

**HAA 2013 Annual Scientific Meeting**  
**Travel Grant Awarded by**  
**Australian and New Zealand Society of Blood Transfusion (ANZSBT)**  
**Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre**  
**Broadbeach, QLD, Australia**  
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(Mr Pich Bunthoeun, Dr Erica Wood, Ms Theresa Tatuava)

**Reported by: Pich Bunthoeun**  
**Project Officer & Monitoring/Evaluation Assistant**  
**National Blood Transfusion Centre**  
**Phnom Penh, Cambodia**

The opportunity to apply for the East Asia/ Pacific Islands Travel Award is very important as it gives people from developing countries the opportunity to apply for a travel grant to attend the HSANZ/ANZSBT/Annual Scientific Meeting in Australia. I was fortunate enough to have a successful application.

I had a wonderful time at the conference and enjoyed the opportunity to meet everyone and health professionals. It was a golden opportunity to participate and learn about world best practice and gain understanding of scientific research related to blood transfusion in developed countries. It also provided an excellent opportunity to build networks with scientific persons, researchers and professional speakers; to experience new technology; and discuss blood services in Cambodia with people from the UK, Australia and the USA.

There were three of the topics that I was most interested in during the annual scientific meeting. The first topic was the transfusion safety officer role in patient blood management that was presented by Joe Thomas, USA. The presentation showed that blood management was to design and promote the safe, optimal, effective use of blood products and blood related resources and to establish proactive, evidence based strategies to reduce the risk of transfusion. I have since investigated the hospitals throughout Cambodia to discover that there is no transfusion safety officer responsible to specifically identify, resolve, and monitor organization weakness leading to unsafe transfusion practice. The hospitals lack training related to clinical transfusion.

The second topic I was also interested in was the Haemovigilance and Transfusion Governance session that was presented by Chris Hogan and Linley Beilby. I learnt that it is very important for clinical staff to monitor blood transfusion (from vein to vein) ensuring the chain is traceable. The blood establishment and the hospital blood bank should have a clear documentation and archive of all critical steps. When compared with current blood services in Cambodia, there are no Haemovigilance monitoring systems in place and there is no research for the Haemovigilance.

The third topic which impressed me was about the approaches to transfusion development in the Asia/Pacific region that was presented by Neil Waters, Australian Red Cross. I had good understanding and learnt that blood projects in the Pacific Islands face similar issues to Cambodia.

The whole experience was incredible, and the conference provided a good opportunity to all participants to read the poster abstracts and asked questions of each poster holder and to listen to the poster presenter during the touring in the exhibition room. I was interested on the topic of poster about a survey of donors' recent travels was presented by Richard Charlewood and took the opportunity to ask about the methodologies and target for his survey because it was relevant to Cambodia context where tourists are encouraged to donate blood while travelling.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to the ANZSBT for providing this opportunity to attend the conference. I was very impressed to have Erica Wood, president of ANZSBT introduce all participants from the South East Asia/Pacific Islands Travel Grant in the exhibition room. I was surprised by the introduction and was grateful to be welcomed by Dr

Erica Wood. I was invited to attend the special Gala Dinner with Casino Royale Theme and I gained a good understanding about Australian culture, everybody came dressed in black and white 1920's casino chic attire.

Another success of the conference event for me was to catch up with other international speakers and the Senior Transfusion Safety Nurse Consultant from the United States of America. He wanted to support my work place and wanted to continue to support my efforts and said if there was ever an opportunity for him to visit and speak with the clinical team (nurses and doctors) he would be honored. I gained new friends from the Pacific Islands and have a good understanding of their blood services and issues from each country in the Pacific region.

On my returning to Cambodia, I have shared my knowledge with National Blood Transfusion Centre (NBTC) staff by providing information, posters and leaflets related to the conference presentations and the study findings through the training and workshop. I have also shared with my colleagues information related to scientific research in Australian and other countries because these researches were important for blood service. Unfortunately all the research and surveys are not happening in Cambodia.

Through my professional observation and experience of the meeting, I would like to recommend my colleagues and director of NBTC to attend this conference in the future. This conference was linkage to research and study related to blood service around the world. Developing countries should be involved with these research and study to turn theory into practice. They should focus on Immunohaematology, Haemovigilance and adverse event studies. This is important for their work because they need to understand about methodologies of research and how to apply to their own work contexts.

I would like to express my deep gratitude again to the council for awarding my travel grant to attend the HSANZ/ANZSBT/ASTH Annual Scientific Meeting on the Gold Coast, Australia, from 20-23 October 2014.