



The Development of Health Promoting Hospital Networks in Taiwan

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Abstract

Taiwan joined the International Network of Health Promoting Hospitals and Health Services (HPH) at the end of 2006. Since then, the Taiwan HPH Network has become the largest HPH network within the HPH with 142 member hospitals and health services. In addition, the Taiwan HPH Network has the largest number of participants as well as submitted abstracts to the annual International HPH Conference. In 2017, the first Asian HPH Forum was initiated to improve the communication and cooperation in health promotion services among Asian countries. In the future, the wish is to strengthen the relationship among Asian countries further and to provide high-quality health promotion services in the Asia Pacific Region.

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The development of the Taiwan HPH Network

The International Network of Health Promoting Hospitals and Health Services (HPH) was established in 1990 in Europe. Today, the HPH Network has around 600 members world-wide and is represented in more than 30 countries. Taiwan joined the International HPH Network at the end of 2006. Today, the coordination and development of the Taiwanese HPH Network is organized by two organizations: the Taiwan Health Promotion Administration at the Ministry of Health and Welfare and the Taiwan Society of Health Promoting Hospitals.

The main health promotion activities comprise:

- Recruitment of new members and renew HPH certificates of registered members.
- Advocating the concept and strategy of HPH.
- Organizing HPH-related workshops and conferences.

The Self-Assessment Forms for Implementing Health Promotion in Hospitals published by the World Health Organization and on-site visits to review hospitals are key elements for the Taiwanese HPH Network. In addition,

benchmark and innovative health promotion project contests are organized each year to encourage member hospitals to continue promoting health in a creative way.

The achievements of the Taiwan HPH Network

The main achievements of the Taiwan HPH Network over the past decade include:

- The biggest participating group at the International HPH Conference annually with regard to both attendees and papers presented at the meeting.
- Most of the Taiwanese HPH members are using smart IT systems to promote health and improve quality of care.
- A comprehensive Taiwan HPH Network with multi-dimensional and diverse task forces has been established to care for both people and the environment.
- Taiwan HPH member hospitals have won the International HPH Award for Outstanding Fulfilment of WHO HPH Standards for seven consecutive years.

However, there have also been a few obstacles in promoting HPH in Taiwan. The most challenging issue has been the lack of a linkage between our health promotion services and the National Health Insurance



Research and Best Practice

Table 1. Taiwan HPH Network participation in the International HPH Network and annual International HPH Conferences

Year	Number of participants from Taiwan	Number of papers presented by Taiwan HPH Network			
		Oral	Mini Oral	Poster	Total
2008	24	8	–	19	27
2009	34	15	–	38	53
2010	38	21	–	47	68
2011	106	15	28	60	112
2012	1,050	–	598	–	598
2013	180	17	22	217	256
2014	270	15	16	377	408
2015	209	24	29	309	362
2016	250	31	41	314	386
2017	250	56	68	369	493
2018	270	52	51	361	464

Table 2. The development of HPH Networks in Asian countries

Network Name	Year of Establishment	Number of Current Network Members
Taiwan	2006	142
Japan	2015	98
Republic of Korea	2011	31
Hong Kong	2012	7
Hunan (China)	2017	3

Reimbursement. More financial support and policy-oriented initiatives from the government are also needed in the future.

The development of HPH Networks in Asian countries

Today, there are seven HPH networks in Asia. The Taiwan HPH Network was the first member in Asia and the largest HPH Network in the world. At present, Taiwan's 142 HPH member hospitals and health services is the highest number of members, followed by 98 in Japan and 31 in the Republic of Korea.

Conclusions

In the future, the Taiwan HPH Network wish to strengthen the relationship among Asian countries to provide high-quality health promotion services in the Asia Pacific Region. To accomplish this objective, the following areas are in focus:

- Establishment of evidence-based health promotion practices.
- Advocating HPH in Asia through sharing and dissemination of Taiwanese experience and knowledge.
- Proactively interaction with other Asian HPH networks as well as countries without HPH members.

Reference

(1) HPH Progress Report 2017-2018. International Network of Health Promoting Hospitals and Health Services. WHO Collaborating Center for Evidence-Based Health Promotion in Hospitals.