



The Asia Pacific Blood Network: Connecting Blood Communities

Strategic Plan 2009-2015



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Australian Red Cross Blood Service

Beijing Red Cross Blood Center

Hong Kong Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service

Japanese Red Cross Society Blood Service

Republic of Korea National Red Cross Blood Service

New Zealand Blood Service

Blood Services Group, Health Sciences Authority, Singapore

Taiwan Blood Services Foundation

National Blood Centre – Thai Red Cross Society

APBN VISION

Every patient in our region has access to safe blood and blood products appropriate to their needs, donated by voluntary non-remunerated blood donors, in an environment that safeguards their health and safety.

MISSION

To advance the self-sufficiency of blood systems in our region by capturing and sharing the collective expertise, wisdom and knowledge of our members



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Network Members



Pictured from left to right: Dr Kenji Tadokoro – Japan, Dr Sally Thomas – Executive Secretary, Dr Soisaang Phikulsdod – Thailand, Ms Jennifer Williams – Australia, Dr So-Yong Kwon – South Korea, Ms Fiona Ritsma – New Zealand, Dr Sujen Lin – Taiwan, Dr Che-Kit Lin - Hong Kong (Chair), Dr Diana Teo – Singapore(Vice-Chair) , Dr Liu Jiang – Beijing, Dr Gao Dongying - Beijing

🔥 A Network for our Region

The Asia Pacific Blood Network (APBN) was established in 2006 to promote blood safety and efficiency of blood service operations among members. It encourages a close cooperative approach to advance regional harmonisation and co-operation in blood related matters. It does this with an appreciation that members operate in different domestic contexts.

The APBN provides a forum for members to exchange ideas and insights and compare operational practices. Supporting the principle of Voluntary, Non-Remunerated Blood Donation (VNRBD), the APBN seeks to provide strategic leadership in the Asia Pacific region and to support policy development. The Network provides a regional voice and perspective on blood-related themes.

This Strategic Plan sets out the APBN's strategic aspirations for the next six years through to 2015. It provides a framework with which Network members can collectively identify and consider strategic initiatives and actions to advance the APBN vision and mission. The strategic initiatives and associated action plan presented in Section 2 will be implemented and reviewed over 12-18 month period.

APBN Objectives

The APBN is committed to the promotion of blood safety, donor health and safety, and efficiency of operations through:

- (a) the achievement of high levels of regional cooperation and collaboration;
- (b) adoption of the principle of voluntary non-remunerated blood donation as the basis of a safe and sustainable national blood supply, and assisting other countries in the region to meet this goal;
- (c) facilitation of information sharing to increase knowledge and to improve practices in transfusion medicine and blood safety within the region;
- (d) engagement in regional cooperation and information sharing regarding disaster preparedness and management of blood related issues when disasters occur;
- (e) collaboration with international non-government organisations (e.g. WHO) and other national blood operators to access technologies and processes to improve blood safety and availability;
- (f) the consideration of policy positions on regional issues relating to blood and blood operations; and
- (g) any other matter relating to blood system operations agreed by the Members from time to time.

