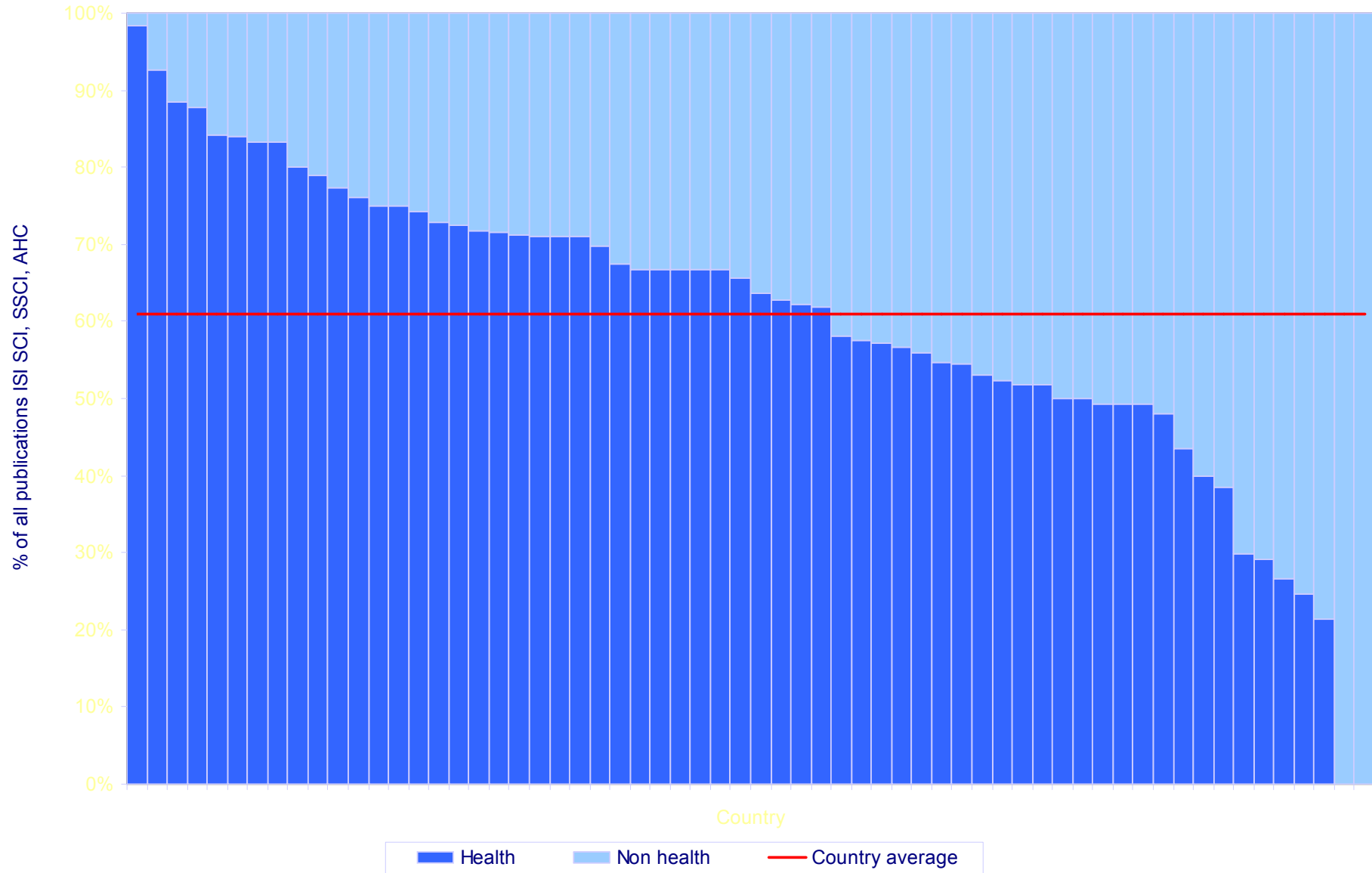


# COHRED approach to National Health Research System Assessment & Development

Symposium on the Comparative Analysis of National Research Systems  
UNESCO, Paris, 16-18 January 2008

Dr Andrew Kennedy  
COHRED  
Council on Health Research for Development

## Health research publications as a percentage of all publications (1999 - 2001) for 62 low income countries



# Overarching aim

- Enable national stakeholders to drive development of National Health Research Systems (NHRS)
- Evidence based - action oriented

