

## **SESSION 4: Seeking a common ground of international trade and health in ASEAN**

**DATE/ TIME: Wednesday 20 November 2019 at 10.45-12.00 hrs (75 minutes)**

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**LEAD SPEAKER:** Dr. Nima Asgari, Director of Asia Pacific Observatory on Health Systems and Policies

**PANELISTS:**

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, Pembangunan Nasional Veteran University, Indonesia

**MODERATOR:** Dr Wiwat Rojanapithayakorn, Director of Mahidol University Global Health

**CONCEPT NOTE**

**“We underline the complementarity of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with ASEAN community building efforts to uplift the standards of living of our peoples.”**

*Kuala Lumpur Declaration on ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together 22 November 2015, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia*

ASEAN countries have committed themselves to the implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 (ASEAN Vision 2025) and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda).

The ASEAN Vision 2025 underscores the importance of “an integrated, peaceful and stable community with shared prosperity” with respect for the environment and planetary boundaries while the core principle of the UN 2030 Agenda is the need for development and well-being for all. These two initiatives highlight the need of strong partnerships and the participation of all stakeholders to promote economic growth, protect environment and natural resources and promote peace to ensure all human beings can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment.

They also underlined the complementarity of these two agendas in their efforts to uplift the standards of living of the region’s peoples. The “Complementarities Initiative” became one of the high priority activities of ASEAN over the past four years.

Seeking to improve health and increase income is common goals of trade and health policies. This is because the growth from increased trade will be shared and will improve people's lives. But the question is how to formulate trade policy to achieve economic growth and benefit health and as to what extent the “Complementarities Initiative” creates enabling conditions to formulate trade policy that achieves economic growth and benefits health

This Session aims to discuss on the complementarities between ASEAN Vision 2025 and SDGs towards 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.

## Lead speaker

### Dr Nima Asgari

Director, Asia Pacific Observatory on Health Systems and Policies



Dr Nima Asgari trained in public health medicine in London and has been working in the field at low, middle and high income countries since 1996. He has been with WHO from 2006 and has previously worked at WHO HQ in Geneva as well as China, Cambodia and Thailand country offices. Nima became the director of the Asia Pacific Observatory on Health Systems and Policies (APO) in October 2016. His focus being on expanding membership of APO, increasing the range and number of APO publications and most importantly increasing the capacity on health system research in the region and shifting the evidence to policy. Prior to joining APO, he coordinated WHO activities across key Thai public health agencies and international partners for non-communicable diseases, health related consequences of trade, health in all policies, and transformative health education. While in Cambodia, Dr. Asgari focused on strengthening critical gaps of the health system to be able to respond to emerging diseases and comply with International Health Regulations. His persistent collaboration led to the development of a national Infection prevention and control programme, the first network of public sector hospital diagnostic microbiology labs, and setting up a modified Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) in Cambodia. Before joining WHO, Dr Asgari worked in UK for the Health Protection Agency (HPA) at local and national level as well as the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), where he focused on physician's understanding of the grading system for clinical guidelines. Dr. Nima Asgari received his medical degree as well as Bachelor's degree in Parasitology from University of Edinburgh, Scotland. He has a Master's degree in Public Health from London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and is a fellow of the Faculty of Public Health in England.

## Panelist:

### MS. Duangthip Chomprang

Director Office of International Cooperation, International Institute for Trade and Development (ITD)



Duangthip Chomprang, or Thip is currently ITD's Director for International Cooperation department. Her specialization includes technology policies and standards, digital trade policies, trade agreements (multilaterals, PTAs), investment facilitation and industrialisation development policies, innovation ecosystem governance, digital economy and gender policies for inclusive trade rules or policies. Her relevant experiences include technical treaty and trade agreements negotiations and a former Investment Banker. Her special interests are in areas relating to technology, innovation and circular economy development.

#### Her recent policy papers include:

- Global Value Chain in Circular Economy Policy Handbook (2019) (co-authored with Dr. Uwe Weber, EUFEM)
- Pivoting Towards a Development Friendly and Inclusive IIA Regime: An Asia-Pacific Appraisal (2018) –technical policy paper for the World Investment Forum 2018 (co-authored with Nicky Balani, THAC)
- Her previous experiences included working in the telecom/ICT industry, investment banking, national productivity consultation, nanotechnology industry, medical/healthcare industry, Internet technology standard making bodies, trade treaty negotiator and as a policy maker and advisor for the Thai, Indian, Philippines, Japan and other Asian governments.

#### Upcoming Policy Research

- Emerging Trends in Investment Framework and Non-Negotiables in the South-South Region
- Recasting Technology in Competition Policies and Its Implied Cost on Global Value Chain Inclusion and the Digital Economy Transformation White Paper
- Gender and Inclusive Investment Policy Framework and Measures

## Panelist

### **Mr. Vitat Vajropala**

Department of Trade Negotiation, Ministry of Commerce, Thailand



Mr. Vitat Vajropala is an Assistant-Director at the Department of Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Commerce of Thailand. Previously, he was the Executive Director of the Bureau of Trade Capacity Enhancement. He has held several positions related to ASEAN trade and the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), including Director of the ASEAN Bilateral Cooperation Division and Chief of AEC Information Center Section. He was also part of the Thai delegation for the ASEAN-China FTA and a member of the ASEAN Harmonized Tariff Nomenclature Task Force.

## Panelist

**Ms. Eva Novi Karina**

Pembangunan Nasional “Veteran” University, Indonesia



Eva Novi Karina is a lecturer at the Department of International Relations, Universitas Pembangunan Nasional Veteran Jawa Timur, a public university in Indonesia. She earned her bachelor degree in International Relations and her Master’s degree in Global Trade Diplomacy at Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), Indonesia. Aside from being a lecturer, she is also active as an early-career researcher in the Center for Identity and Urban Studies (CENTRIUS), located in Surabaya. Her main research interests include the global political economy and international trade studies. Currently, she devotes much of her attention to issues of mega-regional trade agreement, particularly concerning the RCEP negotiations and its implications to Indonesia. Outside her academic life, she also actively writes in several international media, one of which is The Diplomat.

## **Moderator:**

### **Dr. Wiwat Rojanapithayakorn**

Director Mahidol University Global Health



Dr. Wiwat Rojanapithayakorn is currently the Director of Mahidol University Global Health Program. He is also the Executive Director of AUN-Health Promotion Network. He used to work for the World Health Organization in the capacities of Medical Officer of WHO Mongolia (2002-2004), Senior Advisor and HIV/AIDS Team Leader of WHO China (2005-2008) and the Representative of the World Health Organization in Mongolia (2009-2012). Before joining WHO he was the Team Leader of UNAIDS Southeast Asia and Pacific Inter-Country Team based in Bangkok (for 2.5 years). He had worked in Ministry of Public Health of Thailand for 23 years in different capacities such as director of 2 community hospitals, the first director of national AIDS programme, the director of a regional office of communicable disease control, and the first director of the national dengue control office. He has authored or co-authored more than 110 publications in English and Thai; and was editor or chief editor of 15 public health journals. In 2010, he received Prince Mahidol Award in Public Health from his efforts in the development and scaling-up the 100% 100% Condom Use Programme which prevented millions of HIV infection in Thailand and 7 other Asian countries.