

SEA-RES-112

Report on the Meeting of the
Scientific Working Group (SWG)
on
Formulation of National Health
Research Policies and Strategies

Jakarta, Indonesia, 6-8 December 1999

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1. INAUGURAL SESSION

The meeting of the Scientific Working Group (SWG) on Formulation of National Health Research Policies and Strategies was organized at the National Institute of Health Research and Development, Jakarta, Indonesia, from 6-8 December 1999. Six SWG members and three special invitees attended the meeting (*See Annex 1 for list of participants*). Professor Umar Fahmi Achmadi, Chairperson of SWG, in his inaugural address, recounted the emergence of this group of scientists as a follow-up of the Joint WHO/ACHR-MRC meeting held at Colombo, Sri Lanka, in April 1998. He emphasized the importance of this particular SWG because the outcome of this meeting would serve as an important reference by which health and medical research councils in the countries could streamline their research promotion activities through development of sound and appropriate health research policies and strategies. It would be based on a practical and succinct conceptual framework for the development of national health research policies and strategies, which would be one of the outputs of this meeting. He recapitulated the proposed terms of reference of this SWG, which were:

- (1) To propose a conceptual framework for the formulation of national health research policies and strategies;
- (2) To identify essential supporting mechanisms to implement the policies and strategies proposed;
- (3) To develop guidelines for the formulation of national health research policies and strategies;
- (4) To develop plans of action based on the proposed conceptual framework.

Dr Uton Muchtar Rafei, WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia, in his inaugural address, highlighted the importance of this SWG which was expected to look into the issues, methods and collaborative mechanisms involved in reviewing or formulating national health research policies and strategies. He briefly traced the history of development of research in the

Region, including the South-East Asia Advisory Committee on Health Research, collaborative mechanisms among the health and medical research councils and WHO/SEARO. He highlighted the scenario in respect of utilization of research findings and said that research scientists in the Region should promote and strengthen the mechanism for the utilization of research finding and for advocacy for policy decision making. He emphasized the role of universities in research promotion as well as in research policy formulation and reformulation. He stated that one of the main ideas of forming this SWG a few years back was to develop broad guidelines to help Member Countries in formulating and reformulating national health research policies. In conclusion, he expected that SWG's output would be very beneficial to the countries of the Region.

2. INTRODUCTORY SESSION

Dr Than Sein, Director, Evidence and Information for Policy, WHO/SEARO, briefed the members reiterating the objectives and expected outcome of the meeting. He gave an overview of the formulation of health research policies and strategies, emphasizing on formulation process and policy implementation. He also highlighted the importance of the relationship between national health research policy and national health policy in the context of overall national development policies. In addition, he explained the role of national health and medical research councils in the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of national health research policies.

Members of SWG and the secretariat of the meeting introduced themselves in the meeting. The meeting adopted an agenda (*Annex 2*) and a Working Schedule (*Annex 3*).

3. BUSINESS SESSION

3.1 Presentations

Prof. Umar Fahmi Achmadi, Head/Director-General, National Institute of Health Research and Development (NIHRD), Jakarta, presented the Indonesian experiences in the translation of the national health research

policy into action. He said that health research and development system could be described as a collaborative relationship between different stakeholders, aiming at the same goal on the basis of partnership or using common resources on a continuing basis to achieve a common research agenda. He then illustrated the concept of national health research policy in which health and medical research system had to be seen as an integral tool for national health systems development. Its integration, management and programme needs had to be planned very carefully. He cited the example of NIHRD whose new role had been approved through a ministerial decree. He described the key elements in translating health research policy into action, i.e., development of a concept of health research system (policy) requiring intensive discussion; review of the legal bases; identification of stakeholders; building linkages; development of instruments for strengthening network; development of a sustainable capacity-building mechanism; tapping of financial resources, and development of a system of decentralization. He also put forward the important role of the national network of health research and development system, which included universities, health research and development centres, hospitals and provincial and district health offices. The linking mechanisms between these focal points were explained in the context of users, decision-makers, scientific communities, industries and the community at large.

Prof. Nimal Senanayake, Dean, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, made a presentation on "Complementariness between national health policy and national health research policy". He presented this relationship in the context of the health programme, health system, human resources and recruitment and coordination, with particular reference to Sri Lanka. The need to identify multi-disciplinary indicators, including epidemiological, etiological and clinical indicators in assessing the appropriateness and effectiveness of the national research policy was explained. He also mentioned the role of politicians, researchers and planners in identifying new goals and objectives in line with the national research policy. The inter-relationship between the new/modified health policy and the new/modified research policy in the context of implementation was discussed. In addition, he illustrated the importance of retrospective, prospective, observational and interventional studies in assessing the effectiveness of national research policy taking also into account the role played by international agencies.