# NHRS development approach

## 1. Framework

- Picture the NHRS and understand what it should do

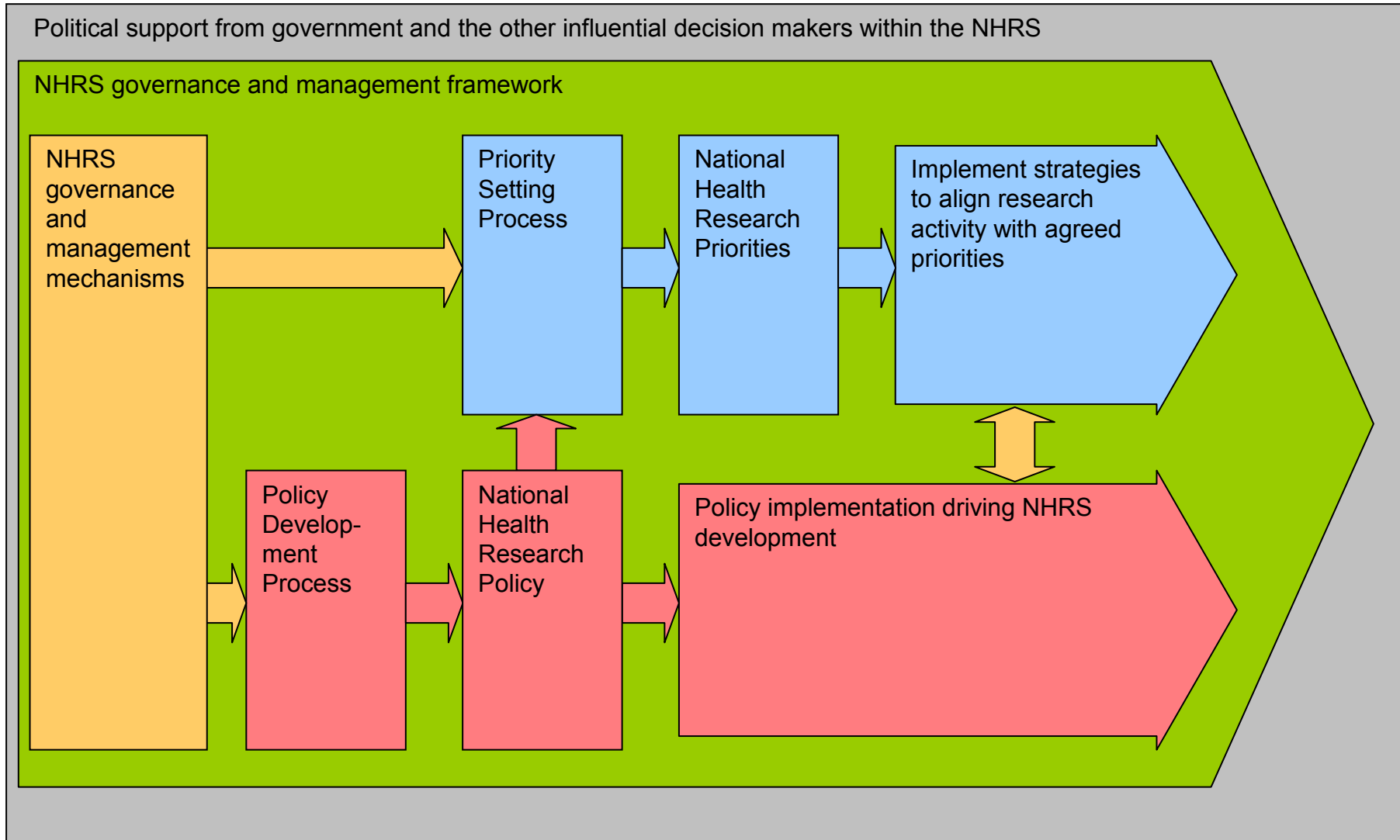
## 2. Technical components, approaches to:

- collecting evidence to inform decision making:  
**NHRS assessment**
- policy development, priority setting, ...

