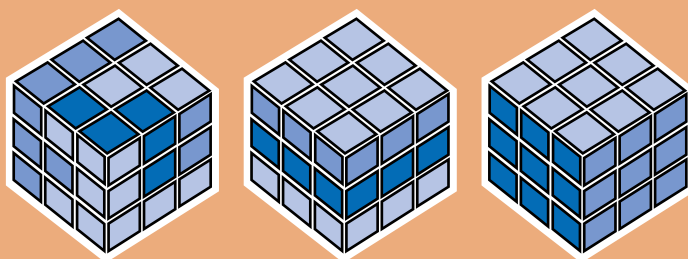


# Health financing country profiles in the Western Pacific Region

1995–2011





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# Contents

FOREWORD.....	V
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT .....	VI
INTRODUCTION .....	1
AUSTRALIA .....	6
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM .....	11
CAMBODIA .....	15
CHINA.....	20
COOK ISLANDS.....	26
FIJI .....	30
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA .....	34
JAPAN .....	38
KIRIBATI.....	43
LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC .....	47
MALAYSIA.....	53
MARSHALL ISLANDS.....	57
MONGOLIA.....	61
NAURU.....	66
NEW ZEALAND.....	70
NIUE.....	74
PALAU.....	78
PAPUA NEW GUINEA.....	82
PHILIPPINES .....	87
REPUBLIC OF KOREA.....	93
SAMOA .....	98
SINGAPORE .....	102
SOLOMON ISLANDS .....	107
TONGA.....	111
TUVALU.....	115
VANUATU.....	119
VIET NAM .....	123



# Foreword

The WHO Western Pacific Region continues to face many challenges in ensuring that millions of people, particularly poor and vulnerable populations, have financial protection against illness to prevent financial hardship from out-of-pocket payments or a decision not to seek health services. The development and improvement of health financing policies and their monitoring and evaluation are important to a country's journey towards universal health coverage, which is defined as all people having access to quality health services that are needed without enduring financial hardship paying for these services.

WHO supports countries as they move closer towards universal health coverage through the development of their health financing systems. The third edition of the *Health Financing Country Profiles for the Western Pacific Region* provides summary descriptions of the health financing systems of 27 countries in the WHO Western Pacific Region. A cross-country comparison and individual country profiles of health expenditure trends from 1995–2011 are analysed in the context of each country's health financing system, current issues and developments in health financing reform.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Shin', is displayed within a light gray rectangular box.

Shin Young-soo, MD, Ph.D.  
Regional Director

# Acknowledgement

The third edition of *Health financing country profiles for the Western Pacific Region* provides an update to the second edition with new health financing developments in the Western Pacific Region and more recently available data on health expenditures. *Health financing country profiles for the Western Pacific Region* is a product of the Health Care Financing unit of the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific, led by Ke Xu, within the Division of Health Sector Development under Division Director Vivian Lin.

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