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**International Trade and Health [ITH] Conference 2019**

**“ASEAN trade and health: seeking a common ground towards SDGs”**19-20 November 2019
Chamchuri Ballroom, Movenpick BDMS Wellness Resort Bangkok,
2 Wireless Road, Bangkok, Thailand

# Background

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN, was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand, with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) to promote active collaboration and mutual assistance on matters of common interest in the economic, social, cultural and industries, scientific and transport spheres and to raise the living standards of their peoples.[[1]](#footnote-1) [[2]](#footnote-2)

ASEAN Region has faced with several challenges from evolving international order. The ASEAN Leaders thus agreed, at the 9th ASEAN Summit in 2003, Bali, Indonesia, to consolidate the achievements of ASEAN and promote cooperation that can address the existing challenges by establishing an ASEAN Community consisting of 3 pillars: the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC), the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC).

Later, at the 14th ASEAN Summit in 2009 in Cha-am Hua-Hin, Thailand, the Leaders adopted the
Cha-am Hua Hin Declaration on the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community, 2009-2015 which consisted of a declaration, the 3 pillars’ respective Blueprints to realize their goals in 2015, and the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Strategic Framework and IAI Work Plan 2 (2009-2015).[[3]](#footnote-3)

ASEAN consists of ten Member States, covering geographic area of 4,435,570 square kilometres with the total population of 590 million. Southeast Asia is the region of diversity, with different administrative systems, geographic conditions, various population size and cultural and language diversity.

International trade in ASEAN region

In 1992 ASEAN Member States signed an agreement to establish ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (AFTA) with an aim to reduce tariff. Later the region expanded economic cooperation both in depth and breadth and signed free trade agreements with other partners outside the region such as ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand, ASEAN-China, ASEAN-Japan ASEAN-South Korea ASEAN-India and is in the process of negotiating the regional comprehensive economic partnership agreement or RCEP. ASEAN Member States are also members of other economic cooperation such as APEC, BIMSTEC.

ASEAN is the 5th largest economy in the world. In 2017, total GDP of ASEAN Region was US$2.8 trillion, accounted for 3.5 percent of the global GDP (3.5% of global GDP [[4]](#footnote-4).. Japan, China, EU and USA are the main trading partners of ASEAN.

Trade liberalization both within the ASEAN region and with partners outside the region enables people to have better access to goods and services. However, trade liberalization also includes health services and stricter intellectual property protection which may have implications for health and the health systems. The emerging trends of international trade such as environmental protection, e-commerce, and trade related to new technology also need to be considered. It is essential that we generate sufficient evidence to support international trade policies among countries in the ASEAN region that minimize negative health impacts while take the maximum benefit from international trade.

In addition, the Southeast Asia region is in the strategic location for trade and security and the world’s major powers are making effort to take benefit from the region

The year 2019 is another important year as Thailand takes the chairmanship of ASEAN and emphasizes the importance of advancing partnership for sustainability. The International Trade and Health Conference 2019 will therefore discuss current important issues related to international trade and health in ASEAN region with an aim to develop recommendations in response to negative health impacts and develop measures to protect and promote good health of the ASEAN population.

# Topics / sessions to be covered

1. Keynote speech “Building ASEAN Community: Political economy of trade and health”
2. Landscape of international trade and health in ASEAN Region
3. Trade liberalization and health of people in ASEAN Region
4. Implication of global trade war on health in ASEAN Region
5. Seeking a common ground of international trade and health in ASEAN
6. Priority research issues

# Conference objectives

1. To exchange knowledge and understanding on the linkage between international trade and health and its implications for health and health systems in the ASEAN region
2. To expand network within the ASEAN region on knowledge generation and capacity strengthening on international trade and health
3. To develop evidence-based policy recommendations for Thailand and ASEAN Member States in response to the current international trade and health

# Participants

Approximately 150 participants (by invitation with pre-registration) including

1. Thai Government officials from relevant agencies in Thailand
2. Academic researchers
3. University students
4. Civil society representatives
5. Representatives from the private sector
6. International experts
7. Representatives from funding agencies of the ITH Programme
8. Media
9. Participants from ASEAN countries and other countries such as China, Japan, South Korea, India, Australia, New Zealand
10. Embassy of selected countries in Bangkok
11. Member of Parliament (Thailand)

**Dates:** 19-20 November 2019

**Venue:** Movenpick BDMS Wellness Resort, Bangkok
 <https://www.movenpick.com/en/asia/thailand/bangkok/bdms-wellness-resort-bangkok/overview/>

