World Patient Safety Day 2019 in the South-East Asia Region

World Health Organization
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR South-East Asia

World Patient Safety Day 17 September 2019

This report is compiled by Sara Rotenberg, Intern, HSD Department, SEARO. It includes selected activities reported through the Global Patient Safety Network and WHO Country Offices, but may not represent all the activities held in countries in the Region to mark World Patient Safety Day 2019.

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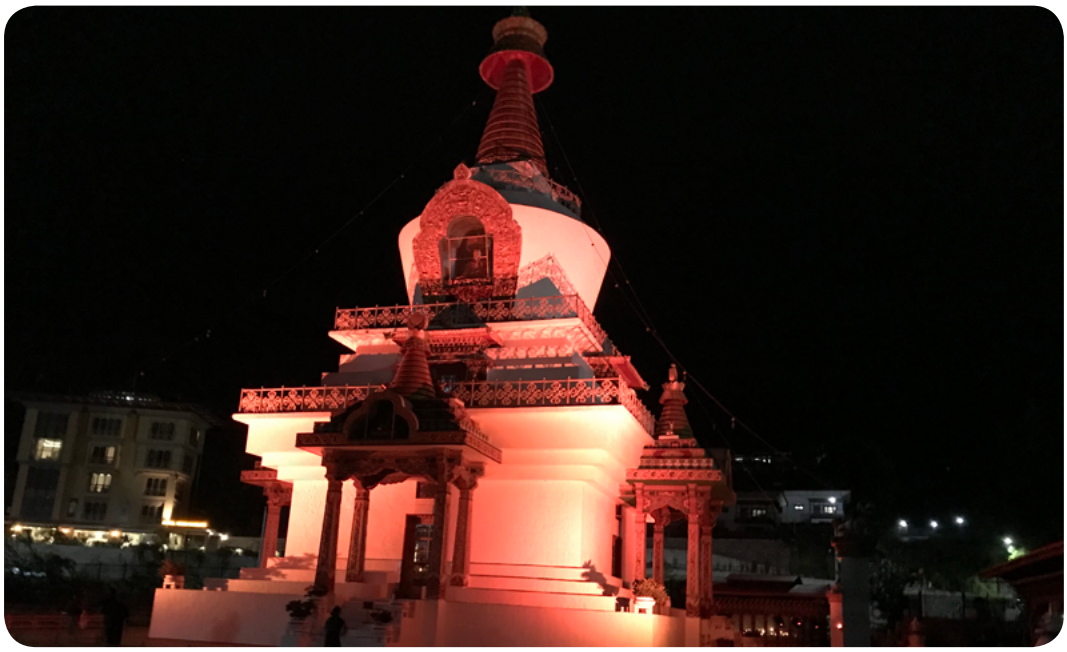
Summary

- Member States across the South-East Asia Region observed the first-ever World Patient Safety Day on 17 September 2019.
- Patients, health care providers and managers, policy-makers and leaders, academics, and other stakeholders participated in creative and informative events to discuss why and how to increase patient safety.
- This year's slogan, "Speak up for patient safety!", resonated at multiple events held across the Region.
- The Regional Director emphasized the importance of patient safety in her message, highlighting the burden of adverse events resulting from unsafe health care, especially in low- and middle-income countries, and strategic priorities for improving patient safety outcomes.
- The global World Patient Safety Day interactive map reflected almost fifty events in the South-East Asia Region.

Activities

Lighting of monuments in orange – a signature mark of the campaign

From the Rajiv Gandhi Sea Link Bridge in Mumbai, India to the National Memorial Chorten and Buddha point in Thimphu, Bhutan and several central roundabouts in Dili, Timor-Leste, the Southeast Asia Region shone orange in support of the Day. Several ministries, hospitals and educational institutions were also lit up in orange (Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka).



National Memorial Chorten in Bhutan (Rinzi Om/WHO Bhutan)

Public events

Several Ministries of Health hosted public events, workshops, and conferences to bring stakeholders together in honour of the day (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand). Timor-Leste's Ministry of Health commemorated World Patient Safety Day with a "Walk the Talk" event.

