

Why we need a network for doctors?

Doctors informing drug policy:
a development perspective



James Blogg

Chris Ford

Members of International Doctors
for Healthy Drug Policies

Formation & aims

- ▶ End of IHRA 2009 - a dozen Drs met
- ▶ HR network for Drs to:
 - ▶ Share ideas about good practice & changing views of HR
 - ▶ Inform policy makers/influence policy
 - ▶ Explain HR as part of the medical model
 - ▶ Act as a bridge between practice and policy makers
- ▶ A place where Drs in HR can have technical discussions



Subsequent developments

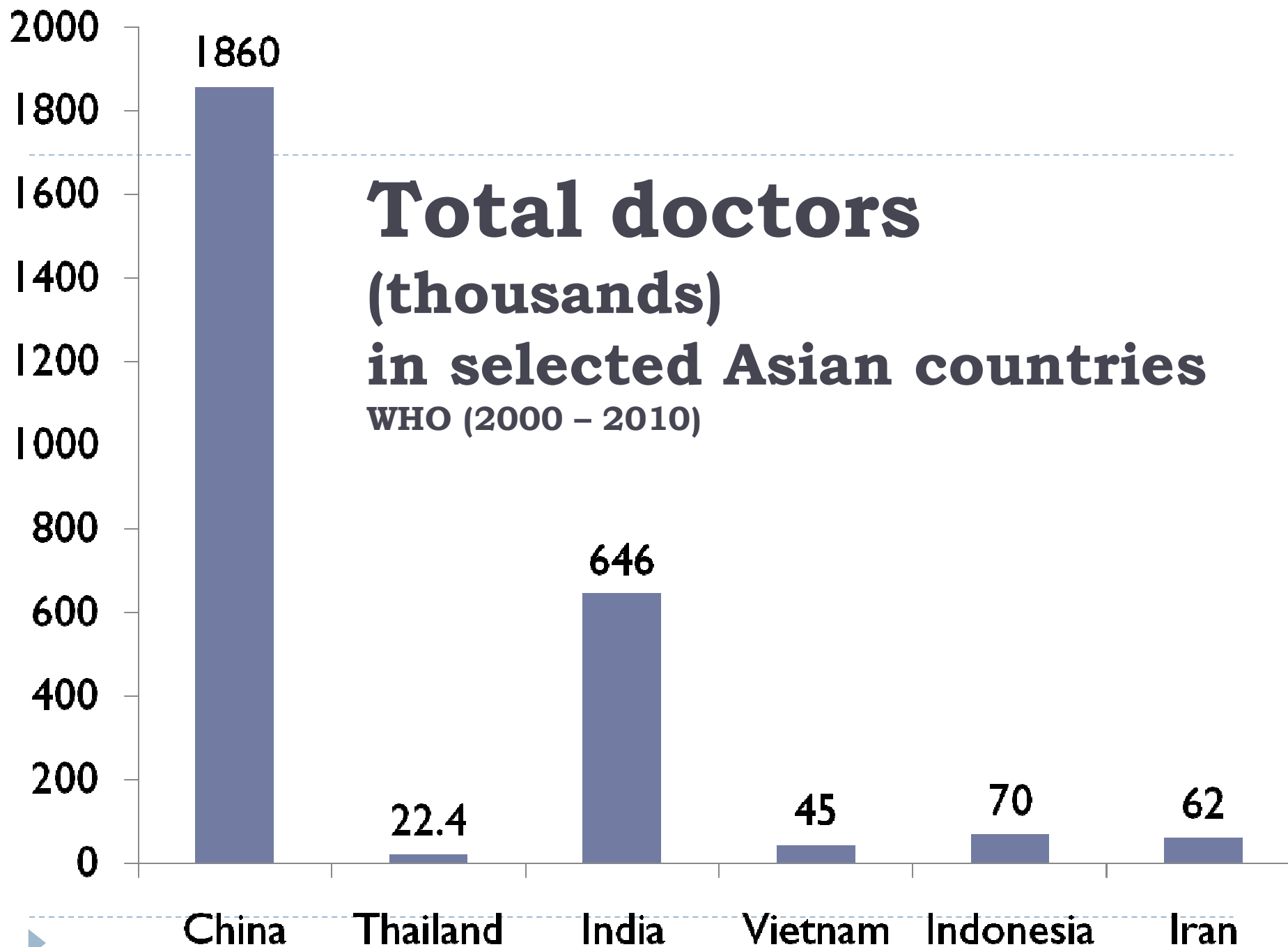
- ▶ Renamed as International Doctors for Health Drug Policy (IDHDP)
- ▶ Quickly expanded to 50 Drs in a few months through word of mouth
 - ▶ Most already active in internet discussions
 - ▶ Only a few are from developing context (8)

