

Healthcare Unit

Since the establishment of its Healthcare Unit in 2017, ERIA has received three budget injections from the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan (MHLW) for the activities of the Healthcare Unit. All these budget contributions are related to the Asia Health and Wellbeing Initiative (AHWIN), which was launched by the Government of Japan with the aim of promoting regional cooperation to create societies where people can enjoy vibrant, healthy, productive, and long lives. The first budget injection came in 2017 and was a contribution from the Health and Welfare Bureau of the Elderly of MHLW, with the goal of facilitating research on long-term systems in the region and generating policy recommendations to promote active and healthy ageing. The second budget was provided in 2018 and the third in 2019. Both the second and third budget injections were contributed by the Health Policy Bureau of MHLW, but they had different goals. The 2018 budget was provided to promote research on education systems of medical professionals in the region and to facilitate capacity development of medical professionals, especially medical doctors. The goal of the 2019 budget is the development of infrastructure to conduct region-wide clinical trials in Asia. This budget also has at its aim the promotion of cooperation with the World Health Organization towards the development of a prequalification system of drugs and medical devices.

So far, the Healthcare Unit has focused its activities on promoting active and healthy ageing, using the first budget, and only limited activities have been undertaken so far related to the second and third budget injections. During FY2019, several studies were completed, and some reports have been published or will be published soon. As an example, the report of baseline survey of Longitudinal Study of Ageing and Health in the Philippines was published in December 2019 and the launch event was held in Manila in December 2019. The copies of report were presented by the President of ERIA to the Secretary of Health and the Secretary of Department of Social Welfare and Development of the Republic of the Philippines.