The members took note of the short paper prepared by Prof. N.K. Ganguly, Director-General, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), New Delhi, entitled "Role of research institutions in the formulation and translation of national health research policy into action". He mentioned that the primary responsibility for formulation and translation of national health research policy into action would be the Ministry of Health. However, in India this responsibility rested with ICMR, which had been trying to fulfil this through its 21 permanent institutes/centres as well as regional research medical centres. It also carried out an extra-mural research programme by setting up seven centres for advanced research in selected departments of medical colleges, universities and other non-ICMR research institutes. ICMR served as a main research advisory body to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. It was noted that the contents of the paper would serve as an important input in group work.

Dr Agus Suwandono, Director, NIHRD, Surabaya, Indonesia, gave a presentation on "Issues related to monitoring and evaluation of implementation of national health research policy". He gave a brief background of the health and research development scenario in Indonesia. He then discussed the vision and mission of the national health research policy, and the objectives, strategies and activities of the national health research system. He then made a detailed presentation on the monitoring and evaluation mechanism, tools and indicators of guided health research in which he included the development of a guidance book for proposal development, dissemination of the guidance book, and socialization and briefing of its contents to a group, finally leading to the conduct of a seminar and health policy synthesis. He identified factors which influenced monitoring and utilization of health research results. He also presented the conceptual framework on the above issues based on the working mechanics of NIHRD. He emphasized the importance of short- and long-term development plans in this regard. He cited examples from the ministerial decree as promulgated in Indonesia. In conclusion, he put forward the following priority issues:

- Political commitment of stakeholders at all levels.
- Establishment of a health research network and strengthening of the existing communication forum between decision-makers, donors and researchers; reforming of the strategy in research planning; training of researchers in monitoring, evaluation, communication and dissemination; transformation of research results to policy options; and technical and facility assistance in network development by WHO.

Dr Myint Htwe, Regional Adviser on Research Policy and Cooperation, SEARO, presented a paper on “Health policy formulation, implementation and evaluation”. He highlighted the various aspects on public policy, component and statement of national health research policy, healthy public policy and policy cycle (policy identification and issue recognition, policy formulation, policy implementation, policy evaluation), issues in health research policy formulation, and information required in the formulation process. He then elaborated on the contents of health research policy statement which included research themes related to broad programme areas, specific research priority topics within the priority themes, resource allocation pattern, human resource development and deployment, including career structures, reward and recognition of research, strengthening of the capacity of research institutions, legislative requirements of research, procedures for ensuring evaluation of research results, modalities for exploring external funding for research collaboration with research organizations, within and outside the country. He also pointed out the procedure for translation of health research policy into action. He finally elaborated on health research policy evaluation including various types of parameters to be used.

Dr Myint Htwe then presented a paper on “Issues on health policy research”. He described at length the various connotations in defining health policy research, general issues to be considered in policy research or analysis, policy assessment indicators, steps in health policy research (analysis) and policy formulation, and the collaborating and supporting mechanism. In his presentation, he highlighted the issues to be considered when health research policy had not achieved its desired effects. He further elaborated on the steps used in health policy research/analysis and policy formulation, such as justification on the need for health policy research, review of technical and administrative know-how, priority preparatory activities and review of policy environment. He also elaborated on the strategies and approaches for promoting health policy research, such as creation of awareness and demand for health policy research, research capability strengthening, regional and inter-country networking, research grants and dissemination of information. He concluded by saying that health policy research was done in order to facilitate the formulation of sound, practical and applicable health research policy and of appropriate strategies and operational activities; to detect flaws and weaknesses in existing health research policies; to develop policy implementation and assessment indicators, and to finally make a policy change or reform in health research system.

