

Gearing up for Better Decisions:

Launching the *Guide to Economic Analysis and Research (GEAR) Online Resource*



Economic evaluations are increasingly becoming of interest to low- and middle-income (LMIC) governments, especially those keen to make efficient health care systems. However, economic evaluations can be useful for policy decisions only when they are conducted accurately and reported properly. Because economic evaluation is a relatively new discipline in LMICs compared to high-income countries (HICs), it's important to learn the methodological problems in conducting economic evaluations in LMICs and to address these issues accordingly.

In 2017, the International Decision Support Initiative (iDSI) through the support of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and the Department for International Development (DFID), UK, and the Thailand Research Fund (TRF) will launch the Guide to Economic Analysis and Research (GEAR) Online Resource, which will compile and resolve gaps due to issues in the conduct and the use of economic evaluations. The database is designed as a global public good dedicated towards helping low- and middle- income countries (LMICs) academics, researchers and economic evaluation practitioners worldwide conduct high quality, policy relevant healthcare research. The database will not only explore the issues in the conduct and the use of these evidences, potential solutions to the issues and future research questions to address these issues but also will it provide various alternatives to solve specific methodological difficulties researchers may encounter in the conduct of their studies.

The database will be launched on March 8, 2016, in Johannesburg, South Africa, with this schedule:

Time	Activity	Presenter	Notes
14:00 – 14:15	Opening remarks	Prof. Anthony Culyer	
14:15 – 14:35	What is the GEAR online resource?	Dr. Yot Teerawattananon	Officially launch the GEAR online resource
14:35 – 14:55	GEAR website workshop	Ms. Alia Luz	Online form
14:55 – 15:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to features		
15:30 – 15:40	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Individual and/or Group Exercise• Feedback session		
15:40 – 16:10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion on exercises and GEAR online resource	Dr. Yot Teerawattnanon to moderate	
16:10 – 16:20	Closing remarks	Dr. Suwit Wibulpolprasert	

This launch aims to introduce the GEAR resource as well as gather feedback on its usability, content, features, and future development.