World Health Organization (WHO) globally emphasizes the importance of teamwork or “Being an effective team player” as one of 11 learning topics in WHO Patient Safety Curriculum Guide for Multi-professional, released in 2011. TeamSTEPPS concepts and tools are introduced in this guide. WHO Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO) has been facilitating the use of the guide in the region.

Countries in Asia-Pacific vary in terms of culture, healthcare systems, available resources, and demographic. However, teamwork is still relevant in any settings and even more essential particularly under limited resources.

In fact, during the patient safety consultation in 2014 and the hospital quality and patient safety management course in early 2015, participants from 14 countries and 5 countries, respectively, agreed on the importance of teamwork to improve patient safety. Although there are some English language barriers and cultural differences, the concepts and tools of TeamSTEPPS are generally well accepted and applicable for team training in different cultural settings.

**PLEASE LET US KNOW YOUR THOUGHTS**

1. What are the potential benefits/drawbacks of the application of TeamSTEPPS in limited-resources countries/settings?
2. How can we engage healthcare providers in different culture and raise awareness of necessity of team training, TeamSTEPPS?
3. How can we develop a plan to integrate TeamSTEPPS in limited-resources countries/settings?

**WHO PATIENT SAFETY CURRICULUM GUIDE**

*Multi-professional Edition*

1. What is patient safety?
2. Why applying human factors is important for patient safety?
3. Understanding systems and the effect of complexity on patient care
4. Being an effective team player
5. Learning from errors to prevent harm
6. Understanding and managing clinical risk
7. Using quality-improvement methods to improve care
8. Engaging with patients and carers
9. Infection prevention and control
10. Patient safety and invasive procedures
11. Improving medication safety

**Outcomes:**

1) 1145 participants and speakers including 387 physicians and 437 nurses from ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) countries participated in the congress.
2) The participants agreed that teamwork was still required and more essential particularly under limited resources although Asia-Pacific Countries vary in terms of culture, healthcare systems, available resources, and demographics.
3) The participants shared lots of interests in TeamSTEPPS®

**Beyond Asia-Pacific in collaboration with JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency)**

*“Seminar for Health Policy Development”*
- Participants from Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Iraq, Japan, Lao PDR, Liberia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, and Uganda

*“Health Systems Management”*
- Participants from Bolivia, Georgia, Honduras, Iran, Indonesia, Kenya, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Turkmenistan, Uganda, and Zambia

*“SS - QM (Total Quality Management) KAIZEN”*
- Participants from Egypt, Kenya, Republic of Malawi, Nigeria, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Benin, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Morocco, Niger, and Senegal

- To present and discuss in the session: “What should you do as the expert team?”
  - Evidence-based team training: TeamSTEPPS® by Dr Ken Taneda

**3rd Hospital Quality and Patient Safety Management Course**

Organized by WHO/WPRO and NIPH on March 15-18, 2016 in Japan

Participants and Experts from 10 countries: Fiji, Cambodia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Lao PDR, Viet Nam, Singapore, Hong Kong, Republic of Korea, and Japan

**HOW TO ENGAGE & RAISE AWARENESS**

- Patients’ messages: Ms. Sue Sheridan (US), Mr. Martin Bromiley (UK)
- Quiz and games to experience “To Err is Human” & “Mental Model”
- “Team Chain” (paper chain) Exercise
- “Clear objective to find win-win strategy” (Cambodia)
- “Game (team work) was very helpful. It’s learning by mistake.” (Lao PDR)
- “I was able to think again the importance of the team-based approach through an interesting example.” (Republic of Korea)
- “Team work is the good process for quality improvement” (Cambodia)

**WAY FORWARD TO EXPAND IN ASIA-PACIFIC**