World Patient Safety Day-themed Rangoli at Hamdard Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi

Exhibitions and cultural activities

Banners, exhibitions, balloons and *rangoli* were featured in public areas (Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka). Karapitiya Teaching Hospital in Sri Lanka performed a "Hand Hygiene Dance" at the national celebrations in Colombo. In Timor-Leste, "Walk the Talk" participants received orange patient safety-themed t-shirts to raise awareness of patient safety.

Engagement of policy-makers

Several high-ranking government officials—including Prime Ministers and Ministers of Health—delivered speeches to mark the occasion (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Myanmar, Thailand). Maldives also used the occasion to launch its National Patient Safety Framework and Implementation Plan.

Events to build the capacity of health professionals

Sri Lanka's Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine organized district, regional, and state-level patient safety quiz competitions over the past several months and hosted the national-level final round at their national World Patient Safety Day event in Colombo. The Ministry of Health and Population of Nepal hosted quiz sessions for patients and healthcare providers. In India, many hospital staff took patient safety pledges and engaged in role plays on the WHO Patient Safety Goals.

Winners of Sri Lanka's Patient Safety Quiz competition, the team from Southern Province

Other educational activities

Many health care facilities and educational institutions hosted round-table meetings, conferences, essay competitions, and poster sessions on patient safety (Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand). Some conferences engaged with current students to increase awareness and action among the next generation of healthcare leaders (India, Sri Lanka). The WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia hosted a seminar focused on patient safety and reducing avoidable medication harm.

Patient engagement

Many hospitals and healthcare facilities hosted events to highlight patient safety among patients as well as health care providers, managers and other staff (Nepal, India). Participants in conferences organized to mark the day included patients and their families (India). Patient representatives were among the panelists in discussions on the topic "No one should be harmed while receiving health care" (Myanmar).

Recognition of patient safety champions

Hospitals joined with patient safety advocacy groups and quality institutes to recognize patient safety champions through certificates and awards (India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka).

Social media

Countries amplified key patient safety messages through social media campaigns, video and radio messages, and photo campaigns (Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste).

Annex: Overview of activities to mark World Patient Safety Day 2019 across the South-East Asia Region

	BAN	BHU	DPRK	IND	INO	MAV	MYA	NEP	SRL	THA	TLS
Lighting of monuments in orange	x	x		x		x	x		x		x
Public events	x	x		x			x	x	x	x	x
Exhibitions and cultural activities	x			x					x		
Engagement of policy makers	x	x				x	x		x	x	
Capacity building of health professionals		x		x			x	x	x		
Other educational activities	x			x		x			x	x	
Patient engagement				x			x	x	x		
Recognition of patient safety champions				x			x		x		
Social media campaign		x		x				x	x		x

Bangladesh

Lighting of monuments in orange

The new building for the Directorate General of Health Services and some hospitals were lit up in orange.

World Patient Safety Day Activities in Bangladesh. (Photo: WHO Bangladesh website)

Public events

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and WHO Bangladesh organized an event in Dhaka calling for solidarity among stakeholders on patient safety in Bangladesh. Professional associations of clinical disciplines, academicians, health policy-makers, and managers of public and private health facilities attended the event.

Exhibitions and cultural activities

Various materials, such as pop-up stand banners, sky banners, posters, photo booth and souvenirs (caps and T-shirts), were used to communicate key messages and facts on patient safety.

Events to build the capacity of health professionals

A roundtable meeting titled Patient Safety Pharmacovigilance was held at the BRAC Center in Dhaka with the assistance of Rosha Bangladesh. Participants from the Directorate of Health, the Pharmaceutical Industry Association, the Pharmacy Faculty of Dhaka University, development associations, hospitals, pharmaceutical company representatives and media representatives attended.

Bhutan

Lighting of monuments in orange

The National Memorial Chorten and Buddha Point in Thimphu were lit up orange to mark World Patient Safety Day.

Public events

The Faculty of Nursing and Public Health hosted the main event for the day. Patients, students and officials Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences and WHO country office staff attended.

