



International Trade and Health [ITH] Conference 2018

# “Belt and Road Initiative: Opportunities and Challenges for Health”

15–16 November 2018

Anantara Riverside Bangkok Resort, Bangkok, Thailand



**International Trade and Health Conference 2018  
“Belt and Road Initiative: Opportunities and  
Challenges for Health”**

**15-16 November 2018**

**Conference Book**

**Prepared by**

International Trade and Health Programme (ITH)

International Health Policy Program, Thailand (IHPP)

Tel: (66-2) 5902381

Fax: (66-2) 5902385

Website: <http://www.iththailand.net>

November 2018

## Table of Contents

---

Background	1
Conference Programme	5
Opening Session	13
Keynote Speech: Thailand and the Belt and Road – Dos and Don'ts	16
Session 1: Belt and Road Initiative and Its Implications Beyond Trade	19
Session 2: Belt and Road Initiative and Trade and Investment	25
Session 3: Belt and Road Initiative – Opportunities and Challenges to Global Health	31
Session 4: Belt and Road Initiative – Opportunity or Threat to the UHC	39
Session 5: Belt and Road Initiative and Public Health Emergencies / Health Security	45
Session 6: BRI and Health Innovation and Research Collaboration	51
Keynote Speech: A reflection on the issue of Belt and Road Initiative: opportunities and challenges to health	58
Recommendations from the conference	59
Conclusion and the way forward	61

# **Conference Background**

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a long term strategy announced by Xi Jinping, the President of China, to boost the region's economic development. The BRI aims to enhance trade, infrastructure and connectivity through building networks of railways, highways, bridges, airports, ports, oils and gas pipelines and fibre optics. The concept originated from China's ancient Silk Road that was once used to facilitate trade and cultural exchanges. The BRI aims to link China to Asia and Europe consisting of two important strategies: (1) the Silk Road Economic Belt – the land route connecting China with Central Asia, Eastern and Western Europe; and (2) the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Maritime Silk Road – the sea route connecting China to South East Asia, Africa and Central Asia.

The BRI involves over 60 countries and provides an opportunity for the global north to connect with the global south through an economic security platform. China has planned \$1 trillion investment, including the establishment of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) to provide loans to the BRI countries including ASEAN countries.

The BRI is emerging as one of China's major vehicle for its increasing role in international engagement, with an important health dimension. Within it includes important health dimensions, for instance; international collaboration in several health issues, emergency response and medical assistance, science and technological advancement.

In August 2017 China organized the first biennial Belt and Road High Level Meeting on Health Cooperation towards Healthy Silk Road where more than 30 health ministers and leaders of multilateral agencies signed the Beijing Communiqué. The Communiqué highlighted the joint commitment to protect public health and strengthen people-to-people exchanges among BRI countries.

However, there have been a number of concerns related to the potential impacts of the BRI on health such as spread of infectious diseases due to increased people mobility; the geological, socio-economic and health impacts of large infrastructure projects; transboundary movement of hazardous materials; and regulation of occupational health and environmental standards.

BRI is therefore an initiative that expands beyond trade and investment. The opportunities and challenges faced prevail beyond its mere trading system. Hence, there is the crucial need to understand these positive and negative implications, mainly to maximize for greater opportunities while mitigating its negative impacts for the benefits of the society at large.

The International Trade and Health Conference 2018 will bring experts and participants from various groups to discuss the BRI in detail and its implication on health and health systems locally, regionally and globally. The conference will provide state of the art of the Belt and Road Initiative and policy recommendations as well as promote collaboration among participating agencies and will foster further research on BRI and health innovation.

## **Objectives**

1. To exchange knowledge and understanding on the Belt and Road Initiative and its impacts beyond trade in Thailand as well as regionally and globally
2. To discuss and identify potential research topics and collaboration among concerned agencies
3. To develop evidence-based policy recommendations on the Belt and Road Initiative and health

**Dates** 15-16 November 2018

**Venue** Chaophaya Ballroom, Anantara Riverside Bangkok Resort

**Participants** (by invitation) including

1. Thai Government officials from relevant agencies
2. Academic researchers,
3. University students
4. Civil society representatives
5. Representatives from the private sector (except the tobacco and alcoholic beverage industries)
6. International experts
7. Representatives from funding agencies of the ITH Programme
8. Media
9. Participants from China and ASEAN countries
10. Embassy of BRI countries in Bangkok

**Expected outcomes**

1. Knowledge generation and sharing
2. Professional exchanges leading to joint research and collaboration
3. Policy recommendations for policy makers related to BRI and health
4. Expanded network and collaboration on international trade and health

**Co-hosts**

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

**Language** Thai and English (with simultaneous interpretation)

# **Conference Programme**



## Day 1: Thursday 15 November 2018

08.00-09.00	<b>Registration</b>
09.00-09.45	<b>Opening Remarks</b> <b>Dr Liviu Vedrasco</b> , WHO Thailand Country Office - <b>Mrs Sirina Pavarolavidya</b> , Chair of National Commission on International Trade and Health Studies (NCITHS)
	<b>Keynote Speech</b> “Thailand and the Belt and Road – Dos and Don’ts” <b>Dr Somkiat Tangkitvanich</b> President of Thailand Development Research Institute
09.45-11.00	<b><u>Session 1</u></b> <b>Belt and Road Initiative and Its Implications Beyond Trade</b> This session sets the scene for the conference. The panel will discuss overall issues of the BRI, including what is the Belt and Road Initiative, the scope of BRI and its implications on trade and matters beyond trade (economic, geo-politic, security, social, and development). <b>Speakers</b> - Prof Prapat Thepchatree, Director, Centre for ASEAN Studies, Thammasat University - Assoc Prof Sompong Sirisoponsilp, Deputy Dean, School of Agricultural Resources, Chulalongkorn University - Assistant Prof Pramual Suteecharuwat, Department of Industrial Engineering, Chulalongkorn University <b>Moderator:</b> Pol. Maj. Suriwan Thaiprayoon, Global Health Division, MOPH <b>Session Coordinator:</b> International Trade and Health (ITH) Programme

11.00-11.15	Coffee break
11.15-12.30	<p><b><u>Session 2</u></b></p> <p><b>Belt and Road Initiative and Trade and Investment</b></p> <p>This session focuses on the implications of BRI on investment (value, gain, loss, type of industry, investment sector), policy actions needed to address the challenges, investor protection, and recommendations for future research as well as policy recommendations.</p> <p><b>Lead Speaker:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dr Piti Srisangnam, Director, Centre for International Economics, Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University</li> </ul> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Professor Prabir De, Director, ASEAN-India Center, Research and Information System for Developing Countries</li> <li>- Dr Li Renliang, School of Social and Environmental Development, NIDA</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms Kannikar Kijtiwatchakul, FTA Watch</p> <p><b>Session Coordinator:</b> International Trade and Health (ITH) Programme</p>
12.30-13.30	Lunch

13.30-14.45	<p><b><u>Session 3</u></b></p> <p><b>Belt and Road Initiative – Opportunities and Challenges to Global Health</b></p> <p>BRI has become the China’s major vehicle for international engagement, with increasing health dimension. The 2017 Beijing Communiqué aimed at protecting public health and strengthening people-to-people exchanges among BRI countries and was signed by more than 30 health ministers and leaders of international organizations. This session will explore BRI and global health impact, its advantages and disadvantages to the global health community</p> <p><b>Speaker</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assistant Prof Tang Kun, Department of Global Health, Peking University, China</li> </ul> <p><b>Panelist:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prof Kenji Shibuya, Professor and Chair, Department of Global Health Policy, Graduate School of Medicine, The University of Tokyo, Japan</li> <li>- <i>Dr Manisha Shridhar</i>, Regional Advisor, WHO/SEARO</li> <li>- Mrs Benjaporn Fattier, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Dr Liviu Vedrasco, Programme Officer, WHO Thailand Country Office</p> <p><i>Session Coordinator: Dr Manisha Shridhar</i>, Regional Advisor, WHO/SEARO</p>
14.45-15.00	Coffee break