APBN Memorandum of Understanding, 2009

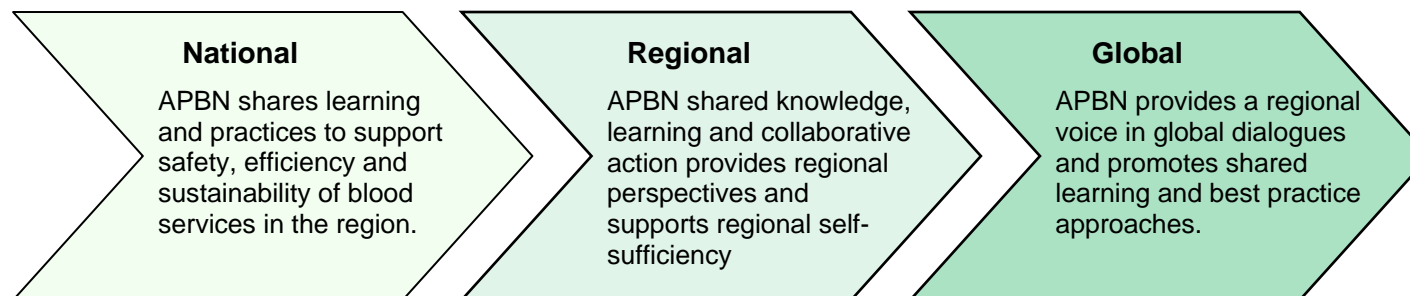
🔥 APBN Vision and Mission

APBN's vision is that every patient in our region has access to safe blood and blood products appropriate to their needs, donated by voluntary non-remunerated blood donors, in an environment that safeguards their health and safety. Our mission is to advance the self-sufficiency of blood systems in the our region by capturing and sharing the collective expertise, wisdom and knowledge of our members.

APBN supports the stewardship of blood supply and use in the Asia-Pacific region. Through sharing our collective and diverse expertise, we provide guidance and support to blood services in our region to progress towards sufficient, safe and affordable blood systems.

APBN recognises that all eight APBN members have comparatively well developed blood systems and acknowledges that each member country has its own unique model for collecting, processing, testing and distributing safe blood. As a network we respect the autonomy of our members to act in accordance with their domestic policies and objectives. We respect the confidentiality of our members as provided for by the APBN Confidentiality Agreement.

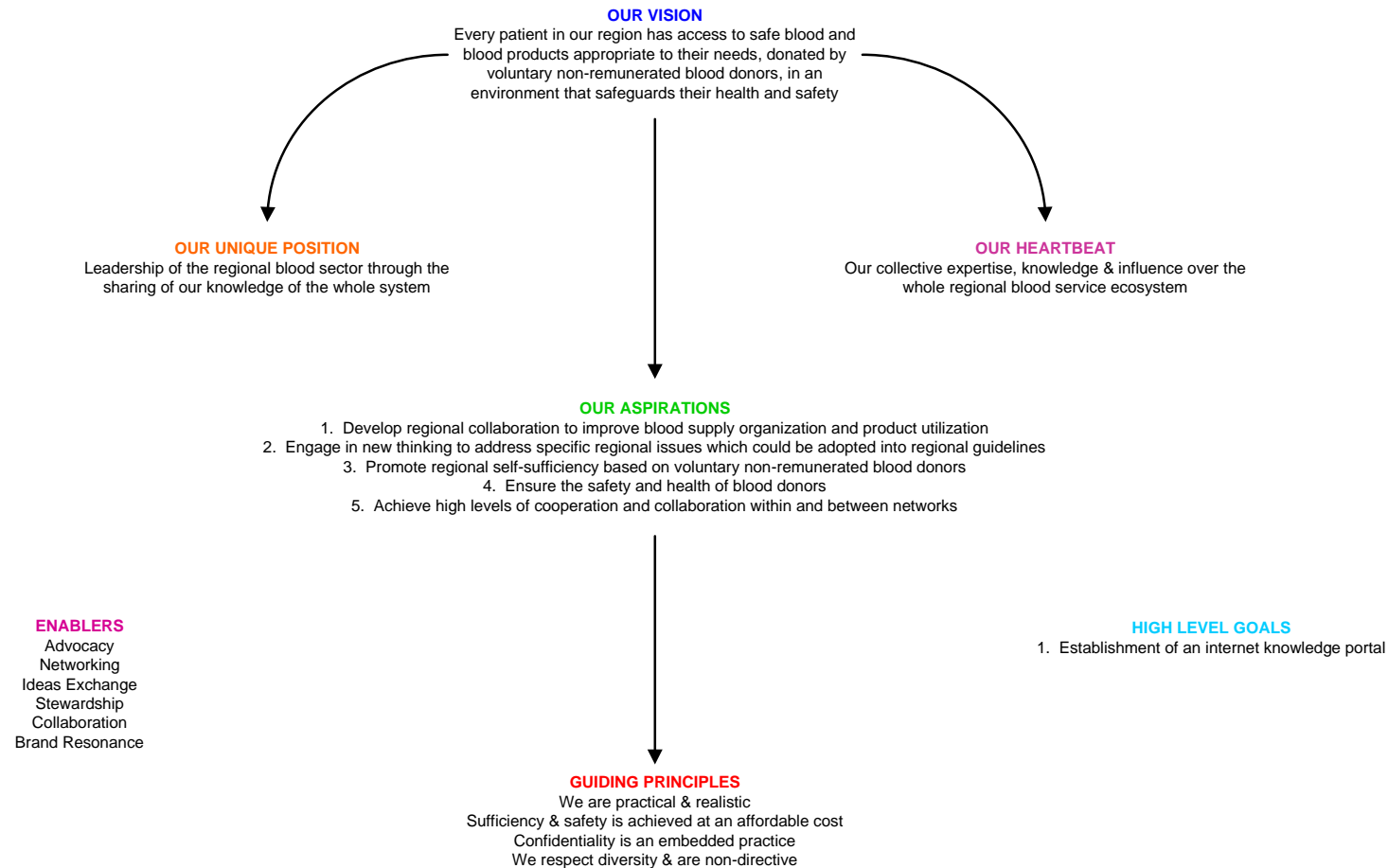
APBN acts collaboratively and practically in developing and sharing knowledge and initiatives that are of benefit to blood services in the region.