Dr Myint Htwe also presented a paper on “Epidemiological methods used in policy analysis”. He elaborated on the various epidemiological methods used in policy analysis, caveats in using epidemiological techniques, basic epidemiological tools that could be applied in so-called policy epidemiology and policy analysis. In his presentation, he elaborated on various situations where epidemiological methods were applied as part of policy analysis by giving concrete examples, such as assessing the health status of the population through conceptualization and measurement of health. To elucidate whether the current policy, together with its inherent strategies and interventions, was acceptable in the light of the prevailing scenario, he said that this could be arranged by evaluating and synthesizing evidence regarding potential interventions (successes and failures) in relation to the strategies proposed according to the policy. An indicator for policy change in the context of geographical consideration could be made by evaluating geographical variations in health status and health system performances and pinpointing the need for a policy review. An indicator for overall review of policy change could be made available by evaluating the objectives and policy implementation, especially in the context of rational allocation of resources. He also elaborated on the caveats in using epidemiological methods by referring to the following issues:

- (1) Care should be exercised in adapting the results of the analytical epidemiological results.
- (2) Application of the results *in toto* or without any modification may lead to policy failure.
- (3) Careful attention should be given when applying the results of mathematical models because the most complicated mathematical models are really simplistic when compared to social and biological realities. In addition, the more complicated the mathematical models, the more would be assumptions that have to be made where the assumptions may not hold true in a real situation.
- (4) Sometimes it is very difficult to convince policy-makers regarding the findings of the epidemiological results pertaining to policy because it may be too subjective or one may have some vested interest.
- (5) Epidemiologists sometimes do not address specific questions for which policy-makers need answers.

- (6) Epidemiologists sometimes do not promulgate the results in avenues or in a manner which policy-makers can discern.
- (7) It may not be prudent to make policy recommendations based on the results of one study because the health status of the population or performance of the health system is the outcome of interactions of a multitude of attributes.
- (8) When interpreting the results, the following issues should be taken into account: strength of association with the determinants, regional variation and pattern, quality of data, consistency with other indicators, consistency with risk factors, trend analysis and consistency with results of other independent studies.

Dr Myint Htwe emphasized the basic difference in opinion-seeking pattern between policy-makers and epidemiologists; for instance, health policy-makers needed clear-cut advice and answers based on available information, whereas epidemiologists preferred interval estimates instead of simple answers or 'yes' or 'no' decisions. Therefore, it is, important to reach a compromise to narrow the gap on the issues mentioned above. He concluded by mentioning that policy analysis using epidemiological methods was exceedingly complex. Interpretation of results and overall inference should be given carefully because contemporary health problem is a measurable set of people's responses to contemporary environment. The ultimate aim of policy analysis using epidemiological methods is to achieve evidence-based policy making through the process of enlightening policy-makers.

3.2 Discussions

Discussions were held following the presentations. The following issues and ideas of importance emerged:

- Health research development system can be viewed as a collaborative relationship between different stakeholders aiming at the same goal on the basis of partnership.
- The linking mechanism between universities, health research and development centres, hospitals, and provincial and district offices should be contemplated in the context of users, decision-makers, scientific communities, industries and the community at large.

- The need to identify multi-disciplinary indicators, including epidemiological, etiological and clinical indicators in assessing the appropriateness and effectiveness of national research policy was emphasized.
- The role of politicians, researchers and planners in identifying goals and objectives in line with the national research policy was noted.
- The importance of retrospective, prospective, observational and interventional studies in assessing the effectiveness of national health research policy was noted. To that effect, the role to be played by international agencies must also be taken into account.
- The importance of establishing health research networks and of strengthening existing communication forums among decision-makers, donors and researchers, were noted.
- The caveats in using epidemiological methods to do health policy research were noted.
- The decree (Number 1179 A/Menkes/SK/X/1999, 11 October 1999) of the Minister of Health, Republic of Indonesia, on national policy on health research and development was appreciated by the SWG members. The decree consists of conditions, problems and trends on health as well as health research and development. The elements of the policy are clearly stated, which includes vision, mission, targets, strategy and management of health research and development. It also elaborates on health research and development agenda, national health research and development and network and institutionalization of national health and development, national research and development resources, monitoring and evaluation, research ethics and intellectual property rights. The decree could serve as a very good reference document for Member Countries in the Region in reviewing or formulating or reformulating their respective national policy on health research and development.
- The strategic plan (ISBN 974-8441-86-5) for health research, Thailand, 1999, produced by the Medical Science Committee of the National Research Council was also a very good document for issues related to national health research policy development. Thailand has developed research strategies for diseases of the organs and for health problems, and thereby a mechanism for health. The process of this strategic planning

was well planned and clearly explained. This plan would also serve as a very good reference document for Member Countries in the Region in reviewing or formulating or reformulating their respective national policy on health research and development.