15.00-16.15	<p><b><u>Session 4</u></b></p> <p><b>Belt and Road Initiative – Opportunity or Threat to the UHC</b></p> <p>This Session aims to discuss on the impacts of BRI on health systems focusing on how and to what extent the BRI will contribute to UHC or health systems strengthening in the BRI countries and the global community.</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dr Sarah Louise Barber, Director, WHO Kobe Center, Japan</li> </ul> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms. Fan Xiaodan, China National Health Development Research Center</li> <li>- Dr Sutayut Osornprasop, Senior Human Development Specialist, World Bank</li> <li>- Dr Bounpheng Philavong, Ministry of Health, Lao PDR</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Dr Azusa Sato, Health Specialist, Southeast Asia Department, Asian Development Bank</p> <p><b>Session Coordinator:</b> Pol. Maj. Suriwan Thaiprayoon, Global Health Division, Ministry of Public Health</p>
16.15-16.45	Wrap up for Day 1

## Day 2: Friday 15 November 2018

08.00-09.00	<b>Registration</b>
09.00-10.15	<p><b><u>Session 5</u></b> <b>Belt and Road Initiative and Public Health Emergencies / Health Security</b></p> <p>This session focuses on the current and potential impacts of the Belt and Road on health security and discusses whether the BR Blueprint contributes to health security. The session also explores to what extent the BRI can support preparedness and improvement of capacity needed for public health emergencies responses.</p> <p><b>Lead Speaker:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Dr Roderico Ofrin, Regional Coordinator for Emergency Risk Management, WHOSEARO</li></ul> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Dr Dennis Carroll, Director Emerging Threats Program, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)</li><li>- Ms Riko Kimoto, Project Manager, Sustainable Development &amp; Public Health, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)</li></ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Dr Kumnuan Ungchusak, Consultant to Department of Disease Control, MOPH</p> <p><b>Session Coordinator:</b> Dr Nakorn Prem Sri, Director of Bureau of Epidemiology, Department of Disease Control, MOPH</p>

10.15-11.30	<p><b><u>Session 6</u></b></p> <p><b>BRI and Health Innovation and Research Collaboration</b></p> <p>This session aims to discuss the opportunity to identify potential innovation benefiting health system development and the obstacles to countries and through bilateral development with China. This session also explores to potential research questions and potential research collaboration.</p> <p><b>Lead speaker</b></p> <p>Dr Nares Damrongchai, CEO, Thailand Center of Excellence for Life Sciences (Public Organization)</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Vitoon Vonghangool, President, BioNet-Asia Co., Ltd. Thailand</li> <li>- Dr Yada Mukdapitak, Deputy Secretary General, National Science Technology and Innovation Policy Office, Thailand</li> <li>- Prof. Dr. Lin Wang, Institute of Biomedical and Health Engineering, Shenzhen Institutes of Advanced Technology, Chinese Academy of Sciences</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Dr Chutima Akaleephan, International Trade and Health Programme, IHPP</p> <p><b>Session Coordinator:</b> Mrs Premruedee Lertsakvimarn, Senior Manager, International Cooperation, Thailand Center of Excellence for Life Sciences (Public Organization)</p>
-------------	---

11.30-12.00	<p><b>Keynote Speech</b></p> <p>A reflection on the issue of Belt and Road Initiative: opportunities and challenges to health</p> <p>By <b>Dr Kanit Sangsubhan</b> Secretary General Eastern Economic Corridor Office of Thailand</p>
12.00-12.30	<p>Recommendations from the conference</p> <p>By <b>Dr Cha-aim Pachanee</b>, Programme Manager, International Trade and Health Programme, International Health Policy Program (IHPP), Ministry of Public Health</p>
12.30-12.45	<p>Conclusion and the way forward</p> <p>By <b>Dr Suwit Wibulpolprasert</b>, Chair of the ITH Conference Organising Subcommittee</p>
12.45-12.50	<p>Closing</p> <p>By <b>Mrs Sirina Pavarolavidya</b>, Chair of National Commission on International Trade and Health Studies (NCITHS)</p>
12.50-14.00	<p>Lunch</p>

# Opening Session

## Opening Remarks

- ***Dr. Liviu Vedrasco***  
WHO Thailand Country Office
  - ***Mrs. Sirina Chokwatana Pavarolarvidya***  
Chair, National Commission on International Trade and Health Studies (NCITHS)
-





**Dr Liviu Vedrasco**

---

**WHO Thailand Country Office**

Dr. Liviu Vedrasco has an extensive career in global health, humanitarian affairs and disaster risk management with UN agencies, philanthropies and NGOs in Africa, Americas, Europe, and Asia. Liviu was awarded a Medical Doctor degree (1996) from Medical University in Moldova and an MPH (1999) from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health with a focus on global health.

Since June of 2014 Liviu serves as Programme Officer with WHO Thailand managing a portfolio that includes Health Systems Strengthening, Global Health Diplomacy, International Trade and Health, Road Safety and Environmental Health. Prior to Thailand, Liviu worked with WHO-Myanmar and at HQ in Geneva. In 2014 Liviu was deployed to Sierra Leone to support the WHO Ebola emergency response operation. Prior to WHO Liviu held leadership roles with UN, philanthropies and NGOs including Chief of Party for USAID PREPARE project in Washington, DC (2009-11), UN Regional Pandemic Readiness Adviser for West and Central Africa with UNOCHA in Dakar (2007-09), Health Adviser with the International Rescue Committee on the Thai-Myanmar Border (2004-07), Country Director for Georgia with International Medical Corps (2002-04); and Programs Director with the Soros Foundation in Moldova (1994-97).

Liviu is fluent in four languages, including French, English, Russian and his native Romanian and currently studies Spanish and Thai.



**Mrs. Sirina Chokwatana Pavarolarvidya**

**Chair,  
National Commission on International  
Trade and Health Studies (NCITHS)**

Mrs. Sirina is the daughter of Dr. Thiam Chokwatana, founder of Saha Pathanapibul Public Company Limited. She earned her Diploma Graphic Design at Worthing College of Art Sussex before obtaining a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from University Bradford in the UK. She also obtained Bachelor of Political Science from Ramkhamhaeng University and Master of Political Economy from Chulalongkorn University. She is the founder of Boutique New City Public Co, Ltd., a clothing manufacturing and exporting company.

Mrs. Sirina. is highly interested in health and social related works. She has been a member of the National Health Committee since 2007, the Chair of the National Commission on International Trade and Health Studies (NCITHS) since 2009, the Chair of the 5th and 6th National Health Assembly, and an advisor to the Public Health Minister. Mrs. Sirina also currently holds other important position such as being a member of the National Reform Council and a board member of the Thai Chamber of Commerce.

In recognition of her works, Mrs. Sirina was awarded several prizes, for instance, "Outstanding Mother of the Nation" in 2004, "Boss of the Year" in 2005, "Business Women's example" in 2007, "Business Woman award" in 2008, and "Thailand's Excellence Woman" in 2009.