APBN Strategic Framework

A framework was created to guide the development of a strategic direction:



Focusing Activities

The APBN seeks to promote, gather and coordinate information flows across our member blood services, the Asia-Pacific region and internationally, in the areas of policy, horizon scanning and comparison of practice.

There is potential to develop specific communities of practice to further develop information, ideas and insights and integrate these into a broader regional context. Regional perspectives presented by APBN would acknowledge the autonomy of individual member countries to act according to their own domestic requirements.

Clarifying regional policy and strategy aspirations through the APBN can allow synergistic action and efficiencies through joint approaches.

The APBN Secretariat, under the guidance of the APBN Chair, is responsible for coordinating APBN activities.

Policy Collaboration

Global policy developments can influence the parameters within which blood services in our region operate. The APBN supports national and regional self-sufficiency based on voluntary non-remunerated blood donation as an important underpinning of sustainable blood systems.

Through the contribution of its members, the APBN can provide clarity in relation to policy developments that may influence and inform blood services and collective approaches. For example, establishing common standards and procedures in response to the outbreak of Dengue fever, or advocating approaches to enhance

disaster preparedness may strengthen our region's overall capability.

There is potential to collaborate with international organisations such as the World Health Organisation and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in progressing initiatives to improve blood safety and availability in the region and contribute to regional self-sufficiency.

The Network can articulate a regional policy voice in international policy discussions where there is collective agreement among members.

Horizon Scanning

The APBN will strengthen its network capacity to anticipate and respond to changes in the blood sector environment. We work collaboratively in exploring emerging themes and interpreting new clinical and operational practices, technologies and policy developments both in our region and globally. This will enhance the agility and resilience of member blood services and inform the Network's strategic decision-making.

Shared learning promotes understanding of the complexities in our blood sector environment and will better equip APBN members to engage in international expert groups, blood service networks and horizon scanning activities.



Comparison of Practice

The sharing of blood service operational data within the Network under the terms of the APBN Confidentiality Agreement identifies leading practice and efficiency initiatives, and in this way, promotes continuous improvement.

The APBN annual Comparison of Practice (CoP) balanced scorecard allows analysis and comparison of data between members and indicates trends and developments over time. Measures reflect indicators of patient safety, donor satisfaction and safety, and organisational efficiency. Regional differences can be significant and the measures have been developed and refined over time to ensure that the collected data is accurate and comparable. The measures and their definitions are continually reviewed to reflect regional and international changes.

Strategic Aspirations

The knowledge generated and shared by the APBN and its members is intended to support improvements to blood services at the national, regional and ultimately, global level. The APBN has identified five principal strategic aspirations over the period 2009-2015.

1. Develop regional collaboration to improve blood supply organization and product utilization

As a network of blood services across the Asia-Pacific region, the APBN seeks to act collaboratively to improve the safety, efficiency and sustainability of blood services in our region through the provision of information and support.

