At the War on Cancer conference, The Economist Events asked members of the audience their views on emerging challenges to cancer care, and sought to determine how best to create cost-effective, actionable solutions for cancer-care systems in developing Asia. Here are the key findings:

Nearly half of the audience feel that achieving affordable, quality cancer care in Asia is a pipe dream.

Among the many challenges that the region’s low- and low-to-middle income countries face, the cost of treatment and poor infrastructure are the biggest obstacles to accessing cancer care.

One-third of the audience feels that governments must prioritise awareness and prevention strategies, such as vaccination programmes, sin taxes and public-service announcements, to help manage their cancer burdens. Almost equally important is making headway in screening and early diagnosis drives.

Awareness and prevention strategies 33%
Screening and early diagnosis 29%
Infrastructure (including hospitals, oncologists, etc.) 17%
Access to surgery and radiotherapy 8%
Access to drug-based treatments 6%
Building robust cancer registries 3%
Investing in and using innovative technology 3%
Palliative care 1%

While technological innovation may be the driving force behind fundamental changes to many industries, in the fight against cancer 65% of audience members believe sound policymaking must come first.

Nearly 2 out of 3 audience members feel that a global fund for cancer care could work in Asia, but it would need to be managed carefully and take Asian interests and nuances into account.

（Question: Is achieving affordable, quality care for cancer patients in Asia a pipe dream?）

（Question: What’s the biggest obstacle to accessing cancer treatment?）

（Question: Would a global fund for cancer control be effective in tackling cancer in Asia?）

（Question: Is technology the key to improving affordability and scalability of screening for cancer?）

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