## **Keynote Speech**

*“Thailand and the Belt and Road – Dos and Don’ts”*

**Dr Somkiat Tangkitvanich**

President of Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI)



## **Dr. Somkiat Tangkitvanich**

---

**President,  
Thailand Development Research  
Institute (TDRI)**

### **Work experience**

- 2012-present President, Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI)
- 2000-2012 Research Director (Information Economy), Science and Technology Development Program, Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI), Bangkok, Thailand
- 1996-2000 Industrial Policy Specialist, Sectoral Economics Program, Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI), Bangkok, Thailand
- 1996 Research Fellow, President Office, Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI), Bangkok, Thailand
- 1995-1996 Senior Researcher, Information Technology Research Department, Nomura Research Institute, Japan
- 1994-1995 Researcher, Advanced Information Technology Research Department, Nomura Research Institute, Japan

## **Areas of Expertise**

- Media and Telecommunication Policy
- Economic Analysis of Laws
- International Trade and Investment Policy
- Research and Development Policy

## **Education**

1991-1994	Ph.D., Computer Science, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan
1989-1991	M.S., Computer Science, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan
1984-1988	B.E. (summa cum laude with Gold Medal) Computer Engineering, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand

Link to full CV:

<https://tdri.or.th/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/CV-DrSomkiat-s.pdf>

# **Session 1**

## **Belt and Road Initiative and Its Implications Beyond Trade**

**Thursday 15 November 2018**

**09.45-11.00 hrs**

Belt and Road Initiative is a mega project policy that has influence over policies of countries along the BRI and other countries. It encourages and accelerates regional and global connectivity. It is predicted that the connectivity under the BRI can benefit trade and investment through expanding business opportunities, increasing employment or Investment in innovative development which will affect to income and well-being of the people in the region. However, BRI is also an issue to other sectors. For instances, the movement of people and goods that may create transmission of infectious diseases, or transporting of hazardous waste between countries which may cause environmental hazard. These are the risks to the health system and national security.

This session is setting the scene of the Conference. It will discuss the overall issue of the BRI, including what is BRI and why it is initiated, the scope of BRI and its mechanism; its potential positive and negative implications on trade and beyond. The session is expected to provide a better understanding and information on all dimensions (economic, politic, security, social, etc.) of the BRI to the audience.

## **Speakers**

- Prof Prapat Thepchatree, Director, Centre for ASEAN Studies, Thammasat University
- Assoc Prof Sompong Sirisoponsilp, Deputy Dean, School of Agricultural Resources, Chulalongkorn University
- Assistant Prof Pramual Suteecharuwat, Department of Industrial Engineering, Chulalongkorn University

## **Moderator:**

Pol. Maj. Suriwan Thaiprayoon, Global Health Division, MOPH

## **Session Coordinator:**

International Trade and Health (ITH) Programme



## **Prof. Dr. Prapat Thepchatree**

---

Director, Centre for ASEAN Studies,  
Thammasat University

Prof. Dr. Prapat Thepchatree is Professor with the Faculty of Political Science at Thammasat University. Dr. Prapat is also the President of the Association for American Studies in Thailand. His former positions include: Director, Center for ASEAN Studies at Thammasat University, Director, Thammasat University Research and Consultancy Institute; Associate Dean for Research and Development, Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University; Counsellor, Department of East Asian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand; and Consul, Royal Thai Consulate-General, Osaka. He received Ph. D. in Political Science from the University of Georgia, U.S.A.; M.A. in Political Science from Ohio University, U.S.A.; and B.A. in Political Science from Thammasat University.





## **Assoc Prof Sompong Sirisoponsilp**

---

Deputy Dean,  
School of Agricultural Resources,  
Chulalongkorn University

Sompong Sirisoponsilp, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor and serving as the Deputy Dean for Administrative Affairs at the School of Agricultural Resources, Chulalongkorn University. He was a member of the Faculty of Engineering for more than 20 years and served as the Director of the Chulalongkorn Transportation Institute for 8 years. His specialization is in logistics and supply chain management, transportation planning, and transportation engineering.



## **Assistant Prof Pramual Sutecharuwat**

---

**Department of Industrial Engineering,  
Chulalongkorn University**

Dr Pramual Sutecharuwat is Assistant Professor at Department of Industrial Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Chulalongkorn University. He earned Bachelor and Master of Engineering (Industrial Engineering) from Chulalongkorn University, and PhD in Computer Science from Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan. He has joined Chulalongkorn University as a faculty member since 1994. He also served as Deputy Director, Transportation Institute at the university during 2007-2014, and advisor to the Chair, Committee on Communications Group, the House of Representatives in 2012-2013.

Dr Pramual has received several research grants and fellowships. His areas of interests include Manufacturing Systems Engineering, Simulation Modeling and Analysis, Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing Industries, Railway Industries, National Infrastructure Policy.



## **Pol. Maj. Suriwan Thaiprayoon**

**Global Health Division, MOPH**

Suriwan Thaiprayoon earned her doctoral degree from London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK in 2014, a Bachelor Degree in Nursing Science from the Police Nursing College, Thailand in 1992 and also earned Master of Arts (Language and Communication) from NIDA in 2000 and Master of International Health (Honours) from Sydney University, Australia in 2006. Her main interests are International health, Global Health Diplomacy, sustainable development, and policy communication. Her PhD thesis was examining the role of the health sector in trade negotiations.

Suriwan served as a technical assistant to the Thai Minister of Public Health from September 2014 to September 2015. She also served as the secretariat of the Trans Pacific Partnership Committee and TBT Working Group appointed by the Ministry of Public Health. She is occasionally invited to speak on trade related health and policy coherence at both national and international meetings. Suriwan is currently a policy analyst of the Global Health Division, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand.

## **Session 2**

### **Belt and Road Initiative and trade and investment**

**Thursday 15 November 2018**

**11.15-12.30 hrs**

The Belt and Road Initiative has boosted trade and investment, particularly through major infrastructure investment. It is estimated that trade between China and countries along the BRI routes constitute a quarter of China's total trade value, exceeding US\$ 1 trillion in 2015 which exceeded Chinese exports to the US and the European Union.

The Chinese government has also established the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) to provide loans to the BRI countries including ASEAN countries. This is additional financial institution in to the existing ones such as Asian Development Bank, ASEAN Infrastructure Fund (AIF) which indicates China's intention for stimulating more investment. It is believed that the BRI will fill the funding gap to support the ASEAN Connectivity.

As China is changing its status to become a big foreign investor, the number of Chinese companies in countries along the BRI routes is increasing. Notably, China's overseas direct investment (ODI) especially whole or majority-ownership mergers and acquisitions rose more significantly particularly in countries along the continental route<sup>1</sup>. However, it is speculated that the flow of investment capitals may not contribute to sustainable development at the grass root level but rather ending up at the major investors who will take most benefits.

---

<sup>1</sup> Du J, Zhang Y. Does One Belt One Road initiative promote Chinese overseas direct investment? China Economic Review. 2018;47:189-205.

There is also a concern that the BRI may be a tool to expand destinations for the exceeding amount of Chinese products such as steels and cements, as well as Chinese workforce, as the conditions of the infrastructure investment. This may pose advert impacts on the BRI countries that are the investment recipients as the quality of these products might not be controllable. Therefore, the countries need more analysis before deciding on an agreement under the BRI.

This session focuses on the implications of BRI on investment (value, gain, loss, type of industry, investment sector), policy actions needed to address the challenges, investor protection, and recommendations for future research as well as policy recommendations.

