

MEDIA ADVISORY

Health Equity Amidst Polycrises: Climate-Smart Healthcare in Asia-Pacific

Evidence-based, practical solutions for addressing the challenges of climate change on public health in the Asia-Pacific region

Tuesday 23 January 2024, 14:00 – 16.00 HRS. (BKK) Lotus Suite 7 meeting room at Centara Grand & Bangkok Convention Centre at CentralWorld

Map: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/rPB1ywFTZvx8MXEs9>

Note: This is the side meeting of Prince Mahidol Award Conference (PMAC) 2024
<https://pmac2024.com/activity/33/sidemeetingOnsite/detail>

FHI 360 with partners the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Health Care Without Harm Southeast Asia, St. Luke's Medical Center College of Medicine, Health Systems Global, and UNFPA Thailand, convened a side event on Health Equity Amidst Polycrises: Climate-Smart Healthcare in Asia-Pacific at the Prince Mahidol Award Conference (PMAC) 2024 in Bangkok, Thailand on 23 January 2024. During the event, participants comprising policymakers, healthcare professionals, researchers, and representatives from civil society, international organizations and the private sector explored evidence-based, practical solutions for addressing the challenges of climate change on public health, with a particular focus on the unique geopolitical dynamics, historical inequities and diverse health system capacities within the Asia-Pacific region.

What:

The side meeting: Health Equity Amidst Polycrises: Climate-Smart Healthcare in Asia-Pacific ([link](#)) will be interactive and will be a combination of a panel discussion and a world cafe workshop. Following is the proposed agenda for the session:

Welcome and introductions (5 minutes)

Keynote address (10 minutes): TBC

Moderator: Introduction to panel discussion and panelists (5 mins)

Panel discussion (45 minutes) ([link](#))

Prince Mahidol Award Conference (PMAC) 2024:
 Geopolitics, Human Security and Health Equity in
 an Era of Polycrises

Health Equity Amidst Polycrises: Climate-Smart Healthcare in Asia-Pacific

📅 January 23, 2024
 🕒 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
 📍 Centara Grand & Bangkok Convention Centre
 at CentralWorld (Room - Lotus Suite 7)

The side event focuses on finding practical solutions for implementing climate-smart healthcare in the Asia-Pacific region. It considers the region's unique geopolitical dynamics, historical inequities, and varying health system capacities in the face of escalating climate challenges.

List of Speakers

Panelists

	Thu-Ba Huynh, PhD, MSc Senior Advisor, Environment and Climate Change, FHI 360		Ramon San Pascual, MPH Executive Director, Health Care Without Harm SE Asia
	Siriluck Chiengwong Head of Office, UNFPA Thailand		Dr. Eduardo P. Banzon Principal Health Specialist, Human and Social Development Sector Office, Sectors Group, Asian Development Bank
	Renzo R. Guinto, MD DrPH Director, Planetary and Global Health Program, St. Luke's Medical Center College of Medicine, Philippines	Moderator	
		Nujpanit (Jom) Narkpitaks Director, Environment and Climate Change, Asia-Pacific, FHI 360	

For more information about the side event

Please scan the QR code



Scan me!



Moderator: Conclude the discussion and explain about World Café. Participants divide into 3 groups (5 minutes)

World Cafe (30 minutes)

Participants will be divided into 3 groups and each group will spend 30 minutes discussing and responding to an assigned question.

3 groups report back (5 minutes each) (15 minutes)

Closing (10 minutes) Tessie San Martin, CEO, FHI 360

When:

Tuesday 23 January 2024, 14:00 – 16.000 hrs. (BKK)

Where:

Centara Grand & Bangkok Convention Centre At Centralworld (Lotus Suite 7)

Map: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/rPB1ywFTZvx8MXEs9>

Note: To access the side meeting, please contact the focal points below.

Background information:

Climate change stands as an urgent and far-reaching global challenge that significantly impacts public health. Particularly in the Asia-Pacific region, its impact on the health sector is profound, bearing heavily on the well-being of vulnerable and marginalized communities. This nexus of climate and health is tightly interwoven with geopolitical factors that significantly shape the disproportionate impacts and responses felt by communities in the region.

Historically marginalized and exploited communities in the Asia-Pacific, often a consequence of colonialism or imperialism, disproportionately face health risks. Addressing these disparities necessitates a response that considers these historical contexts and deep-seated power inequalities embedded within geopolitical structures. Access to healthcare during climate-induced crises is also deeply entangled with geopolitical dynamics. Contested territories, conflict zones, or isolated regions face immense challenges in increasing quality healthcare, exacerbating existing health inequities. Moreover, the concept of health equity encompasses ensuring the participation of all communities, particularly those most vulnerable, in decision-making processes. However, geopolitical dynamics at times suppress these voices hindering the development and implementation of comprehensive and inclusive policies.

Climate-smart healthcare is an approach that aims to reduce the sector's impact on the environment and to build resilience to the health impacts of climate change. Several frameworks have been developed to guide the implementation of climate-smart healthcare; however, many of these rarely acknowledge the geopolitical dynamics that exacerbates prevailing inequities, that half of the world does not have access to essential health services, and that over 100 million people are pushed into poverty annually because of health expenses. Further, a large number of health facilities are not connected to reliable energy and water sources and are in a perpetual state of stress. When a climate shock strikes, it is not a question of whether fragile health facilities are emitting less greenhouse gases or if they will bounce back or transform, but whether they will continue delivering services during the crisis or ever fully recover.

The detrimental consequences of climate change and the unique context in the region underscore the critical need for the development of climate-smart solutions that integrate these geopolitical intricacies, fostering genuine health equity and resilience in the communities.

For queries about the event, and/or to arrange media interviews, please contact:

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FHI 360: Khem Suksathit, Senior Program Officer, Environment and Climate Change Initiative (ECC), khem@fhi360.org, 088-491-6361