**Expected outcomes**

1. Knowledge and awareness on international trade linkages and its implications for health and health systems in ASEAN
2. Policy recommendations in response to the current international trade and health situation
3. Expanded network and collaboration on international trade and health in ASEAN

**Co-hosts**

1. International Trade and Health Programme (ITH)
2. National Commission on International Trade and Health Studies (NCITHS)
3. ITH Funders (MOPH, Thailand Health Promotion Foundation, WHO, NHCO, NHSO, HSRI)

**Language:** Thai and English (with simultaneous interpretation services provided)

**Conference Programme**

**Day 1: Tuesday 19 November 2019**

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| 08.30-09.00  | Registration and viewing exhibition  |
| 09.00-09.10  | **Ten years of the National Commission on International Trade and Health (NCITHS) [VDO / Speech by Dr Sirina Chokwatana Pavarolarvidya]*** Short VDO presentation
* Presentation of a token of appreciation to Dr Sirina Chokwatana Pavarolarvidya, Chair of NCITHS (October 2009 - April 2019)
* Short speech by Dr Sirina Chokwatana Pavarolarvidya
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| 09.10-09.20 | **Conference opening** [Welcome remarks and opening remarks]* Dr Daniel Kertesz, WHO Representative to Thailand **[VDO]**
* Dr Supakit Sirilak, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Health **[VDO]**
* Dr Prateep Dhanakijcharoen, Secretary General, National Health Commission Office **[VDO]**
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| 09.20-09.25 | Group Photography (on the stage) |
| 09.25-09.50(25 minutes) | **Keynote speech****Speaker:**  Dr Suriya Chindawongse,  Director General, Department of ASEAN Affairs,  Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand **[VDO]** |
| 09.50-11.00(70 minutes) | **Session 1****: Landscape of international trade and health in ASEAN [ตั้งแต่ session 1 – session 5 มีทั้ง VDO และ PPT slides**This session is to set the scene for the conference. It will introduce the landscape of international trade in ASEAN Region and important implications to health**.** |
| **Lead speaker:** Mr Tan Tai Hiong, Assistant Director, Market Integration Directorate, ASEAN Secretariat  **Panelists**:1. Dr Piti Srisangnam, Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand2. Professor Fukunari Kimura, Chief Economist, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN**Moderator**: Mr Suppakij Vorasriherun, Department of International Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand |
| 11.00 – 11.15 | Coffee break and networking |
| **Session 2: Trade liberalisation and health of people in ASEAN Region** |
| 11.15-12.30(75 minutes) | **Session 2.1** **Liberalisation of trade in health services: Improving equitable  accessibility in ASEAN** This session will explore equity in healthcare access in ASEAN Region against the current and future trade in health services architecture, increased choices for patients/ consumers and ASEAN initiatives such as MRAs of health professionals. It will also discuss how liberalization of health services both under and outside the trade agreements helps improve ASEAN people’s accessibility to health care. |
| **Lead speaker:**Dr Matthias Helble, Asian Development Bank**Panelists**: 1. Mr Tan Tai Hiong, Assistant Director, Market Integration Directorate,  ASEAN Secretariat  |
| 2. Dr Rapeepong Suphanchaimat, International Health Policy Program,  Ministry of Public Health, Thailand 3. Dr Archanun Kohpaiboon, Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University **Moderator:** Ms Nudjaree Sompong, Department of Trade Negotiation, Ministry of Commerce Thailand  |
| 12.30-13.30 | Lunch |
| 13.30-14.45(75 minutes))  | **Session 2.2 Trade in health products: implications on health in ASEAN**This session aims to stimulate discussion on trade in health products as to what extent it has implications on health in the ASEAN Region and if the public health measures/ regulations facilitate trade or increase trade barriers.  |
| **Lead speaker**:Professor Andrew Mitchell, Melbourne Law School, University of Melbourne, Australia**Panelist**:1. Mr. Roger Kampf, Counsellor, Intellectual Property Division, World Trade Organization
2. Ms Sanya Reid Smith, Third World Network