**Lead Speaker:**

- Dr Piti Srisangnam, Director, Centre for International Economics, Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University

**Panelists:**

- Professor Prabir De, Director, ASEAN-India Center, Research and Information System for Developing Countries
- Dr Li Renliang, School of Social and Environmental Development, NIDA

**Moderator:** Ms Kannikar Kijtiwatchakul, FTA Watch

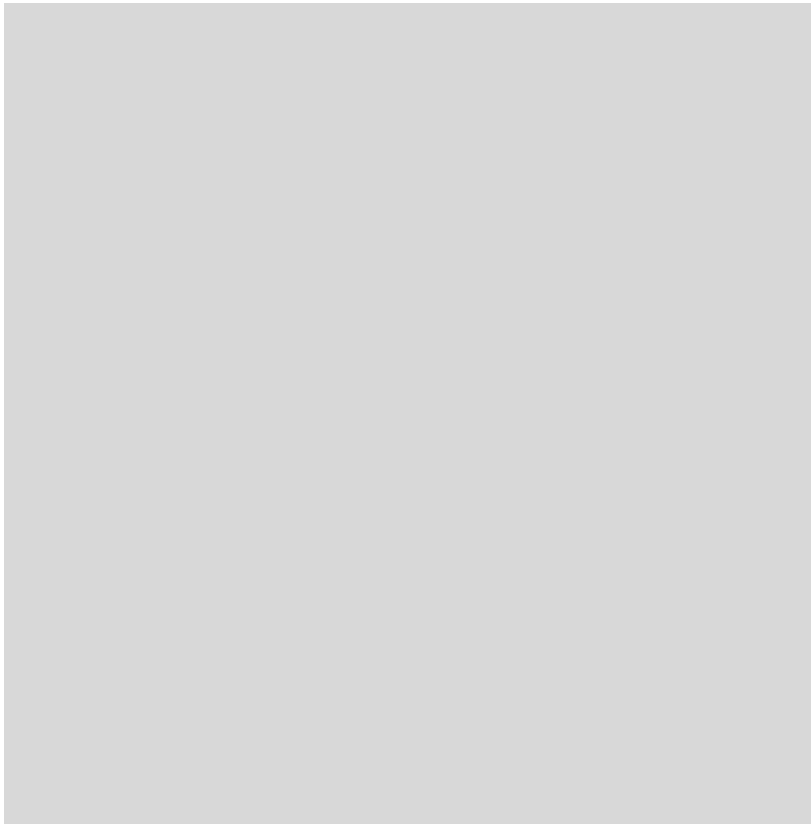
**Session Coordinator:** International Trade and Health (ITH) Programme



**Dr. Piti Srisangnam**

---

Director,  
Centre for International Economics,  
Faculty of Economics,  
Chulalongkorn University





## Dr. Prabir De

Director, ASEAN-India Center,  
Research and  
Information System for Developing  
Countries

Dr. Prabir De is a Professor at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi. He is also the Head of ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS. Dr De works in the field of international economics and has research interests in international trade and development. He was a Visiting Fellow of the Institute of Developing Economies (IDE-JETRO), Chiba; Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), Tokyo; and Visiting Senior Fellow of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Bangkok. He has been conducting policy research for the Government of India and several national and international organisations. Dr. De has a Ph.D. in Economics from the Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India. He has contributed several research papers in international journals and written books on trade and development. His recent publications include *Celebrating the Third Decade and Beyond: New Challenges to ASEAN – India Economic Partnership* (Routledge, 2018); *Myanmar's Integration with the World: Challenges and Policy Options* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2017); and *Twenty Years of BIMSTEC: Promoting Regional Cooperation and Integration in the Bay of Bengal Region* (BIMSTEC Secretariat, 2018). He is also the Editor of *South Asia Economic Journal*, published by Sage.



**Dr. Li Renliang**

---

School of Social and Environmental  
Development, NIDA

Li Renliang Ph.D., born in 1968 in China, got his Bachelor degree in Thai language and culture and Master degree in Southeast Asia Studies from Peking University and Ph.D. degree on Social Development and Environmental Management at National Institute of Development Administration, Thailand.

Now he is full-time lecturer at Graduate School of Social and Environmental development, National Institute of Development Administration.

He is specialized in Social Policy formulation, implementation and evaluation, China-Thailand Relations, ASEAN Studies.

In the past years, He has done a lot of researches, for example:

- Chinese government's efforts on poverty reduction,
- Thoughts and discussion on Promoting Sustainable Development for Chinese Enterprises Investment in Thailand
- Strategic Development on manpower and research to deal with the Chinalization
- Translated Xi Jinping: the Governance of China from Chinese version to Thai version.
- Thai Political system and current situation. etc.





## Ms. Kannikar Kijtiwatchakul

---

Kannikar Kijtiwatchakul has no medical background but journalism.

Among NGO communities, she is a campaigner on Intellectual Property Right and Access to Medicine, Drug System Monitoring and Development Program, Chulalongkorn University and also an active member of FTA Watch, Thailand; a coalition that monitoring and campaigning on free trade negotiations that have severe socially effected. Last year, FTA Watch held a meeting called 'Global and Regional Investment Policy: Implications on Thailand and ASEAN' and produced an clip video explaining ISDS.

In journalism, she writes a monthly column called Itchy World in Way Magazine. Besides, she hosts a radio newscast called 'Chao Tan Lok' (Morning World Review) on FM 96.5 MHz featuring reporting and commentaries on world news. Here she earns a reputation for her remarkable ability to make such difficult issues like global affairs, medicine patents in particular, immediately accessible to her audiences.

She wrote several books and articles on access to medicine and intellectual property issue as "Drug Patent: Rich People's Darling" (2005) and "The Right to Life" (2007). She is also a co-author of "Sustaining Access to Antiretroviral Therapy in Developing Countries: Lessons from Brazil and Thailand" published in AIDS 2007.

## **Session 3**

### **Belt and Road Initiative – Opportunities and Challenges to Global Health**

**Thursday 15 November 2018**  
**13.30-14.45 hrs**

As stated in August 2017 Conference in Beijing Belt and Road Forum for Health Cooperation: Towards a Health Silk Road has been mooted by President Xi's. The proposal for a Health Silk Road aims to strengthen and renew ancient links between cultures and people, with health at its core.

WHO Director General Dr Tedros has stated: *We are committed to building response capacity for emergencies, as well as to provide essential health services to countries in crisis. Second, health is a human right. People should never have to choose between getting the care they need and financial hardship or impoverishment. The Belt and Road Initiative contains the fundamentals to achieve universal health coverage: infrastructure, access to medicines, human resources, and a platform to share experience and promote best practices. Third, women, children, and adolescents must be at the centre of global health and development. Women and children are particularly hard hit in emergencies. We need to take concrete steps to protect them, and nothing will help this often-vulnerable group more than universal health coverage.*

BRI has become arguably China's major vehicle for international engagement, with an increasing health dimension. The Beijing Communiqué aimed at protecting public health and strengthening people-to-people exchanges among countries under the initiative was developed and signed by more than 30 health ministers and leaders of international organizations. The ommuniqué was approved

at a symposium attended by officials from the World Health Organization and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS. The 30 countries agreed to set up a network for research of health policies, jointly develop traditional medicine and boost medical staff exchanges, according to the communique.

