

## Development of Poison Centres in Asia

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As most of the Asian countries are developing countries, their health care system are poorly funded and there is no exception to their poison control system. To investigate the current status of poison centres development in Asia, a questionnaire was sent by e-mail followed by fax to all the Asian poison centres listed in the world directory of poisons centres (Yellow Tox). Below are some of the finding:

Out of the 11 countries response. 8 of them are funded by government and 1 by university.

The scopes of service of the centres are as follows:

	Cambodia	HK	Iran	Japan	Oman	Pakistan	Philippines	Saudi Arabia	Singapore	United Arab	Vietnam
Poison information to health care workers		ü	ü	ü	ü		ü	ü	ü	ü	
Poison information to public			ü	ü			ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
Analytic toxicology		ü			ü		ü				ü
Toxicovigilance		ü	ü	ü	ü		ü				ü
Investigation and control of poisoning outbreak		ü			ü		ü				
Treatment of poisoning patient	ü	ü				ü	ü	ü	ü		
Training of clinical toxicology to doctors		ü	ü		ü		ü		ü		ü
Health education to public		ü	ü	ü	ü		ü		ü	ü	
Others		ü	ü	ü	ü		ü		ü	ü	

Poison control was neglected in the past in Hong Kong. Although we had some poison information service by the University since 20 years ago. It was only in 2005 that the government had started its funding to establish the current Hong Kong poison information centre. In 2007, the government improved its funding and established the Hong Kong Poison Control Network addressing most of the aspects of poison control. Namely, poison information, toxicology analysis, poison treatment, toxicovigilance and poison prevention.

As we see from the above table that most poison centres in Asia do not provide comprehensive poison control service, I would present how our Network function and hope that our system can service as a model for other poison information centres in Asia to develop.