4. GROUP WORK ON CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR FORMULATION OF NATIONAL HEALTH RESEARCH POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

Based on the discussion points arising out of the earlier sessions, the group developed a conceptual framework for the formulation of national health research policies and strategies. The framework consisted of justification, situation analysis, operational modalities and mechanisms to formulate national health research policies. A broad description of the framework, as envisaged, is given below:

Justification

It should include at least the following issues:

- Demand from policy makers, senior professionals from the ministry of health and allied ministries
- Political, economic and civic pressure
- Findings from review of case studies conducted in the country as well as from countries with a similar scenario
- Literature review, especially covering health research policies in the countries of the Region
- Expert judgment describing the need to formulate national health research policy and strategy

Situation Analysis

- Detailed analysis of health research system *vis-à-vis* health care system, health-related systems, and overall development of the country in various aspects, including geographical differentials. (SWOT analysis may be useful)

- Linkage and relationship between health research policy and national health policy and other development policies of the country
- Identification of key players and institutions, including processes, system of work, capacities and resources
- Legislative enactments and regulatory system pertaining to research organization and pertinent aspects of research management

Operational Modalities

- Vision, mission and targets should be clearly spelt out.
- Strategy formulation should be done in the light of the following:
 - Procedures for lobbying, advocacy and for achieving political commitment must be well outlined and prepared.
 - Process for resource seeking and resource development must be initiated at the very outset.
 - Detailed and practicable working schedule (GANTT chart) must be prepared.
 - Working process must be attuned to the working schedule envisaged.
 - A support system (administrative, logistics and financial) must be developed in order to facilitate the working process.

Mechanisms to Formulate National Health Research Policy (NHRP)

- A legitimate body to initiate the process is required.
- Appropriate advisory group and functional core group or task force to do the actual work should be formed.
- Conduct forums with broad participation to review the findings of situation analysis. Each forum must have specific objectives and expected output. Full secretarial support is essential whose members should be proactive, professional in discussions and technically strong.
- Dynamic and pragmatic prioritization process is essential in order to identify key problem areas, disciplines and domains.
- Identification of policy options and its implications must be thoroughly discussed.

- National research convention involving all players must be conducted to discuss various policy options identified by the functional core group and agreed upon by the advisory group.
- National health research policy should be formulated based on the discussion points and recommendations of national research conventions. Debate or brainstorming sessions may be required for controversial issues emanating throughout the formulation process.
- The final draft should be submitted to higher authorities for approval. The process may vary from country to country.
- Development of tools and indicators, such as effectiveness, responsiveness, applicability, feasibility, etc. for assessing the progress of implementation of NHRP may be required
- An efficient administrative and management system should be outlined to steer the policy in the right direction.
- A system for responsible conduct of research should be developed to achieve the goal and objectives of NHRP.
- Rational and practical phase-wise action plan to translate NHRP into action should be drawn up involving all collaborating partners, to improve the research scenario and utilization of research results in the country.

5. GROUP WORK ON IDENTIFICATION OF ESSENTIAL SUPPORTING MECHANISMS TO IMPLEMENT PROPOSED POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

The meeting agreed on the following output from group work:

(1) Planning

- Develop a thorough and detailed plan of actions
- Identify input, process and output of each stage/phase
- Identify critical stage/phase and develop alternative actions in each critical stage/phase
- Identify measures to fully involve politicians.

(2) Meeting

- Develop and facilitate the acceptance of conceptual framework by research institutions
- Identify stakeholders and promote their involvement in sharing a common vision
- Strategic planning to stimulate stakeholders
- Identify a legitimate body related to health research management, legal issues and ethics
- Resources identification, allocation, flow and management.

(3) Structural and functional forum for networking

- Building linkages and partnerships
- Socialization of conceptual framework
- Develop strategic planning for stimulating stakeholders
- Establish political commitment (involving politicians).

(4) Training and collaborative research

- Develop training programme
- Develop exchange programme
- Develop collaborative research
- Develop methods and capacity to formulate evidence-based policy for transforming health research information into policy options for decision-makers.

(5) Information exchange (traditional and electronic)

- Develop a method and system for retrieval of health research results, both electronically and non-electronically
- Develop a web-based system for health research activities and research findings
- Conduct scientific publication of health research projects.

(6) Monitoring and evaluation

- Develop a monitoring and evaluation system to oversee implementation. This activity should lead to the development of a practical and sound research information system
- Periodic meeting for feedback on various issues involved in policy process and implementation.