The session will explore BRI's global health impact: both its potential advantages and disadvantages

**Speaker**

- Assistant Prof Tang Kun, Department of Global Health, Peking University, China

**Panelist:**

- Prof Kenji Shibuya, Professor and Chair, Department of Global Health Policy, Graduate School of Medicine, The University of Tokyo, Japan
- Dr Manisha Shridhar, Regional Advisor, WHO/SEARO
- Mrs Benjaporn Fattier, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand

**Moderator:**

Dr Liviu Vedrasco, Programme Officer, WHO Thailand Country Office

**Session Coordinator:**

Dr Manisha Shridhar, Regional Advisor, WHO/SEARO



## **Assistant Prof Dr Kun Tang**

**Department of Global Health,  
Peking University, China**

Dr. Kun Tang is an Associate Professor at the Research Center for Public Health, Tsinghua University. He also serves as the global health adviser of the Chinese Delegation to the World Health Assembly and WHO Executive Board. Prior to his current functions, Dr. Tang was the Founding Director of the China Youth Network, a first-ever youth NGO working to promote sexual and reproductive health and rights in China. He served as the National Standing Council Member of the China Family Planning Association, and the Governing Council Member of the International Planned Parenthood Federation. He was a member of the XVI International AIDS Conference Scientific Programme Committee, and the Chair of the Youth Committee in the 5th Asia Pacific Conference on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. Dr. Tang has worked on a number of global health programs in Zimbabwe, Papua New Guinea and Malaysia. He obtained his M.B.B.S. from Peking University, a Master's in Global Health from Harvard University, and D.Phil. from the University of Oxford.



## **Prof Kenji Shibuya**

---

**- Shibuya, Professor and Chair,  
Department of Global Health Policy,  
Graduate School of Medicine,  
The University of Tokyo, Japan**

Professor and Chair, Department of Global Health Policy, Graduate School of Medicine, University of Tokyo; President, Japan Institute for Global Health (JIGH); Director, Institute for Global Health Policy Research, National Center for Global Health and Medicine

Dr. Shibuya obtained his MD at the University of Tokyo in 1991 and started his career at Teikyo University's Ichihara Hospital in Chiba, Japan. In 1999, he earned a doctorate of public health in international health economics at Harvard University. After teaching at Teikyo University in Tokyo, he joined the WHO in 2001 and was coordinator for the Health Statistics and Evidence Unit from 2005 until 2008. He has published widely on burden of disease and health system performance assessment.



**Dr. Manisha Shridhar**

**Regional Advisor, WHO/SEARO**

Dr. Manisha Shridhar is Regional Advisor for Intellectual Property, Trade and Public Health at the World Health Organization Regional Office for South-East Asia (WHO/ SEARO). She works on the interface of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) trade and health.

Dr. Shridhar received her Master's degree in Law (LLM) in Intellectual Property Law with specialization in Patent and Biotechnology Law and obtained certification for International Mediation on IPRs disputes from Franklin Pierce Law Center, Concord, USA. She has an MSc Public Health degree from London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, a Bachelor of Science from Delhi University, and Masters in Public Administration from Punjab University, Chandigarh, India Her doctorate on "Technology Innovation and Patent Activity in Indian Industry" is from Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi.

Dr. Shridhar was a member of the Indian Administrative Service where as the Principal Secretary in the State Government of Himachal Pradesh she managed departments of Health, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Cooperation, Town and Country Planning, Housing and Urban Development, Agriculture and Horticulture from time to time.

She was District Magistrate in the state capital Shimla and in the district of Kangra at Dharamsala where she has performed quasi-judicial functions and, inter alia, been responsible for public health programs in the field. Dr. Shridhar has also previously served as the Joint Secretary with the Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises in the Government of India where she prepared documents and reports on policy reform for growth and development of micro enterprises. She has drafted policy and briefing documents for various deliberations related to WTO negotiations, trade agreements with Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), and other FTAs negotiated by the Government of India.

Dr. Shridhar has written extensively on these subjects and developed and organized IPR training programs and case studies including study material, a film on IPRs for World Intellectual Property Organization and assisted United Nations Industrial Development Organization for development of Geographical Indications for traditional products. Moreover, as Head of Training Research and Development Cell in the National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie, she designed and conducted training programs for senior Civil Servants from India and Sri Lanka on IPR and WTO issues.

Dr. Shridhar is fluent in Hindi, English and French.



## **Benjaporn Fattier**

**First Secretary,  
Department of Treaties and Legal Affairs,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand**

Mrs. Benjaporn Fattier joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2009. She started her career working at the Treaty Division overseeing various aspects of Thailand's treaty making process. During her post at the Permanent Mission of Thailand to the UN in Geneva, she was in charge of extensive areas of work, including those within the purview of Human Rights and WHO. After returning to Thailand in June 2018, she has played a key role in trade negotiation and several international disputes involving the Royal Thai Government, in addition to providing legal advice related to international trade, investment treaties, dispute settlement mechanisms and arbitration.

She\_ obtained Master of Laws (International Law) (LLM) and Bachelor of Laws (LLB) from Université Jean-Moulin Lyon 3, France

### **Work Experience:**

2018 - Present	First Secretary, Department of Treaties and Legal Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
2014-2018	First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations Office at Geneva
2009-2014	Second Secretary, Department of Treaties and Legal Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs



## **Session 4**

### **Belt and Road Initiative –opportunity or threat to UHC**

**Thursday 15 November 2018**

**15.00-16.15 hrs**

The Belt and Road (BR) offers an opportunity for countries along the Silk Road to achieve UHC as it, according to the Director General of the World Health Organisation, “contains the fundamentals to achieve universal health coverage, access to medicines, human resources and a platform to share experience and promote best practices.” The World Health Organization signed the MoU with the Chinese government in August 2017 and committed to supporting China to build response capacity for emergencies and essential groundworks to ensure universal health care.

China has also signed the agreements with Silk Road countries and development partners including UNAIDS, the Global Fund, and Gavi (the Vaccine Alliance) covering essential areas for health systems strengthening, such as maternal and child health, health policy, health systems, hospital management, human resources, medical research, and traditional medicine. The health cooperation under the BR towards a healthy silk road is thus underway.

On the opposite side, the global health community is concerned with potential threats posed by the BR including massive inflow migrations and a rapid spread of communicable diseases through the connectivity. It is questionable as to what extent the existing and future health cooperation under the BR can address this phenomenon and protect our population health.

This Session aims to discuss on the possible impacts of the BR on the health systems focusing on how and to what extend the BRI would

contribute to UHC or health systems strengthening in BR countries and the global community.

**Speaker:**

- Dr Sarah Louise Barber, Director, WHO Kobe Center, Japan

**Panelists:**

- Ms. Fan Xiaodan, China National Health Development Research Center
- Dr Sutayut Osornprasop, Senior Human Development Specialist, World Bank
- Dr Bounpheng Philavong, Ministry of Health, Lao PDR

**Moderator:**

Dr Azusa Sato, Health Specialist, Southeast Asia Department, Asian Development Bank

**Session Coordinator:**

Pol. Maj. Suriwan Thaiprayoon, Global Health Division, Ministry of Public Health



- **Dr Sarah Louise Barber,**

**Director, WHO Kobe Center, Japan**

Dr. Sarah Louise Barber is a health economist and policy specialist, and holds doctorate and post-doctorate qualifications from the University of California, Berkeley, USA, focusing on economic evaluation. Before becoming Director of the WHO Kobe Centre, she worked on strategic policy issues with the World Health Organization, including as Senior Health Policy Advisor in the Office of the Regional Director for Africa, WHO Representative to South Africa, Team Leader for Health Systems Development in China, and Health Policy Advisor in Indonesia and Cambodia. Prior to working with WHO in China, she was managing evaluation research at the University of California Berkeley's Institute of Business and Economic Research, and the National Institute of Public Health in Mexico.