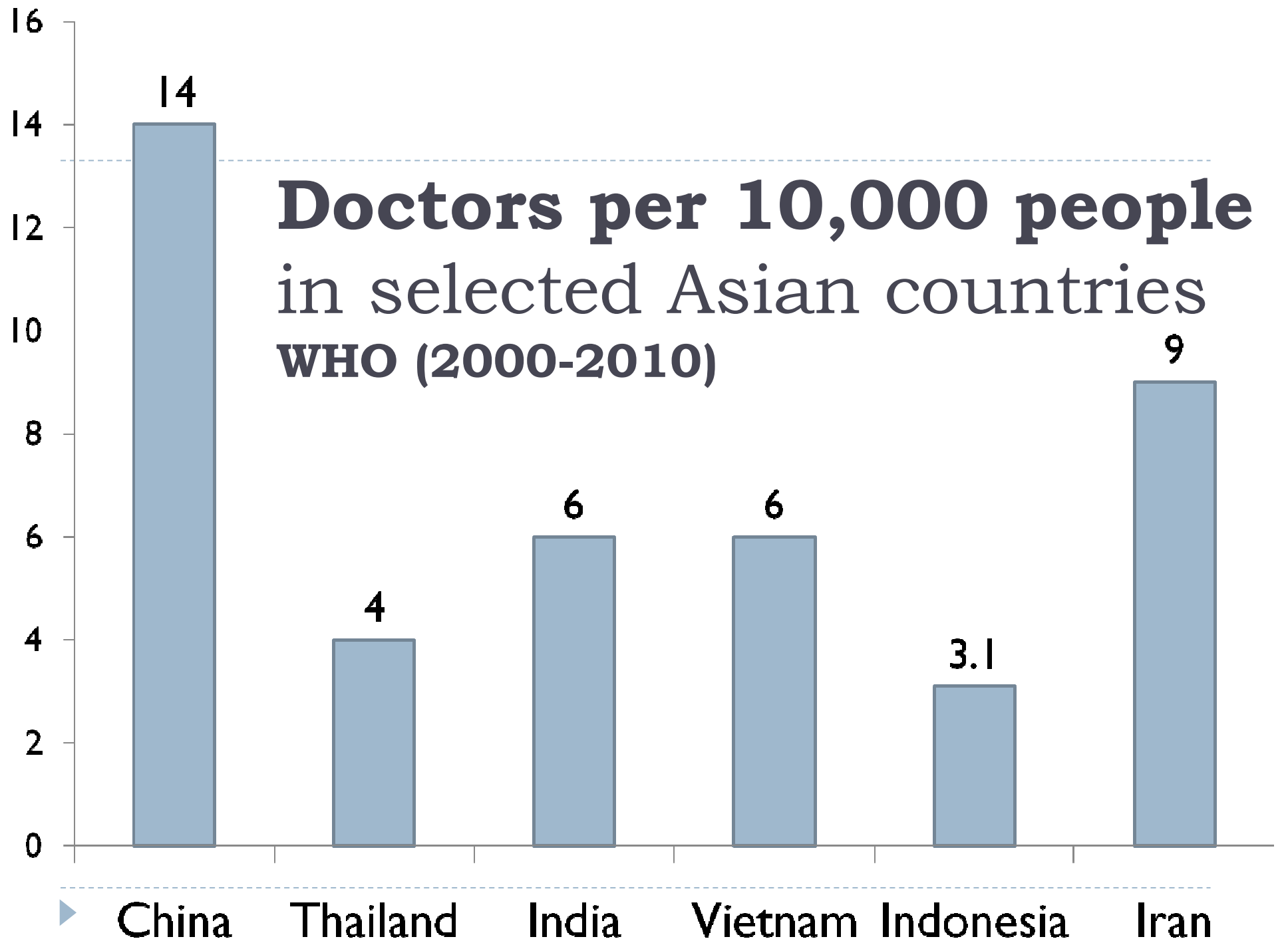


2010: Developments & plans

- ▶ Funding from OSI commenced in Jan'10
 - ▶ Supported by/based on SMMGP (1995)
 - ▶ 1600 members
 - ▶ Can add international area to its website