6. GROUP WORK ON DEVELOPING A PLAN OF ACTIONS BASED ON THE PROPOSED CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The plan of actions was considered from the perspective of the countries as well as WHO/SEARO. The following output from group work was agreed upon:

Countries

- (1) Countries should do situation analysis on the issues mentioned in the conceptual framework for formulating or reformulating national health research policies and strategies.
- (2) Medical or health research councils or research focal points in the countries should thoroughly review this SWG meeting document and initiate necessary activities keeping in view the requirement of the country concerned.
- (3) Monitor the progress and advocate till health research policy becomes an accepted means for health policy development.
- (4) Directors of health or medical research councils should discuss with decision-makers of respective countries for improvement of the current national health research policy after reviewing its strengths and weaknesses.
- (5) Health or medical research councils should review the formulation process against the framework developed at this meeting and also analyse the health research policy in the context of the national health development policy.
- (6) Health or medical research councils should start the formulation process, in their country if a full-fledged national health research policy does not exist already.

- (7) Health or medical research councils should help facilitate in creating practical working mechanisms for implementation, monitoring and evaluation of health research policy.
- (8) Health or medical research councils should conduct national conferences or conventions to agree or modify the proposed conceptual framework to suit the respective country needs. The role of the universities and stakeholders should be more clearly stated in formulating national health research policy.
- (9) Countries should review the existing system related to health research policy development and its implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Following this, a national forum should be conducted to modify or develop a new national health research policy and strategy.
- (10) Health or medical research councils should develop avenues to strengthen the role of universities in policy matters.

WHO/SEARO

- (1) WHO/SEARO should collaborate with health or medical research councils or research focal points in the countries in implementing the country's plan of activities for formulating or reformulating national health research policy and strategies.
- (2) WHO/SEARO should monitor the activities carried out by the countries following the report of this SWG meeting.
- (3) WHO/SEARO should regularly share information on the status of implementation regarding the activities carried out in formulating or reformulating health research policies and strategies with Member Countries.
- (4) This SWG meeting document must be endorsed by SEA-ACHR and the SEA Regional Committee.
- (5) WRs should be requested to contact chiefs of policy-making bodies or responsible persons in the ministry of health or directors of health or medical research councils for their commitment.
- (6) WHO/SEARO should periodically follow up till the national government endorses the NHRP and implements it to achieve measurable outcomes.
- (7) WHO/SEARO should conduct a quick survey on the variability of the legitimate bodies in each country with regard to health research policy.

- (8) WHO/SEARO should promote methods on evidence-based policy development through the process of linking researchers and decision-makers.
- (9) WHO/SEARO should field test the guidelines and framework emanating from this meeting in selected countries.

7. GROUP WORK ON DEVELOPING GUIDELINES FOR FORMULATION OF NATIONAL HEALTH RESEARCH POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

The meeting agreed on the following output from group work:

The Research Policy and Cooperation (RPC) unit, WHO/SEARO, should send the conceptual framework to Member Countries to get feedback and comments for further improvement, especially from university research institutions and national research councils. RPC Unit, would then incorporate the comments in the final version of generic guidelines which should be distributed to research focal points in the Member Countries of the Region. This document can be utilized for formulating national health research policies and strategies.

8. CLOSING SESSION

Dr Than Sein, Director, Evidence and Information for Policy, WHO/SEARO, appreciated the contributions made by the Scientific Working Group members. He said that the outcome of this meeting would be presented to the forthcoming SEA/ACHR meeting in April 2000. He hoped that the output would be adapted as per the requirement of the respective countries. He thanked the National Institute of Health Research and Development for hosting this meeting.

Prof. Umar Fahmi Achmadi made the closing remarks in which he stated that NIHRD would continue to collaborate with WHO as well as with medical and health research councils in the countries of the Region. He also thanked the members of the Scientific Working Group for their valuable contributions to the technical deliberations. He hoped that the output would prove useful to the Member Countries of the Region in reviewing and modifying their existing national health research policy.

