Capacity Building on Health Systems Research in China

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FACTS

• About 60 participants from mainland China
• A big number and high proportion of Chinese participation in the symposium comparing with many other international conferences with similar themes
• However, still a very small delegation:
  - Chinese population size (20% in global population)
  - Demands for health systems research
Relationship between per capita GDP and life expectancy

Source: World Health Chart
Relationship between per capita GDP and life expectancy by province

Per capita health expenditure by urban and rural (RMB Yuan)

Source: MoH 2008
Access to clean water and sanitation by region

Source: MoH, 2003
### Population coverage of health insurance schemes by urban and rural area

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<tr>
<td>Urban health insurance schemes (%)</td>
<td>52.5</td>
<td>49.6</td>
<td>64.8</td>
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<td>Rural health insurance scheme (%)</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>89.4</td>
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### Arrangements of health insurance schemes in 2008

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<tr>
<th>Schemes</th>
<th>UEBMI</th>
<th>URBMI</th>
<th>NCMS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Premium per capita (CNY)</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>Ceiling (CNY)</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>80,000</td>
<td>20,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reimbursement rate (%)</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>40</td>
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Source of data: based on reports from the National Health Services Survey in 2008 and from Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security.
Why HSR

• Health care systems in China has not been developed as good as China’s performance in economic growth;

• Systems thinking and strategies are critical for achieving the aim of universal coverage; and

• Demands for HSR is high.
Capacity buildings

• Efforts from:
  – Government: increasing attentions; increasing research grants; increasing use of researchers on HSR
  – Universities: recognizing academic importance of HSR; establishing new departments and platforms; mobilizing and supporting faculties in HSR
  – Funding agencies: CMB, Global Fund; Gates Foundation, Ford Foundation, etc.
Capacity buildings

• Areas for capacity building
  – Infrastructure
  – Human resource
  – Research grant
  – International collaboration
  – Academic development
Capacity buildings

- Infrastructure
  - Networks and associations in relation to HSR: China training and research network of health economics and financing supported by WB and Ministry of Health in early 1990s;
    - Numbers of universities hosting HSR-related departments increased from about 10 in early 1990s to about 50 in later 2000s;
    - National level academic institutions in HSR; and
  - Investments in information system for HSR.
Capacity buildings

• Human resource for HSR
  - Organize training and education programs including PhD and master programs and mobilize researcher from overseas institutions;
  - Build HSR teams with multiple disciplines; and
  - Improve incentives for researchers to work on HSR and cooperation with policy makers.
Capacity buildings

• Research grants
  -Research grants in relation to HSR have been included in the areas of support by some agencies, including the China National Natural Foundation and Ministry of Science and Technology; and
  -Some projects from international organizations tend to focus on health systems issues, for example, WB Health VIII and XI projects, DFID HPSP project etc.
Capacity buildings

• International collaboration
  - Academic-led: increasing collaborations and communications between Chinese and international researchers with mutual research interests; and
  
  - Grant-led: Joint applications for grants from various funding agencies, for example, the EU research projects jointly applied by both Chinese and EU researchers.
Recommendations

• Three balances
  - To balance the research investments between HSR and non-HSR in health field;
  - To balance the academic impact and policy impact in HSR; and
  - To balance the roles of researchers from developed and developing countries with continuous international supports.
Recommendations

• To support growth of young generation of researchers on HSR

• If requested, Chinese researchers would be extremely happy to host the next global symposium on HSR