wednesday – Thursday), in Shanghai, China** is offered by the Asia-Pacific Network for Health Systems Strengthening (ANHSS) in collaboration with the Centre for Health Systems and Policy Research at the JC School of Public Health and Primary Care, The Chinese University of Hong Kong and the HTA Key Laboratory, Fudan University. The course will focus on teachings by faculty members from the perspectives of Health Technology Assessment, Priority Setting and Strategic Purchasing.

Background

Globally, up to 40% of healthcare spending is wasted due to inefficiencies in national healthcare systems, such as funding of inappropriate health interventions, overtreatment, inefficient coordination of healthcare services across providers, pricing failures, administrative waste and fraud. Such inadequate and unproductive spending not only exacerbates patient's catastrophic health spending, but can also hinder progress towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC). Prioritizing efficient health spending will be required to achieve UHC, as countries face difficult decisions on how best to integrate and finance technologies & health services into health benefit packages (HBP), and make necessary trade-offs between competing health priorities for the population.

Health Technology Assessment (HTA) has emerged as an important policy tool to support evidence-informed decision-making in healthcare systems. HTA is defined as a multidisciplinary process that uses explicit methods to determine the value of a health technology at different points in its lifecycle, encompassing medicines, medical devices, diagnostic tools, procedures, and health service interventions. By systematically assessing multiple dimensions including clinical effectiveness, safety, cost-effectiveness, and broader social, ethical, and organizational implications, HTA provides a comprehensive evidence-base for evaluating whether and how health technologies should be adopted, reimbursed, or scaled within a healthcare system. The overarching purpose of HTA is to inform policy and resource allocation decisions in ways that promote an equitable, efficient, and high-quality health system. As healthcare costs continue to rise and technological innovation accelerates, many countries have increasingly institutionalized HTA to enhance transparency, accountability, and rational priority setting in health spending.

To improve a health system performance, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Decision Support Initiative (iDSI) have urged that HTA should be a clear part of the priority-setting (PS) process and be an important means through which UHC can be achieved and secured (Global Survey on HTA by National Authority, WHO 2015). In evaluating the value and cost-effectiveness of specific technologies (drugs, devices, procedures) to address health problems, HTA provides the evidence base to inform the design of a HBP. HTA facilitates the identification of the values among the choice of services or interventions to improve population health needs in a financially sustainable and efficient way. However, HTA's role lies primarily in providing technical assistance in a demand-driven manner. In the absence of a formal prioritization system, the maximal benefits of HTA's potential are not achieved.

Priority setting (PS) in health care is a research and practice area at the intersection of medicine, ethics, and economics, which aims to systematically and transparently evaluate the value for money of health services to support fair resource allocation. Although it has a long history in clinical ethics, the practice of priority setting at the health system level began in earnest only in the early 1990s. PS acts a deliberative filter and is a decision hub. It uses HTA evidence to make ethical and political choices about which services to include in the HBP. It uses HTA to rank services and products based on criteria such as disease burden, budget impact, and equity. PS tells what is most important for the population health.

Strategic purchasing (SP) is a health financing strategy that seeks to align funding and financial incentives with guaranteed health services, often determined through detailed information on the performance of service providers and the health needs of the population served. SP is deliberately directing health funds to priority populations, interventions, and services, and actively creating incentives so funds are used by providers equitably and in alignment with a population's health needs. SP of high-priority health care services can be a powerful means for quality improvement of health benefit package and advancing UHC goals. Quality Improvement functions as the continuous feedback loop. It monitors the real-world performance of the purchased services. Quality improvement data reveals gaps in care or ineffective practices, which then become new topics for Priority Setting or HTA. It drives for continuous health system performance improvement.

The course provides an overview of the HTA process from theory to implementation to application, with teachings on how HTA, Priority Setting and Strategic Purchasing together can be leveraged to strengthen governance and advance UHC. By demonstrating how evidence is generated, priorities are economically evaluated, and how purchasing mechanisms can be aligned with national strategic goals, the course provides a clear framework for more transparent, accountable and fiscally responsible decision making. Participants will be equipped with the knowledge to design and lead systems to encourage efficient resource allocation, incentivize high quality service delivery, and ensure that health benefit packages remain equitable, financially sustainable, and responsive to population needs. Case studies on country experiences of HTA application based on the different health system designs are presented for learning.