Annex 1

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

CHAIRPERSON

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*Unable To Attend

Annex 2

AGENDA

Inaugural Session

- Welcome note by Chairperson, Scientific Working Group
- Inaugural address by the WHO Regional Director, South-East Asia Region

Introductory Session

- Introductory remarks by Director, Evidence and Information for Policy, WHO, South-East Asia Regional Office
- Introduction of members of the Scientific Working Group
- Adoption of Agenda and Working Schedule

Business Session

- Presentations on issues related to formulation of national health research policies and strategies:
 - Factors to be considered in the formulation of national health research policy (Prof. M. Ahmad Djojosedjito)
 - Experiences in the translation of national health research policy into action (Prof. Umar Fahmi Achmadi)
 - Complementariness between national health policy and national health research policy (Prof. Nimal Senanayake)
 - Role of research institutions in the formulation and translation of national health research policy into action (Prof. N.K. Ganguly)
 - Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of national health research policy (Dr Agus Suwandono)

- Policy formulation and implementation (Dr Myint Htwe – Discussant: Prof. Kraissid Tontisirin)
- Issues in health policy research (Dr Myint Htwe – Discussant: Prof. Mathura P. Shrestha)
- Epidemiological methods used in policy analysis (Dr Myint Htwe)
- Group work on development of a conceptual framework for formulation of national health research policies and strategies (all SWG members in one group)
- Group work on identification of essential supporting mechanisms to implement the proposed policies and strategies*
- Group work on developing plans of action based on the proposed conceptual framework*
- Group work on developing guidelines for the formulation of national health research policies and strategies (all SWG members in one group)

Closing Session

- Remarks by Director, Evidence and Information for Policy, WHO, South-East Asia Regional Office
- Closing remarks by Chairperson, SWG

* These items will be dealt with simultaneously by two separate groups.

Annex 3

WORKING SCHEDULE

Date	Morning Session	Afternoon Session
6 Dec 1999 (Monday)	<p>Inaugural Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome note by Chairperson, SWG • Inaugural address by the Regional Director, WHO/SEARO <p>Introductory Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductory remarks by Director, Evidence and Information for Policy, WHO/SEARO • Introduction of members of SWG • Adoption of Agenda and Working Schedule <p>Business Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations on issues related to formulation of national health research policies and strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Factors to be considered in the formulation of national health research policy (Dr M. Ahmad Djojosedjito) – Experiences in the translation of national health research policy into action (Prof. Umar Fahmi Achmadi) 	<p>Presentations on issues related to formulation of national health research policies and strategies (continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complementariness between national health policy and national health research policy (Prof. Nimal Senanayake) • Role of research institutions in the formulation and translation of national health research policy into action (Prof. N.K. Ganguly) • Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of national health research policy (Dr Agus Suwandono) • Policy formulation and implementation (Dr Myint Htwe – Discussant: Prof. Kraissid Tontisirin) • Issues in health policy research (Dr Myint Htwe – Discussant: Prof. Mathura P. Shrestha) • Epidemiological methods used in policy analysis (Dr Myint Htwe)

Formulation of National Health Research Policies and Strategies

Date	Morning Session	Afternoon Session
7 Dec 1999 (Tuesday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Group work on development of a conceptual framework for formulation of national health research policies and strategies• Presentation of group work for above	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Group work on identification of essential supporting mechanisms to implement the proposed policies and strategies.• Group work on developing plans of action based on the proposed conceptual framework• Presentations of above group works
8 Dec 1999 (Wednesday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Group work on developing guidelines for the formulation of national health research policies and strategies• Presentation of group work for above	Closing Session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remarks by Director, Evidence and Information for Policy, WHO, South-East Asia Regional Office• Closing remarks by Chairperson, SWG

Annex 4

LIST OF WORKING AND INFORMATION DOCUMENTS

1. Objectives	SEA/SWG/FPS/A
2. List of participants	SEA/SWG/FPS/B
2. Agenda	SEA/SWG/FPS/C
3. Working Schedule	SEA/SWG/FPS/D
5. Factors to be considered in the formulation of national health research policy (Dr M. Ahmad Djojosingito)	SEA/SWG/FPS/E
6. Experiences in the translation of national health research policy into action (Prof Umar Fahmi Achmadi)	SEA/SWG/FPS/F
7. Complementariness between national health policy and national health research policy (Prof. Nimal Senanayake)	SEA/SWG/FPS/G
8. Role of research institutions in the formulation and translation of national health research policy into action (Prof. N.K. Ganguly)	SEA/SWG/FPS/H
9. Monitoring and evaluation of national health research policy (Dr Agus Suwandono)	SEA/SWG/FPS/I
10. Epidemiological methods used in policy analysis (Dr Myint Htwe)	SEA/SWG/FPS/J
11. Health research policy formulation, implementation and evaluation(Dr Myint Htwe)	SEA/SWG/FPS/K
12. Issues in health policy research (Dr Myint Htwe)	SEA/SWG/FPS/L