Engagement of policy-makers

A national symposium on patient safety issues in Bhutan was held from 10-11 September 2019. The Honourable Prime Minister, the Honourable Health Minister, the Health Secretary, the WHO Representative, heads of various departments of the Ministry of Health and allied health organization officials participated. Since the day coincided with the 5th Biennial Health Conference, the Ministry of Health also reported on the symposium's key recommendations for patient safety at this conference.

Events to build the capacity of health professionals

Eight heath facilities organized poster presentations, mass cleaning activities for staff, presentations on various patient safety issues, research reports, and sharing sessions. Several health facilities displayed infographics and demonstrations on patient safety topics such as hand hygiene and waste segregation to build the capacity of health professionals.

Marking World Patient Safety Day through a social media campaign. (Photo: Rinzi Om, WHO Bhutan)

Social media

World Patient Safety Day-themed photo booths were set up at various monuments, hospitals and events across the country. Photos receiving the most likes and shares were recognized for their commitment to prioritizing patient safety.

India

Lighting of monuments in orange

The Rajiv Gandhi Sea Link Bridge in Mumbai, and various hospitals, statues, educational institutions and government buildings across the country were lit up in orange.

Public events

Awareness sessions; workshops; campaigns and roadshows; poster and quiz sessions; and role plays and skits on the theme, "Speak up for patient safety!" were hosted across the country.

Exhibitions and cultural activities

Posters and interactive stations were placed in several hospital and educational institutions to raise awareness on patient safety. Some institutions also had an orange dress day, themed cakes and Rangoli.

Events to build the capacity of health professionals

Hospitals across the country strengthened the capacity of the next generation of health professionals by partnering with medical colleges to host interactive sessions and workshops. Health facility staff across the country took pledges on patient safety.

Students celebrating World Patient Safety Day in New Delhi. (Photo: Indian Alliance of Patient Groups)

Other educational activities

Handwashing campaigns, sessions on best practices, poster sessions and structured audits were conducted across India.

Patient engagement

Patients were invited to participate in panel discussions, sharing sessions, and workshops focused on various patient safety issues.

Recognition of patient safety champions

The Quality and Accreditation Institute awarded 18 healthcare professionals with 'Patient Safety Champion' certificates to encourage awareness and cultivate a culture of patient safety.

Social media

The country marked the occasion with various social media campaigns, including a series of talks on patient safety posted on YouTube by the Consortium of Accredited Healthcare Organizations (CAHO). News segments, articles and opinion pieces were broadcasted.

Maldives

Lighting of monuments in orange

Health facilities, private sector buildings, and jetties were lit up in orange to commemorate World Patient Safety Day.

Public events

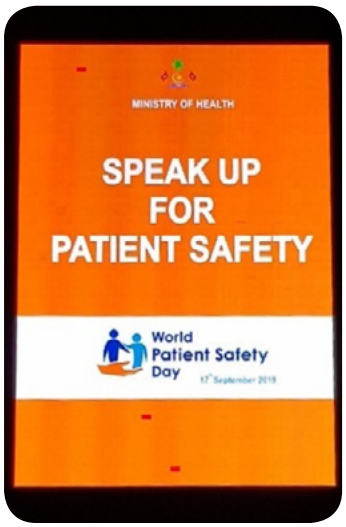
Maldives hosted a national workshop on patient safety for patient safety focal points from public and private health facilities across the country. A panel discussion engaged participants on the importance of patient safety.

Engagement of policy-makers

Maldives used the occasion to launch its National Patient Safety Framework and Implementation Plan.

Other educational activities

Billboards across the country featured posters and GIFs produced by the Ministry of Health. These messages raised awareness of patient safety and this year's theme, "Speak up for patient safety!"



Posters produced by the Ministry of Health were seen around the country. (Photo: Ministry of Health Maldives)

Myanmar

Lighting of monuments in orange

The University of Nursing, Yangon was lit up in orange to mark the occasion.

Public events

A panel discussion and day-long program on patient safety was held to commemorate the day. The Myanmar Union Minister for Health and Sports and the WHO Representative inspired stakeholders, including patient representatives, to "Speak up for patient safety" in their addresses at an event organized in Nay Pyi Taw.