2. Engage in new thinking to address specific regional issues which could be adopted into regional guidelines

Where there are opportunities to develop a coordinated and consistent approach to address regional challenges and issues, the APBN will work collaboratively to design consistent standards and procedures. For example, the APBN could develop a collective approach to responding to outbreaks of Dengue Fever.

3. Promote regional self-sufficiency based on voluntary non-remunerated blood donors

The APBN recognises that voluntary, non-paid donation contributes to the safety and sustainability of blood systems as well as supporting community cohesion and well-being. The APBN seeks to advance progress among its members and other regional blood services towards national and regional self-sufficiency underpinned by voluntary non-remunerated blood donation.

4. Ensure the safety and health of blood donors

The APBN acknowledges the importance of ensuring that blood donation is not detrimental to the health and safety of the donor. The APBN will work collaboratively to strengthen knowledge of and encourage high standards of practice in donor management.

5. Achieve high levels of cooperation and collaboration within and between networks

Through increasing cooperation and collaboration among its members the APBN can more effectively influence progress towards safe and self-sufficient blood systems in the region and globally. This includes enhanced information gathering and sharing, more extensive engagement in international networks, and participation in joint blood service initiatives.

🔥 Linking Blood Communities

APBN members operate within a complex system which is regionally and globally interdependent. We recognise that the advantages of collaboration within our Network can be extended through greater connections and information sharing with other blood networks.

The international Alliance of Blood Operators (ABO), for example, researches priority issues with which its members can effectively engage with policy-makers, regulators, suppliers and the media. The ABO promotes horizontal learning across its membership to identify and promote good practice. Its members and alliances include the Australian Red Cross Blood Service (ARCBS), the American Red Cross (ARC), America's Blood Centers (ABC), Canadian Blood Services (CBS) and the European Blood Alliance (EBA).

The APBN will seek to work in closer partnership with these and other networks within the global blood community with a view to promoting our objectives for safe and sustainable blood systems that generate positive health outcomes.

For further details please contact the APBN Secretariat at APBN@arcbs.redcross.org.au



APBN STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

[This Section will be developed in consultation with APBN members and will be refreshed annually or biannually]

Strategic Initiative	Actions	2009/2010 Priorities	Status
1. Develop regional collaboration to improve blood supply organization and product utilization	• Organize red cell utilization workshop in Nagoya.	✓	Complete
	• Progress outcomes from red cell utilization workshop	✓	
	• Develop regional network of donor recruiters		
	• Improve efficiency & effectiveness by sharing good practices (Comparison of Practice).	✓	Ongoing
2. Engage in new thinking to address specific regional issues which could be adopted into regional guidelines	• Develop pandemic response framework <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Review pandemic preparedness experience- Incorporate new measures- Develop a standard template	✓	
	• Dengue White Paper – to work further for next meeting with the goal to publish on APBN website	✓	
	• Donor deferral rate in the region, identify top five reasons for deferral for discussion at first meeting 2010	✓	



Strategic Initiative	Actions	2009/2010 Priorities	Status
3. Promote regional self-sufficiency based on voluntary non-remunerated blood donors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve self-sufficiency in labile blood and blood components for transfusion • Strive to meet fractionated plasma product needs • Explore the feasibility of exchanging intermediates / plasma products among countries in the region – bilateral discussion among Australia, Japan & Singapore, will be discussed in second meeting 2010 • Develop regional network of donor recruiters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Donor incentive analysis (to be reviewed by DRN) 		
4. Ensure the safety & health of blood donors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote & sustain donor health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exchange on top donor issues (anaemia, faint, haematoma & nerve injury) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exchange on current activities to address donor issues - Select two top areas for regional collaboration, e.g. small size donors, anaemia - Exchange on current donor screening tests for the protection of donor health 	<p style="text-align: center;">✓</p> <p style="text-align: center;">✓</p> <p style="text-align: center;">✓</p>	



Strategic Initiative	Actions	2009/2010 Priorities	Status
5. Achieve high levels of cooperation and collaboration within and between networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review current linkages with other regional blood networks and other international organizations, e.g. WHO & IFRC• Communicate with other networks and other international organizations, e.g. WHO regional office, IFRC, ISBT• Update APBN website to offer newly developed knowledge as agreed by APBN members and options for sub-group access.	✓	