Universal Eye Health in China: Priorities from the Global Action Plan

Peter Ackland
Chief Executive Officer

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- Adopted in May 2013 by the World Health Assembly
- China has been closely involved and a strong supporter of the original resolution at the World Health Assembly
- A Regional Action Plan for the Western Pacific Region was developed in Manila in 2013

- **3 objectives** for countries and partners
- **3 national indicators** for reporting
- **Goal** to reduce avoidable visual impairment as a global health problem and secure access to rehabilitation for the visually impaired
- **Target** of at least a **25% reduction** in avoidable blindness and visual impairment by 2019
Objective 1

Evidence generated and used to advocate for increased political and financial commitment of Member States for eye health
Objective 1: Evidence

- **9-Province Survey** on prevalence of blindness and its causes, with support from many stakeholders including ORBIS and Bayer
- Share and use this data for **planning**
- Identify **gaps in service provision** – including availability, accessibility, cost-effectiveness, quality, sustainability, affordability and equity
- WHO tools
- Share **good practice** – COS, IAPB, Community Eye Health Journal
- China is a prolific contributor to eye health research
Objective 2

National eye health policies, plans and programmes for enhancing universal eye health developed and/or strengthened and implemented in line with WHO’s framework for action for strengthening health systems in order to improve health outcomes
Objective 2: Planning and policies

• National plan an excellent first step
• Subnational plans: provinces will require support and encouragement
• Policies and standards to improve practice and ensure quality
• Improve referral pathways
• Solutions for refractive error
Objective 2: Financing

- China already has a comprehensive **health insurance** system in place
- Explore other ways to limit **out-of-pocket expenditure** for the poor
- Increase resources for services at the primary level to **reach out to communities**, conduct screenings
Objective 2: Human resources for eye health

- Improvements to training and professional development for sub-specialists
- Integration with primary health care
- Distribution of ophthalmologists and eye health workers in rural areas and county hospitals
Objective 2: National Indicators

1. Prevalence of blindness and visual impairment
2. National numbers of ophthalmologists, optometrists and eye care professionals
3. Cataract surgical rate and coverage

- China is already improving systems to improve the collection of cataract data
- Workforce numbers to be assessed as part of surveys in 2015
Objective 3

Multisectoral engagement and effective partnerships for improved eye health strengthened
Objective 3: Partnerships

- Engage other sectors – education in addressing refractive error
- Integrate eye health into poverty reduction strategies and the Sustainable Development Goals
- Private hospitals and non-government organisations are important players too
- Regional and international alliances
Universal Eye Health: Some key points for China

- Planning and broad collaboration – **stronger together**
- Expand high-quality, low cost surgery outside urban centres to **eliminate cataract blindness**
- Refractive error in children
  - Glasses should be **affordable** or **free** for all who need them
- New strategies for **diabetes**
  - Screening and treatment **before** vision declines, and **ongoing care** to prevent vision loss