



#0718

In reply please refer to: (WP) 2025/DHS/MCQ-A
Prière de rappeler la référence:

Dr Yao Xi
Director
Department of Infection Control
Peking University First Hospital
Beijing, People's Republic of China
Email: yaoxi@pku.edu.cn

4 June 2025

Dear Dr Xi,

Subject: Workshop on Strengthening Infection Prevention
and Control in the Asia-Pacific Region,
16-18 September 2025, Manila, Philippines

I have the pleasure of inviting you to participate in person in the Workshop on Strengthening Infection Prevention and Control in the Asia-Pacific Region from 16 to 18 September 2025 in Manila, Philippines, as a temporary adviser to the World Health Organization (WHO). You are also invited to attend the Secretariat meeting to be held on 15 September 2025. Your main functions during the workshop will be to share your relevant experiences and expertise, provide inputs and guidance in the development of national action plans and regional actions, and contribute to formulating recommendations from this workshop.

Health-care-associated infections (HAIs) pose a significant global challenge, impacting patient safety, increasing morbidity and mortality, and straining health-care systems financially. Effective infection prevention and control (IPC) measures are essential to reduce HAIs, improve care quality and ensure patient safety by minimizing the risk of complications. Furthermore, IPC plays a critical role in combating antimicrobial resistance (AMR) by preventing infections that lead to unnecessary antibiotic use.

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... ENCL.: As stated.

cc: The Honourable Minister of National Health Commission of the
People's Republic of China, Beijing
The Embassy of the People's Republic of China, Makati City
The WHO Representative in the People's Republic of China, Beijing

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Recent data highlight concerning gaps in IPC programmes. As of 2023, 11% of countries in the world lacked an IPC plan, and only 34% had fully implemented national programmes. HAI surveillance remains particularly weak, with only 43% of countries globally having functional systems. In the WHO Western Pacific Region, countries have made slow progress in HAI surveillance, underscoring the need for robust systems.

This workshop will focus on enhancing IPC and HAI surveillance at both the national and facility levels in Member States in the WHO Western Pacific and South-East Asia regions, including those that are part of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Attendees will review the current country benchmarks and develop actionable recommendations that align efforts with the *Global Action Plan and Monitoring Framework on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), 2024-2030*. These initiatives are vital for reducing HAIs, building capacity to combat AMR, and ultimately improving quality of care and patient safety. This workshop will also enable the formulation of a cross-regional network for continuous learning and collaborations.

In preparation for the workshop, WHO is currently conducting an online assessment to evaluate countries' progress and performance in implementing and aligning with the Global Action Plan and assess their HAI readiness at national and health-care facility levels.

The objectives of the workshop are:

- (1) to develop evidence-based priority actions into national plans to strengthen IPC and HAI surveillance at all levels, through tailored, actionable strategies aligned with the WHO *Global Action Plan and Monitoring Framework on Infection Prevention and Control, 2024-2030*;
- (2) to develop practical and measurable regional actions that integrate country and regional priorities while benchmarking results, guiding efforts towards achieving the 2030 IPC global targets; and
- (3) to establish a learning network that fosters cross-country collaboration, experience-sharing and capacity-building to advance IPC and HAI initiatives.

... Attached is the provisional programme of activities.

You are also invited to participate in a series of virtual meetings scheduled between June and August, each lasting one to two hours. Participants in these meetings will focus on the following tasks:

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- (1) discuss the implementation of the *Global Action Plan and Monitoring Framework on Infection Prevention and Control, 2024-2030* at regional and country levels;
- (2) review the results of the benchmarking survey; and
- (3) provide guidance on the development of country-specific and region-specific actions to improve IPC for the period 2025-2030.

You are requested to register at <https://indico.un.org/e/IPCWorkshop> and complete the Memorandum of Agreement, Declaration of Interests for WHO Experts and Confidentiality Undertaking forms, which can be found on the registration site. The completed and signed forms should be uploaded ... when you register. A step-by-step guide to registering is attached.

Kindly note that the invitation for you to act as temporary adviser and confirmation via letter of acceptance are subject to: (1) WHO receiving from you the countersigned letter, signed Memorandum of Agreement, completed and signed Declaration of Interests and signed Confidentiality Undertaking; and (2) WHO notifying you in writing that the information disclosed in the Declaration of Interests does not require modification or cancellation of this invitation. You should therefore not undertake any travel, work or other action in relation to this invitation until you have received such written notification from WHO.

Please note that your ticket will be provided by WHO. Any request to purchase your own ticket for reimbursement must be approved by WHO and will be granted in exceptional circumstances only.

Please note that it is your responsibility to obtain any vaccinations and visas required for this travel.

During the workshop, regular cleaning of the venue and disinfection of surfaces will be carried out for the health and well-being of all participants. Physical distancing and mask-wearing are encouraged but left at personal preference.

We will coordinate with the Government of the Philippines if there is any exceptional entry documentation mandated prior to arrival in the Philippines. Further details regarding logistical arrangements will be provided in the Information Bulletin to be disseminated later.

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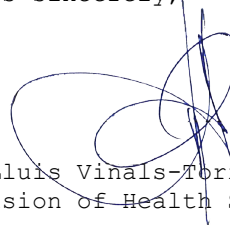
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The responsible officer for this workshop is:

Dr Shogo Kubota
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Division of Health Systems and Services
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Philippines
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I look forward to your early reply.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a vertical stroke, positioned above the printed name.

Mr Lluís Vinals-Torres, Director
Division of Health Systems and Services