Engagement of policy-makers

The Union Minister for Health and Sports, the United Kingdom Ambassador to Myanmar and the WHO Representative attended the day-long celebration.

Health professionals at the celebration of World Patient Safety Day in Nay Pyi Taw.
(Photo: Ministry of Health and Sports)

Events to build the capacity of health professionals

Health Departments in districts and states across the country held continuing educational talks for health care providers.

Patient engagement

A panel discussion brought together patients, celebrities, WHO staff, academics, health care providers, and Ministry of Health officials to discuss the theme: "No one should be harmed while receiving health care".

Recognition of patient safety champions

Four hospitals were recognized as "Patient Safety Champions" at the World Patient Safety Day event for their outstanding performance.

Nepal

Public events

The opening event for World Patient Safety Day at the Trauma Center in Kathmandu engaged hospital officials, health managers, policy-makers, public health experts and private partners on patient safety awareness and priorities.

Participants at the World Patient Safety Day celebration at the Trauma Center, Kathmandu, Nepal
(Photo: Nepal WHO Country Office)

Events to build the capacity of health professionals

The Central Public Hospital in Kathmandu hosted quiz sessions for health service providers. Several health professionals also joined the World Patient Safety Day-themed photo booth.

Patient engagement

In Kathmandu, patients, families, and health care providers participated in a patient safety quiz session at the Central Public Hospital. Informative patient safety posters and pamphlets provided patients with information on patient safety.

Social media

Messages on how to speak up for patient safety were broadcasted throughout Nepal on Radio Nepal National Broadcasting. Flyers on patient safety were distributed to raise awareness on the topic.

Sri Lanka

Lighting of monuments in orange

The premises of the Medical Research Institute were lit up orange for World Patient Safety Day.

Exhibitions and cultural activities

Staff from the Teaching Hospital in Karapitiya performed a colourful dance on hand hygiene during the national event.

Staff from the Teaching Hospital Karanitiya preforming the Hand Hygiene Dance.
(Photo: Dr. Sudath K. Dharmaratne)

Engagement of policy-makers

Key healthcare leaders from the public and private sectors, the Honourable Minister of Health and the WHO Country Representative participated in a national event to increase awareness of patient safety. The Director-General of Health Services shared his message through a video clip. The Ministry of Health used the opportunity to launch the Medication Safety National Action Plan.

Events to build the capacity of health professionals

In the weeks preceding World Patient Safety Day, Sri Lanka hosted district and provincial level patient safety-themed quiz competitions for health workers. The national finals were held at a half-day session during the national event in Colombo, with the team from Southern Province winning the championship

Other educational activities

The top five patient safety initiatives in hospitals were shared at the national event to encourage best practices among health care professionals. Many hospitals organized training programmes, poster presentations and other activities to raise awareness and capacity amongst staff.

Thailand

Public events

Over 800 people attended a two-day workshop on Patient and Personnel Safety in Thailand. All aspects of patient and personnel safety were promoted, including information on patient and personnel safety strategies, best practices and the national policies, goals and reporting and learning system.

Participants at the Patient and Personnel Safety Workshop in Thailand.
(Photo: Thai Healthcare Accreditation Institute)

Engagement of policy-makers

The day coincided with the 3rd Thailand Patient and Personnel Day, which engaged several key policymakers and health workers. The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Health were keynote speakers and called for Thailand to speak up for patient and personnel safety.

Timor-Leste

Lighting of monuments in orange

The statutes of St. John Paul II and Nicolau Dos Reis Lobato were lit up in orange to mark World Patient Safety Day.

Monuments lit up in orange in Dili, Timor-Leste. (Photo: Shobhan Singh/WHO)

Public events

The Ministry of Health and WHO organized a "Walk the Talk" event where World Patient Safety Day-themed t-shirts were distributed. Many organizations and individuals joined the walk, including the Hospital Nacional Guido Valadares (HNGV).

Exhibitions and cultural activities

Patient safety banners were displayed across the country, including at the WHO Country Office, the Ministry of Health, the Hospital Nacional Guido Valadares and some health facilities.

Social media

A social media campaign was conducted throughout the week, showcasing technical information, videos and pictorial messages.