Objectives

The course will provide participants with:

1. Comparative country experiences in institutionalizing HTA within reimbursement decisions and health benefit package development, highlighting governance mechanisms, stakeholder engagement, and capacity strengthening strategies.
2. Core methodological foundations of Health Technology Assessment, including evidence synthesis for safety and effectiveness, economic evaluation, and budget impact analysis to support transparent and accountable healthcare decision-making.
3. Practical application of HTA tools and analytical platforms, including meta-analysis using RevMan and economic modeling with Excel, to translate clinical and economic evidence into policy-relevant outputs.
4. An integrated value chain model of the conceptual linkage of HTA, priority setting, strategic purchasing and quality improvement to advance Universal Health Coverage
5. Key consideration, criteria and steps for prioritization and the framework to strengthen the institutionalization and capacity required for evidence-informed priority setting (EIPS).
6. An introduction of the evidence-based approach and policy components to facilitate the implementation and strategic decision of purchasing and a tracking framework and toolkit systematically assess the purchasing functions of health services.

Target Audience

The primary target audience for the course are senior and mid-level policy makers at national and sub-national level, health policy implementer, health sector managers and practitioners working with regulators. Heads/directors of health care organization/ associations, academia and researchers in health services, system and policy, and global and international organizations/development partner representatives might also find this course useful.

Invited Speakers

The Policy Course brings together a diverse group of esteemed speakers from across the Asia Pacific Region to share their expertise and insights.

Opening Session:

- Professor Dr. Laksono TRISNANTORO (Professor, Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia)
- Professor E.K. YEOH (Director, Centre for Health Systems and Policy Research, JC School of Public Health and Primary Care, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong)

Faculty Members:

- Dr. Eduardo P. BANZON (Director, Health Sector Group, Asian Development Bank, Philippines)
- Professor Ying-Yao CHEN (Professor, Fudan University, China)
- Shita DEWI (Health Policy and Public Health Division, CHPM, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia)
- Professor Chantal HERBERHOLZ (Professor, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand)
- Professor Maria Elena B. HERRERA (Adjunct Faculty of Asian Institute of Management, The Philippines)

- Professor Shimeng LIU (Associate Professor, NHC Key Laboratory of Health Technology Assessment, Fudan University, China)
- Professor Siripen SUPAKANKUNTI (Professor, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand)
- Professor Dr. Jarir At THOBARY (Professor, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia)
- Professor Dr. Sharifa Ezat WAN PUTEH (Professor, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Malaysia)
- Professor Yan WEI (Associate Professor, NHC Key Laboratory of Health Technology Assessment, Fudan University, China)
- Professor Yi YANG (Assistant Professor, NHC Key Laboratory of Health Technology Assessment, Fudan University, China)
- Professor Xiaohua YING (Professor, NHC Key Laboratory of Health Technology Assessment, Fudan University, China)

Please refer to the programme rundown for the detailed course content.

Venue

Fudan University, 130 Dongan Rd, Xuhui, Shanghai 200032, China

Registration Fee

The standard tuition fee for the course (June 3-4th, 2026) is **USD 200**. This fee includes tuition, course material, coffee breaks and lunch during the days of the training.

Participants (or their funding agency) will be responsible for covering the costs of travel, health and accident insurance, accommodation, and other expenses while in Shanghai.

An **early bird fee of USD 150 per person** will apply for participants whose payments are received before 30 April 2026.

Registration Link

Please fill the registration link below:

https://cuhk.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7P5WbRuardSrlzw

香港中文大學
賽馬會公共衛生及基層醫療學院
JC School of Public Health and Primary Care
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Centre for Health Systems & Policy Research

ANHSS

Payment details:
Once registered, we will provide an invoice number to you by email.

For bank direct transfer/deposit, please quote the invoice number and make payment to the following bank account:

Account Holder Name	:	Asia Pacific Network For Health Systems Strengthening Limited
Address	:	2/F, School of Public Health Building, 30-32 Ngan Shing Street Prince of Wales Hospital, Shatin, New Territories, Hong Kong
Account Number	:	44719019993 (USD SAVINGS A/C)
Bank Name	:	Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited
Bank Address	:	Payment Centre, 15/F Standard Chartered Tower 388 Kwun Tong Road, Hong Kong
Swift Code	:	SCBLHKHHXXX

For cheque payment (*For Hong Kong participants ONLY)*, please make cheque payable to **Asia Pacific Network For Health Systems Strengthening Limited** and mark the invoice number on the back of the cheque and send the cheque to Room 201, 2/F, School of Public Health, Prince of Wales Hospital, Shatin, Hong Kong.