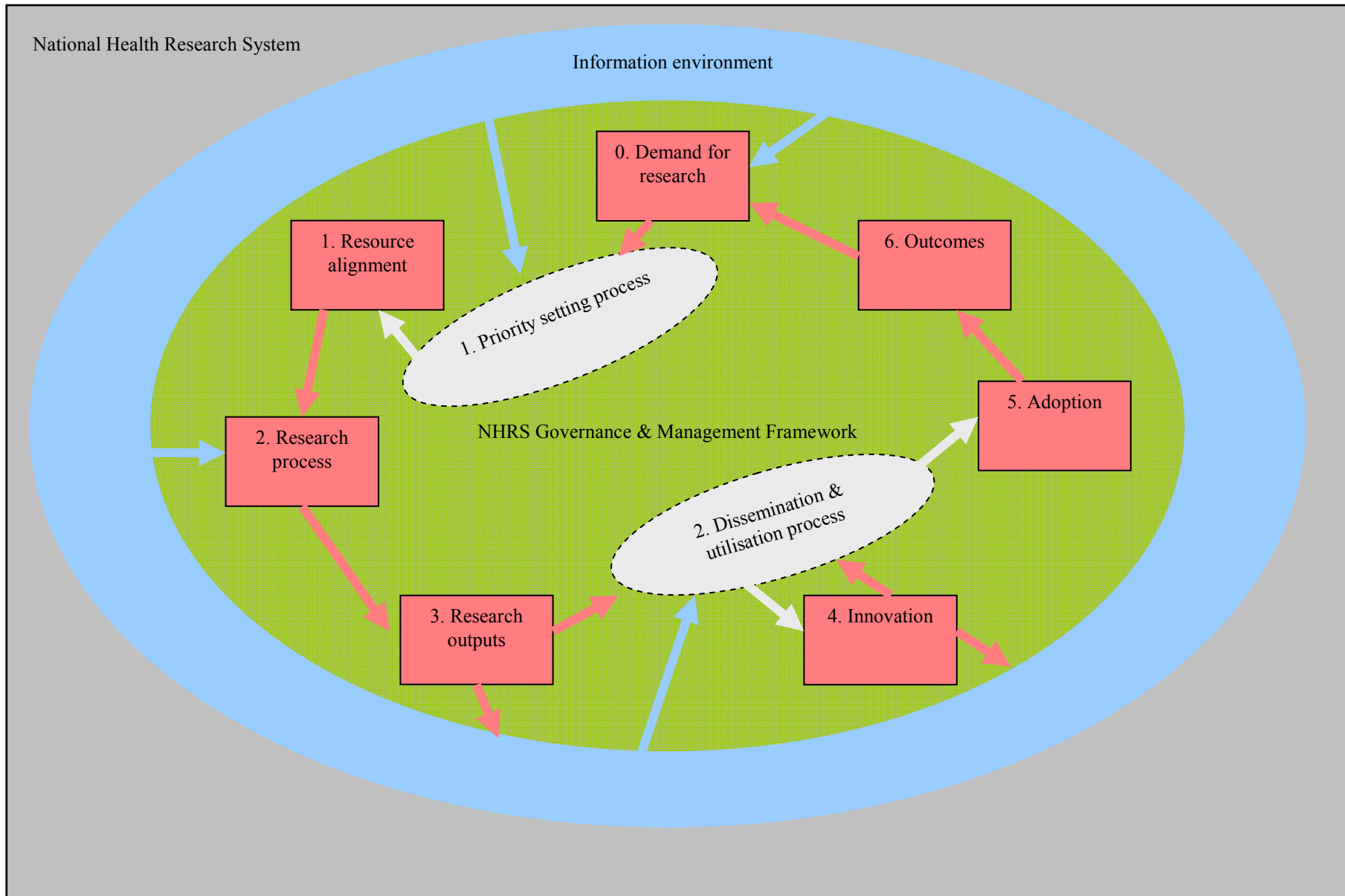
## 3. Process

- Not simply a technical exercise
- How you do it often more important than what you do

# Foundations of NHRS Development



# NHRS Framework



# Levels of NHRS Assessment

- Mapping – system description
  - Governance & management, policies, institutions, key actors
  - Donor alignment, Health equity
- Profiling – system capabilities
  - Main focus inputs, process, outputs
  - Capacities, human and financial resources available, partnerships, activity, output
- Analysis – system performance
  - Greater focus on adoption and outcomes
  - How well do specific components of the system perform
- Intervention evaluation – system intervention
  - How effective are reforms and other strengthening efforts

# NHRS Mapping

## **Africa**

Burkina Faso  
Cameroon  
Mozambique  
Uganda  
Zambia

## **Central Asia**

Kazakhstan  
Kyrgyzstan  
Tajikistan  
Uzbekistan

## **Caribbean**

Trinidad & Tobago

## **East Asia**

Cambodia  
China (Shanghai)  
Mongolia  
Philippines  
Viet Nam

## **Middle east**

Bahrain  
Jordan  
Kuwait  
Lebanon  
Oman  
Qatar  
Saudi Arabia  
Tunisia  
UA Emirates  
Yemen

## **Pacific islands**

Cook Islands  
Fiji  
Kiribati  
Marshall Islands  
Nauru  
Niue  
Palau  
Papua New Guinea  
Samoa  
Solomon Islands  
Tokelau  
Tonga  
Tuvalu  
Vanuatu  
American Samoa



# NHRS Mapping & Donor alignment

## **Africa**

Burkina Faso

Cameroon

Mozambique

Uganda

Zambia

# NHRS Mapping & Profiling/Analysis

## **East Asia**

Cambodia

China (Shanghai)

Mongolia

Philippines

Viet Nam

# Lessons learned -1

- Political support
  - Essential, but how can we measure this?
  - What arguments can we use to build this support?
    - Talk to decision makers in a language they understand
    - Example, UK Dept of Health, Director of Research:
      - Market failure argument