In South Africa, China, Indonesia, and Mexico, she developed programs of technical cooperation and research to advance reforms to achieve universal health coverage. Over the past 25 years, she has published widely on diverse topics in health economics and policy analysis, including the role of the private health care sector, conditional cash transfers, human resources, insurance and provider payment reforms, quality of care assessments, policies for essential medicines, monitoring and evaluation, migration, and fiscal policies.



**Ms. Fan Xiaodan**

---

**China National Health Development  
Research Center**

Fan graduated from Tianjin Medical University with a First Class degree in Nursing, and received her Master Degree in Health Economics and Policy from University of Birmingham, UK. After graduation, she has worked as a research fellow at Dep. of Global Health Research of China National Health Development Center. She has taken part in a range of global health and international cooperation studies and projects, including China's Health Development Assistance under China-UK Global Health Support Programme, China's Belt & Road Initiative and Health Collaboration Strategy, Implementation Plan of Health-related Sustainable Development Goals in China, China Medical Team Occupational Risk and Allowance, participated in domestic and African fieldworks and interviews, which deployed skills and experience in development cooperation in global health. She has published several academic papers and book chapters on China's Health Development Assistance, including Health human resource development cooperation in China's foreign aid, and "Brightness Action": Short-term Health Aid to Africa and China's health cooperation under Belt & Road Initiative, and etc.

In addition, she also once served as project manager of Dep. Of International Cooperation at National Health Commission from Apr. to Nov. 2015, and mainly responsible for managing bilateral international cooperation with East Asian Countries.



## **Dr Sutayut Osornprasop**

**Senior Human Development Specialist,  
World Bank**

Sutayut Osornprasop (Ph.D.) is Senior Human Development Specialist in the Health, Nutrition, Population Global Practice of the World Bank. Based in Bangkok, Sutayut is the Health Cluster Leader for Thailand and has been leading World Bank projects and analytic work to promote multi-sectoral collaboration and social determinants for improved health and nutrition outcomes across the East Asia and the Pacific region. A social scientist by training, he is widely known for his leadership in promoting innovative HIV prevention interventions, promoting multi-sectoral actions to address double burden of malnutrition and the rise of non-communicable diseases and obesity in the East Asia and Pacific region, and supporting sustainable financing and resilient systems for health security and pandemic preparedness. His leadership and contribution to the post-disaster damage and losses assessment of the health sector following Thailand's devastating floods in 2011 is well recognized. He also contributed to the damage and losses assessment of the health sector following Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar in 2008. He has worked on health financing and co-authored public expenditure reviews of the health sector in Thailand and Myanmar. He has also contributed to the efforts to support Palestine on the Universal Health Coverage agenda.



**Dr. Bounpheng Philavong**

**Ministry of Health, Lao PDR**

Dr. Bounpheng Philavong graduated Faculty of Medicine of Charles University at Prague, Czech Republic in 1985. He received a MPH degree in Epidemiology from University of California at Berkeley in 1992 and a Doctor of Public Health (Dr.PH) in international health from The Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, USA in 1998.

He has been working at Ministry of Health in Lao PDR since 1985 in a various positions including National EPI Manager, Deputy Director of Health System Reform and Malaria Control Project, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Director of National Centre for HIV/AIDS and STI.

Dr Philavong has also worked at the ASEAN Secretariat based in Jakarta, Indonesia from 2004 to 2010 coordinating ASEAN regional cooperation in the public health sector.

He has been appointed member of WHO Regional Verification Commission for Measles and Rubella Elimination for the Western Pacific since 2012 until now.

From 18 September 2017 to present, Dr Philavong has been appointed as Director General of Department of Hygiene and Health Promotion, Ministry of Health of Lao PDR. With this position, he oversees various programmes, including maternal and child health, nutrition, immunization, water, sanitation and hygiene, health promotion, primary health care, tobacco and alcohol control among others.



**Dr Azusa Sato**

---

**Health Specialist,  
Southeast Asia Department,  
Asian Development Bank**

Azusa Sato is a health specialist in the Southeast Asia Regional Department at the Asian Development Bank. Her areas of interest include health governance, health financing, and health security. While based in Manila, Philippines, most of her work is based in the Greater Mekong Subregion, including the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Viet Nam, Cambodia, and Myanmar. She completed her BA in Economics from Cambridge University, Masters in Demography and Development and PhD in Health Policy at the London School of Economics, UK.

## **Session 5**

### **Belt and Road Initiative and public health emergencies / health security**

**Friday 16 November 2018**

**09.00-10.15 hrs**

There are a number of concerns on the link between the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and health security, including global spread of infectious diseases with increasing mobility of construction workers mostly taking no account of epidemic seasons; increase in road traffic accidents due to the difference in the traffic rules and manners at a destination country; the ecological impact of large infrastructure projects that could push vectors such as mosquitoes and bats to colonize new areas; export of and use of hazardous materials including e-waste and toxic chemicals; export of hazardous industries such as strip mining while regulation of occupational health and environmental standards are inadequate; and humanitarian crisis due to the geopolitical tensions.

On the other hand, BRI shows a positive aspect contributing to the solution of these challenges. China has committed to provide medical assistance and emergency medical aid to Belt and Road partners. One well-known example is a response to the Ebola epidemic in West Africa, with sending 1200 Chinese healthcare professionals, opening a 100-bed treatment unit, and establishing three field demonstration sites. China also carries out regional cooperation and coordination in prevention and management of major infectious diseases through epidemic information sharing, exchange of preventive and interventional methods, and training health professionals. In 2017, the Beijing Communique was adopted



by countries involved in the BR to synergize efforts in medical emergency response and epidemic prevention.

This session will look at the current and potential impacts of BRI on health security and discuss whether the BRI Blueprint contributes to health security. The session will also explore as to what extent the BR would help improve preparedness and capacity needed for public health emergencies responses.

**Objectives:**

1. To discuss both potential negative and positive impact of the BRI on health security
2. To explore appropriate actions and capacity for preparedness and response to the international spread of infectious diseases and human crisis
3. To discuss how to take the benefit of the BRI to build international health security.

**Lead Speaker:**

- Dr Roderico Ofrin, Regional Coordinator for Emergency Risk Management, WHOSEARO

**Panelists:**

- Dr Dennis Carroll, Director Emerging Threats Program, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)
- Ms Riko Kimoto, Project Manager, Sustainable Development & Public Health, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

**Moderator:** Dr Kumnuan Ungchusak, Consultant to Department of Disease Control, MOPH

**Session Coordinator:** Dr Nakorn Premisri, Director of Bureau of Epidemiology, Department of Disease Control, MOPH



**Dr. Roderico Ofrin**

---

**Regional Coordinator for Emergency  
Risk Management, WHOSEARO**

Dr. Roderico Ofrin, Regional Coordinator for Emergency Risk Management at the World Health Organization's Regional Office for South East Asia shared his experiences and guided participants towards considering gender in all aspects of their work.

Understanding women's "vulnerabilities"

Dr. Ofrin reflected on his experience with a community that was provided with a sanitation unit to use after disaster made their normal facilities inaccessible. It was not until a female aid worker noticed that women were very rarely at the unit that inquiries were made and it was discovered that the women did not feel safe using the unit alone, so went to the unit as a group twice a day. This meant that many women were left needing to use the bathroom for hours but felt obliged to wait for the protection of the group.