**Moderator**: Ms Kannikar Kijtiwatchakul, FTA Watch  |
| 14.45-15.00 | Coffee break |
| 15.00-16.15(75 minutes) | **Session 2.3 International trade and environment**This session aims to explore the situation of international trade related to environment and the efforts within the ASEAN Region to balance trade growth and environmental protection [e.g. through management of proper waste disposal] and address environmental crisis, especially transboundary haze pollution and import/ export of wastes under trade agreements.  |
|  | **Panelist**:1. Ms. Elaine Garcia Lucero, National Coordinator of the EcoWaste Coalition, Philippines 2. Ms Penchom Saetang, Director, Ecological Alert and Recovery Thailand 3. Mr Gharat Nagara, Auriga, Indonesia**Moderator**: Ms. Kakuko Nagatani-Yoshida, United National Environment Programme (UNEP) |
| 16.15-16.30 | Wrap up for Day 1 |

**Day 2: Wednesday 20 November 2019**

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| 09.00-09.15 | Introduction to Day 2 |
| 09.15-10.30(75 minutes) | **Session 3** **Global trade war: implication to health in ASEAN** ASEAN region is considered as a strategic location for trading in which the two major powers, i.e. China and United States are competitively investing in this Region. Trade tension between these economies will pose implications to regional trade. Amid global trade war, what should be the appropriate response from ASEAN to safeguard health. |
| **Lead speaker:** Ms. Pimchanok Vonkorpon,Director-General, Trade Policy and Strategy Office, Ministry of Commerce Thailand**Panelist**: 1. Dr. Arm Tungnirun, Faculty of Laws, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand2. Dr. Mia Mikic, Director Trade, Investment and Innovation Division,  United Nations Economic and Social Commission for the Asia and the Pacific3. Mr Kiyoshi Adachi, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**Moderator**: Dr Piti Srisangnam, Chulalongkorn University |
| 10.30-10.45  | coffee break |
| 10.45-12.00(75 minutes) | **Session 4:** **Seeking a common ground on international trade and health in ASEAN** This session aims to discuss the complementarities between ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and SDGs: interface between trade and health; and to discuss the common ground of trade and health in ASEAN Region. The session will also illustrate the case studies of best practice of trade and health policy [in]coherence in ASEAN Region. It is expected that the session will come up with the recommendations on collaboration with ASEAN region to seek a common ground on international trade and health. |
| **Lead speaker:**Dr Nima Asgari, Director, Asia Pacific Observatory on Health Systems and Policies**Panelist**:1. Ms. Duangthip Chomprang, Director Office of International Cooperation, International Institute for Trade and Development (ITD) 2. Mr. Vitat Vajropala, Department of Trade Negotiation, Ministry of Commerce, Thailand 3. Ms. Eva Novi Karina, Pembanguan Nasional Veteran University, Indonesia **Moderator**: Dr. Wiwat Rojanapithayakorn, Director of Mahidol University Global Health  |
| 12.00-13.00 | Lunch |
| 13.00-14.15(75 minutes) | **Session 5:** **Moving forwards: Priority research topics** This session aims at establishing a technical platform or collaboration on international trade and health to foster policy coherence within the ASEAN Region**Session format**: Interactive panel discussion led by the moderator (with inputs from participants) |
| **Panelist:**1. Ms. Dang Thi Bich Thao, Senior researcher, Vietnam Institute for Economic and Policy Research, Viet Nam
2. Dr Phyllida Travis, former Director, Department of Health Systems Development, World Health Organization Regional Office for South-East Asia Region

**Moderator**:Dr Liviu Vedrasco, WHO Thailand Country Office |
| 14.15-14.45 | **Special Speech**  **[VDO / Presentation]]****Topic: Trade and health implication from global geo-political change**By Professor Prapat Thepchatree Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University |
| 14.45-15.00 | Coffee break |
| 15.00-15.30 | **SPECIAL SESSION: Question and Answer Session** |
| 15.30-15.45 | **Conference summary and policy recommendations**By Conference secretariat and Rapporteur team |
| 15.45-15.55 | **The way forwards**  **[VDO]**By Dr Suwit Wibulpolprasert,Chair of ITH Conference Organising Subcommittee |
| 15.55-16.00 | **Conference closing**  **[VDO]**By Dr Prateep Dhanakijcharoen  Secretary General of the National Health Commission Office  |
| 16.00 onward | Informal discussion / networking among participants to move forward the recommendations from the conference |



For more information, please contact the conference secretariat:

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<http://www.iththailand.net/events/ith-conference/142-ith-conference-2019.html>

1. <https://asean.org/asean/about-asean/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <http://www.mfa.go.th/asean/en/organize/62206-The-Birth-of-ASEAN.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <http://www.mfa.go.th/asean/en/organize/5682> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. ASEAN Secretariat 2018 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)