# Lessons learned -2

- Stakeholder involvement
  - Decision makers and those influenced by the decisions made
  - MoH, MoST, Academia, NGO, Civil Society, (Donors)
- Mapping and Profiling levels
  - fairly standardised
- Analysis level
  - 100s of indicators potentially useful
  - Present a ‘basket’ of indicators, enable stakeholders to select those most useful to them
  - Example from 5 country East Asia study : 100% of questions selected by at least one country, only 19% selected by all

# Lessons learned - 3

- Process driven – not a one off ‘academic’ exercise:
  - Staged approach beneficial, enables early action highlighting the usefulness of NHRS development
  - Initial improvements are often to system governance and management:
    - Mongolia: Policy development
    - Shanghai: Improve coordination between governance and management bodies
    - Philippines: M&E system
    - Vietnam: Priority setting and institutional development
    - Central Asia: building political support
    - Middle East: Priority setting
    - T&T and PICs: Strengthen governance

# Health Research Web

**COUNCIL ON HEALTH RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT (COHRED)**

[Home](#) | [Health Research Web](#)

**Health Research Web – Continents and Countries**

[Africa](#)  
[Americas & the Caribbean](#)  
[Asia and Pacific](#)  
[Europe](#)  
[Middle East](#)

**Welcome to *Health Research Web***  
A new service from the Council on Health Research for Development

[A growing resource](#)  
[Who can contribute?](#)  
[Editorial Policy](#)

*Health Research Web* information on national health research systems in low and middle income countries.



Click the map to view country pages

Last updated: 10 October, 2007

# Health Research Web

- Global knowledge platform
  - Providing information on national “research for health” systems
  - Our own and links to others
- Approach is based on ‘wikipedia’:
  - information controlled through transparent, peer-review editorial policy
  - public domain information
  - low cost – multiple contributors
- COHRED is developing the platform
  - *but does not want to ‘own’ it*
  - share at ‘national’ and ‘regional’ level (e.g. *Pan American Health Organization*)
  - share with institutions (e.g. *donors & research sponsors*)
  - quality control through designated reviewers / review process
- Phase 1 (‘static’), 2(‘interactive’), 3 (meta-analysis)

# Collaborators

Bahrain : Dr Jamal Alsayyad; Cambodia: Dr Vonthanak Saphonn; Cameroon: Dr Pierre Ongolo Zogo, Dr Innocent Takougang, Dr Peter Mbondji; Canada: Dr Don de Savigny; China: Prof Jie Chen, Ms Du Li; Fiji : Dr Jan Pryor, Dr Zac Morse, Dr Shirley Prasad, Dr Makeleta Koloj; India: Dr Shyama Kuruvilla; Jordan : Dr Mai Saob; Kazakhstan: Dr Bakhyt Sarymsakova; Kuwait : Dr Abdulaziz Khalaf Abdullah Karam; Laos: Prof Bungong Boupfa, Dr Sengchanh Kounnavong; Lebanon : Dr Salim Adib; Malaysia: Dr Maimunah abt Hamid, Dr Nordin Saleh, Dr Azman Abu Bakar, Dr Tahir Aris, Ms Low Lee Lan; Mongolia: Dr Badrakh Burmaa; Oman : Dr Asya Al-Reyami; Philippines: Dr Jaime Montoya, Ms Merlita Opena; Qatar : Dr Naser Ali Asad Al-Ansari; Saudi Arabia : Dr Tawfik A M Khoja, Dr Mohamed S. Hussein, Dr Abdullah M. Al – Bedah; South Africa: Prof Mohammed Jeenah;Tajikistan: Dr Zarina Ishkakova; Trinidad & Tobago: Dr Dan Ramdath, Ms Nicole Hunt, Dr Donald Simeon; Tunisia : Dr Hassen Ghannem, Dr Nouredine Bouzouaia; UK: Dr Steve Hanney; United Arab Emirates : Dr Abdullah Al-Naimi; Uzbekistan: Dr Mohir Ahmedov; Vietnam: Prof Le Vu Anh, Dr Tran Huu Bich, Dr Le Thi Kim Anh; Yemen : Dr Tarek Salah Asaad;

WHO: Dr Alaa Abou Zied, Dr Reijo Salmela, Dr Rebecca de los Rios.



# Sources

- Central Asia study

<http://www.cohred.org/main/publications/workingpapers/COHREDWP2CentralAsia.pdf>

- Middle East study

Eastern Mediterranean Health Journal May 2008

- Framework – NHRS development manual

<http://www.cohred.org/NHRSsupport>

- Health Research Web

[www.cohred.org/HealthResearchWeb](http://www.cohred.org/HealthResearchWeb)

- (Health) research evaluation

<http://www.brunel.ac.uk/about/acad/herg/publications/payback>

- Contact - [kennedy@cohred.org](mailto:kennedy@cohred.org)