**Dr. Dennis Carroll**

**Director Emerging Threats Program,  
U.S. Agency for International  
Development (USAID)**

Dr. Dennis Carroll currently serves as the Director of the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) Emerging Threats Program. In this position Dr. Carroll is responsible for providing strategic and operational leadership for the Agency's programs addressing new and emerging disease threats.

Dr. Carroll was detailed to USAID from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as a senior public health advisor in 1991. In 1995 he was named the Agency's Senior Infectious Diseases advisor, responsible for overseeing the Agency's programs in malaria, tuberculosis, antimicrobial resistance, disease surveillance, as well as neglected and emerging infectious diseases. In this capacity Dr. Carroll was directly involved in the development and introduction of a range of new technologies for disease prevention and control, including: community-based delivery of treatment of onchocerciasis, rapid diagnostics for malaria, new treatment therapies for drug resistant malaria, intermittent therapy for pregnant women and "long-lasting" insecticide treated bednets for prevention of malaria. He was responsible for the initial design and development of the President's Malaria Initiative. Dr. Carroll officially left CDC and joined USAID in 2005 when he assumed responsibility for leading the USAID response to the spread of avian influenza.

Dr. Carroll has a doctorate in biomedical research with a special focus in tropical infectious diseases from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He was a Research Scientist at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory where he studied the molecular mechanics of viral infection.



**Riko KIMOTO**

**Project Manager, Sustainable  
Development & Public Health,  
Asia Europe Foundation (ASEF)**

Riko KIMOTO joined ASEF in April 2016, and she leads ASEF Public Health Network. Prior to joining ASEF, she has gained extensive field NGO/volunteer experience in Latin America, collaborating with the local/international agencies such as Ministry of Health and UNHCR, dealing with a wide range of issues in the field of public health. Other than the Americas, she also worked in Africa as a project supervisor for hospital management. Since she has lived much of her adult life in countries other than her own including Haitian Batey (village) in rural Dominican Republic, she became very capable of adapting different cultures and lifestyles, which she enjoys a lot.

Riko has a Bachelor of Nursing degree from Australian Catholic University, and she is a qualified nurse with several years of clinical experience. She then obtained her Master's degree in International Public Health (MIPH) from University of Queensland. For MIPH, she conducted her research in Mexico, and her article has been published on a professional journal afterwards.



**Dr. Kumnuan Ungchusak**

**Consultant to Department of Disease  
Control, MOPH, Thailand**

Dr. Kumnuan Ungchusak born in 1955. He received his MD from Siriraj Medical School, Thailand, and got his Master of Public Health from Mahidol University. He also joined a two-year on the job training of the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) under the Thai Ministry of Health in 1984. He served as the director of Thailand FETP and became the Director of Bureau of Epidemiology from 2001-2008 oversee the country surveillance and investigation network. He played role for the establishment of “SRRT” or Surveillance Rapid Response Team in every district. His works are related to Avian Influenza, Pandemic Influenza, Public health emergency of international concern. At present he is a member of board of Thai Health Promotion Foundation oversee the control program of NCDs, Tobacco, Alcohol, Drug abuse and Traffic injuries.

## **Session 6**

### **BRI and Health Innovation and Research Collaboration**

**Friday 18 November 2018**

**10.15-11.30 hrs**

The BRI does not focus only on connectivity in a sense of transportation. Connectivity involves a broader meaning of bridging gaps and enabling trade partners from different countries to integrate their businesses and activities. For example, the China-Israel experience of using innovation as a foundation for relationship development. Israeli companies have been promoting their advanced technologies and selling their know-how to China over the last decade as a mean to scale up technologies and innovations. In 2015, more than 70% of export is technological innovation-related, including electronics components (61%) and medical equipment and pharmaceutical (13%). Two years after the launch of BRI, the Chinese's investments in Israeli start-ups have been doubled and the investments in venture-funds has grown nearly five-fold.

The above example has shown the business innovation growth from the connectivity. Economic cooperation with innovations can be used as an underlying theme. For this purpose, it is interesting if the connectivity can be used as a media to bring innovation to benefit Thailand and the region. China is the world's largest producer of active pharmaceutical ingredient (API). China is pursuing its goal of becoming a research hub for international pharmaceutical product development with biopharmaceutical industry as one of seven strategic industries within 12th Five-Year plan for 2011 – 2015 support.

This session aims to discuss the opportunity to identify potential health innovation and research collaboration, that is

benefit to Thailand and the countries along the connectivity, or a bilateral development with China.

**Lead speaker**

Dr Nares Damrongchai, CEO, Thailand Center of Excellence for Life Sciences (Public Organization)

**Panelists:**

- Mr. Vitoon Vonghangool, President, BioNet-Asia Co., Ltd. Thailand
- Dr Yada Mukdapitak, Deputy Secretary General, National Science Technology and Innovation Policy Office, Thailand
- Prof. Dr. Lin Wang, Institute of Biomedical and Health Engineering, Shenzhen Institutes of Advanced Technology, Chinese Academy of Sciences

**Moderator:**

Dr Chutima Akaleephan, International Trade and Health Programme, IHPP

**Session Coordinator:**

Mrs Premruedee Lertsakvimarn, Senior Manager, International Cooperation, Thailand Center of Excellence for Life Sciences (Public Organization)



**Dr. Nares Damrongchai**

**CEO, Thailand Center  
of Excellence for Life Sciences**

Dr. Nares Damrongchai is the Chief Executive Officer of Thailand Center of Excellence for Life Sciences (TCELS), Thailand's public organization dedicated to supporting translational research and fostering the life sciences industry. He served as the Executive Director of the APEC Center for Technology Foresight and Senior Director at the National Science Technology and Innovation Policy Office (STI). Currently he is also Co-Chair of the APEC Life Science Innovation Forum and serves on the Editorial Board of Asian Biotechnology and Development Review, published by RIS, New Delhi.

Dr. Damrongchai obtained the degree of Master of Philosophy from the University of Cambridge (Technology Management) and Doctor of Engineering from Tokyo Institute of Technology (Bioengineering).





## **Mr. Vitoon Vonghangool**

**President, BioNet - Asia Co., Ltd. Thailand**

Mr. Vitoon Vonghangool is the President of BioNet-Asia Co., Ltd. With 35 years of experience and expertise in marketing vaccines, Mr. Vitoon is one of the key executives leading BioNet-Asia. For years, he has been encouraging the vaccine manufacturers within ASEAN for the co-operation on self-sufficiency. He also advocates the local development and production of vaccines against regional diseases, such as dengue, rabies and Japanese encephalitis, present in Thailand and in the region. Mr. Vitoon started his career with Rhone–Poulenc Group in 1971 and during his 21 years with the group, he held various positions starting from the bottom as Medical Representative and worked his way up to Marketing Director and then to General Manager . Since 1992 until present, Mr. Vitoon has been an entrepreneur. He founded many enterprises such as Diagnostic Biotechnology Co., Ltd., Biogenetech Co., Ltd., Pharma Nord S.E.A. Co., Ltd., and Biopex Co., Ltd. focusing on diagnostic products, vaccines, biological and pharmaceutical products, food supplement, and logistics. Apart from his executive responsibility, Mr. Vitoon has been working as Consultant for Chiron (presently Novartis) in 1998-2001 for human rabies vaccine. Mr. Vitoon is also a member of the sub-committee (Vaccines Production Project) of the National Vaccine Committee in Thailand. Mr Vitoon also a member and one of the founders of The Thai Association for Biotech Industries since 2010



**Dr. Yada Mukdapitak**

---

**Deputy Secretary General,  
National Science Technology  
and Innovation**

Dr. Yada Mukdapitak has extensive work experiences in the field of science and technology policy and plan. Her expertise is in technology strategy, R&D management, and technology transfer. She has played key role in the design of the science and technology policy and most recently the innovation policy of Thailand.