 - ▶ Advertise to Drs on IHRA website
 - ▶ Share educational resources
 - ▶ Build international network esp. in developing world
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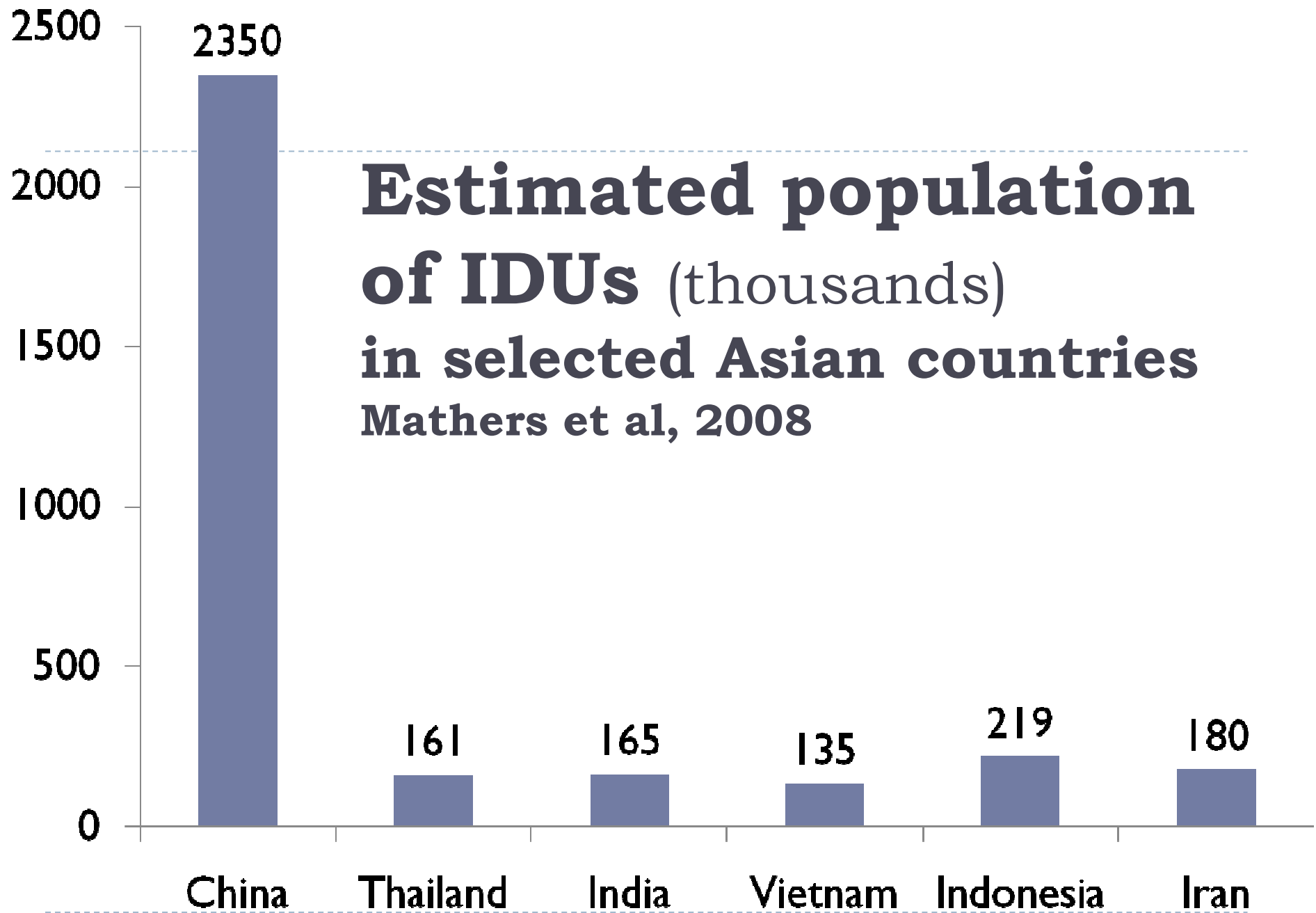