Alumni of the Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU), University of Sussex, United Kingdom, Dr. Yada Mukdapitak was the Assistant President of the National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA) and later became the Deputy Secretary General of the National Science Technology and Innovation Policy Office since 2009.



## **Associate Prof. Dr. Wang Lin**

---

**Institute of Biomedical and Health  
Engineering, Shenzhen Institutes  
of Advanced Technology,  
Chinese Academy of Sciences**

Dr. Lin Wang is currently an Associate Professor and one of key scientific research members at Shenzhen Advanced Technology Institute (SIAT), Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). Lin has her first degree and PhD in Biomechanical Engineering at University of Bristol, UK in 2010. Lin was appointed as a senior biomechanical engineer in global top medical devices companies from 2013 to 2017, followed by serving as a postdoctoral research assistant in Orthopedics Dept, Chinese University of Hong Kong, and a postdoctoral fellow in Musculoskeletal Aging Dept, University of Liverpool respectively. Lin is also a member in Institute of Mechanical Engineering Association UK. She has 10+ relevant academic papers published, and has been invited to speak and be session chair in several international conferences. Lin was granted as a PI and Co-I in numbers of national grants, e.g. National Science Fund Council China, Computational Integrated of Musculoskeletal Aging UK, and 2 Hong Kong Innovation and Technology Support Project (ITF).



**Dr. chutima Akalephan**

---

**International Trade  
and Health Programme**

Chutima is a senior researcher at the International Health Policy Program, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand. In 2010, she got PhD in Health Policy from School of Medicine, Health Policy and Practice, University of East Anglia, UK. With background in pharmaceutical science and working in the Ministry of Public Health since 1991, she has been a member of many national taskforces and committees on public health and medicines related policies. Areas of interests include international trade; health and medicine expenditure; health equity; and health services and care for terminally ill patients. During 2011-2016 she was the Programme Manager of International Trade and Health Programme (ITH) with the work focus on study the impact of international trade on 4 health related areas, i.e. health products and intellectual property, goods that is harmful to health, health services and foods. She also has a number of publications to her credit.

## **Keynote Speech**

A reflection on the issue of Belt and Road Initiative:  
opportunities and challenges to health

## **Recommendations from the conference**

By **Dr Cha-aim Pachanee**,

Programme Manager, International Trade and Health Programme,  
International Health Policy Program (IHPP), Ministry of Public Health



## **Dr Cha-aim Pachanee**

---

**Programme Manager,  
International Trade and Health  
Programme (ITH)**

Dr. Cha-aim Pachanee is a researcher and Programme Manager at the International Trade and Health Programme, International Health Policy Program (IHPP), Ministry of Public Health. Prior to joining IHPP, she worked at the Global Health Division for five years before pursuing a study for PhD in Epidemiology and Population Health at the Australian National University in Australia. She obtained her undergraduate degree in Applied Science (Environmental Health) from Queensland University of Technology and Master of International Health from Griffith University in Brisbane, Australia. Before joining the Ministry of Public Health, she was a research assistant at Thailand Environment Institute.

Cha-aim is particularly interested in the areas of international trade in health services, human resources for health, health systems and health policies, global health, and environmental health. She has been involving in research in these areas and presenting her works in a number of forum as well as publishing a number of articles. She was part of Thai delegates to the World Health Assembly, WHO Executive Board, Global Fund Board meeting and other international events. During the past five years, she has been a resource person on policy communication training focusing on bridging research to policy.

## **Conclusion and the way forward**

By **Dr Suwit Wibulpolprasert,**

Chair of the ITH Conference Organising Subcommittee





## **Dr Suwit Wibulpolprasert**

---

**Chair,  
Conference Organising Subcommittee**

Dr. Suwit Wibulpolprasert is a general practitioner, public health specialist, administrator and policy advocate. He began his career as Director and practitioner in four rural district hospitals in Thailand. Later, he was the Director of the Northeastern Public Health College; Director of The Food and Drug Administration Technical Division; Director of Bureau of Health Policy and Plan; Assistant Permanent Secretary and Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Public Health, Thailand. His main interests are health policy and planning and global health. He has been extensively involved in research and development in the area of human resources for health; health economics, health-care financing and universal health coverage; international trade and health; health promotion; health information; and pharmaceuticals. He has published more than 100 papers, reports and books locally and internationally. In Thailand, Dr. Suwit is the editor of a local journal for para-medical personnel and had produced radio and television programs on health and social issues for more than 15 years. He used to be the elected members of Thai Medical Council for 22 years, and also its Secretary General and Vice President. He was the first President of Thailand National Health Assembly and served President of Thailand Reform Assembly.

At present he is the board member of the Nation Science and Technology Board, the National Nanotechnology Centre, and Mahidol University Council. He founded and chairs the Thai Health Information Systems Network (THINK). As part of his involvement in global health, Dr. Suwit represented Thailand in many international health forums and at the World Health Assembly. He represented Thailand and the South-east Asia Region as a member and Vice Chair of the Governing Board of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria from 2001 to 2004. He chaired the Global Fund's Policy and Strategy Committee from 2010 to 2011. In addition, he was the President of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety from 2003 to 2006 and the Member and Vice Chair of the World Health Organization (WHO) Executive Board during 2004-2007. At present, Dr. Suwit is the immediate past chair of the Connecting Organization for Regional Disease Surveillance Networks (CORDS), senior member of the Organizing Committee of the annual international Prince Mahidol Award Conference, and member of the coordinating group of the five countries network on HRH education for the 21st century.

Dr. Suwit is currently the Vice Chair of the International Health Policy Program Foundation (IHPF) and the Health Intervention and Technology Assessment Foundation (HITAF), The Chair of the Institute for the Development of Human Research Protections Foundation (IHRPF), and the Chair of the Health and Society Creation Foundation. Prior to this position, he served the highest government official rank as a Senior Advisor in Disease Control to the Thai Ministry of Public Health during 2006- September 2013. In 2014, he is appointed to be an adviser of the Health Minister on Global Health.

## Conference Organising Subcommittee 2018

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. Mrs. Sirina Pavarolaravidya                                       | Advisor                 |
| 2. Dr. Supakit Sirilak   | Advisor                 |
| 3. Dr. Suwit Wibulpolprasert   | Chair                   |
| 4. Dr. Piti Srisangnam   | Member                  |
| 5. Representative of Ministry of Foreign Affairs                     | Member                  |
| 6. Representative of Department of Trade<br>Negotiation              | Member                  |
| 7. Representative of National Health<br>Commission Office            | Member                  |
| 8. WHO Representative to Thailand                                    | Member                  |
| 9. Representative of Thai Chamber of<br>Commerce                     |                         |
| 10. Representative of the Federation of<br>Thai Industry             | Member                  |
| 11. Representative of FTA Watch                                      | Member                  |
| 12. Director of Global Health Division,<br>Ministry of Public Health | Member                  |
| 13. Ms. Cha-aim Pachanee   | Member and<br>Secretary |
| 14. Mrs. Inthira Yamabhai  | Member and<br>Secretary |
| 15. Ms Suriwan Thaiprayoon   | Member and<br>Secretary |