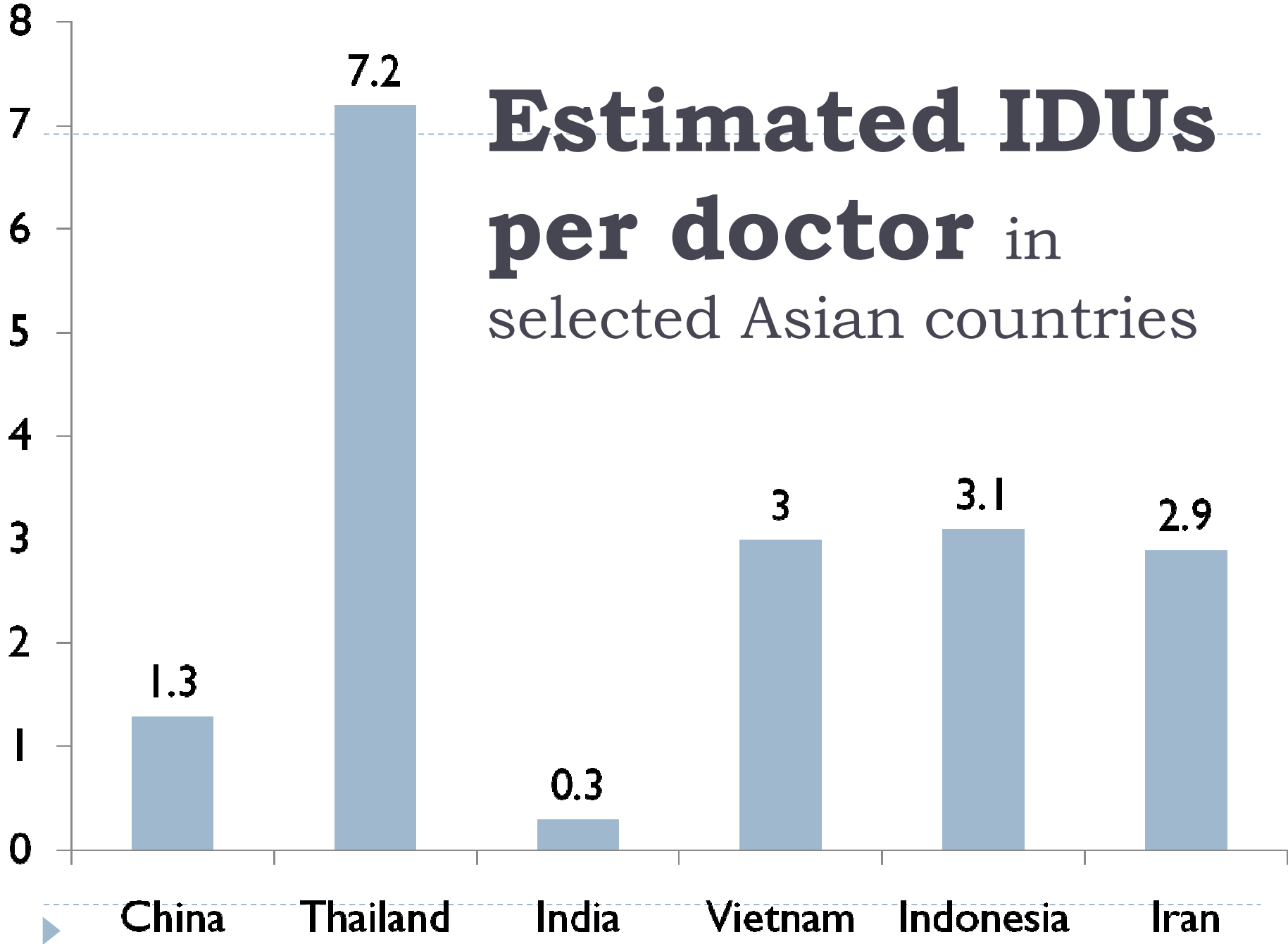
Asian demographics

- ▶ From 1960 – 2000
 - Population of adolescents and young adults doubled in almost every Asian country
- ▶ Urgent need to mobilise and train more Drs to work with IDUs





Estimated IDUs per doctor in selected Asian countries



Implementing HR programs isn't enough

Great potential for implementing HR activities but huge challenges remain:

- Clinician training/supervision
- Policy development
- Legal reform





- IDHDP aims to:
- enable medical doctors to share experience, expertise and good practice in reducing drug related harm in the health, social, and economic domains, foster dialogue, and provide evidence of the effectiveness of Harm Reduction (HR) to policy makers



Objectives for IDHDP

- ▶ Network to influence senior managers and decision makers:
 - ▶ Adopt effective approaches
 - ▶ Broaden vision for IDU services
- ▶ Need parallel networks – regional languages
- ▶ Support with experienced HR professionals



Phase 1

- ▶ Develop membership list
- ▶ Establish functional system to communicate with list
- ▶ Research needs of doctors supportive of HR
- ▶ Include those from developing countries & under-represented countries (required by OSI)
- ▶ Build database of contacts including policy makers and doctors working in HR
- ▶ Establish list server and migrate members from email



Phase 2

- ▶ **External communication/marketing**
- ▶ **Develop regional groups**
- ▶ **Target educational institutions, universities**





IDHDP

INTERNATIONAL DOCTORS
FOR HEALTHY DRUG POLICIES

Summary

- ▶ A network to support doctors worldwide in improving their practice, influencing their peers
- ▶ To act as a bridge between practice and drug policy
- ▶ ***Both with the aim of improving care for people who use drugs***

