

SESSION 2.1: Liberalisation of trade in health services: Improving equitable accessibility in ASEAN

DATE/ TIME: Tuesday 19 November 2019 at 11.15-12.30 hrs (75 minutes)

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: Mr Nudjaree Sompong, Department of Trade Negotiation, Ministry of Commerce Thailand

CONCEPT NOTE

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 to what extent liberalization of health services, both under and outside the trade agreements, can help improve ASEAN people's accessibility to health care, and what need to be done in order to take the benefit of trade in services to improve health and access to health care among people the ASEAN region.

Issues under this session may include:

- (1) Future medical tourism and access to health services in ASEAN
- (2) Will ASEAN trade improve access to health services towards universal health coverage? (e.g. the use of Digital health / e-health to improve accessibility)
- (3) Future trade in health services in the 4th industrial revolution era (e.g. the niche areas, the future needs, the use of big data to predict future needs, the precautionary points. ...)
- (4) WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel: A challenge or opportunity for ASEAN?
- (5) Improving equitable access to healthcare in ASEAN: a case study of health insurance for marginalized group of population

Lead speaker:

Dr Matthias Helble

Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department,
Asian Development Bank



Matthias Helble is an economist in the Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Manila. Previously, he was a Senior Research Fellow and Co-Chair of the Research Department of the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) in Tokyo. His research interests include international trade, health and economic development. His research has been published in numerous scientific journals as well as in flagship reports of international organizations. His publication record also includes eight books, including with Oxford University Press. His book “Win-Win: How International Trade Can Help Meet the SDGs” was the most downloaded ADBI book in 2017. His columns and policy work have been cited by prominent international media such as the AFP, AP, and The Straits Times.

Matthias began his professional career at the World Bank in Washington, DC, before joining the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. He then worked as an economist for the World Trade Organization as well as the United Nations before joining ADB. He holds degrees in economics from the University of Tübingen, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva. During his doctoral studies he was a research fellow at Yale University.

Panelist:

Mr Tan Tai Hiong,

Assistant Director, Market Integration Directorate, ASEAN Secretariat



Mr. Tan Tai Hiong is currently the Assistant Director and Head of the Services and Investment Division of the ASEAN Secretariat. He has joined the ASEAN Secretariat since 2001 and has been working on the development and implementation of ASEAN policies/initiatives in the area of trade in services and subsequently also in the area of investment, as well as on ASEAN's Free Trade Area (FTA) negotiations with its Dialogue Partners. In parallel to this, Mr. Tan has also worked on coordination and facilitation of overall trade and economic policies among ASEAN member countries as well as between ASEAN and its dialogue partners, which are coordinated through Senior Economic Officials Meeting (SEOM) and ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting (AEM).

Prior to joining the ASEAN Secretariat, Mr. Tan Tai Hiong worked for an international management consulting firm and then for holding company of one major business group in Indonesia. Mr. Tan worked on organisational and financial restructuring projects for various corporations during those positions, including consumer products, banking, distribution, and media corporations.

Mr. Tan obtained his Master of Arts (MA) in International Economics from Fordham University, in New York, and his Bachelor Degree in Economics and Development Studies from University of Indonesia.

Panelist:

Dr Rapeepong Suphanchaimat

International Health Policy Program, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand



Education Background

- 2000-2002: Triamudom Suksa school
- 2003-2008: Faculty of Medicine, Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University The Degree of Doctor of Medicine (First Class Honors with highest ranking of Internal Medicine throughout curriculum)
- 2014-2016: Doctoral degree in Public Health and Policy, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, University of London, UK

Work Record

- 2008-2009: Medical officer, Maesot Hospital
- 2009-2011: Medical officer, Umphang Hospital
- 2011 till present: International Health Policy Programme, Ministry of Public Health
- 2013 till present: Medical officer, Banphai Hospital

Panelist:

Dr Achanun Kaopaiboon

Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University



Archanun Kohpaiboon is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University, Bangkok, Thailand. He won the best paper award in industrial economics 2003 at The Annual Conference of PhD Students in Economics in Australian Universities, and the best young economist of Thailand prize in 2006. His research interest is industrialization in Thailand, multinational enterprises, global production sharing, free trade agreements, and medical tourism. He works as an international consultant for various international organizations including World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Asian Development Bank Institute, Economic Research Institute of ASEAN and East Asia. He published 3 books (one in English with Edward Elgar and 2 in Thai), 30 papers in leading peer-reviewed journals (such as Journal of Development Studies, World Development, Review of Policy Research, Research Policy, Oxford Development Studies, Journal of Asian Economics, Asian Economic Journal), and 15 book chapters for the past decade. He also serves as the associate editor of Asian Economic Journal and Thailand and the World Economy.

Moderator:

Ms Nudjaree Sompong

Senior Trade Officer,
Department of Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Commerce



EDUCATION

- | | |
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| 1993-1995 | Master Degree in Business Administration
Northeastern University, Boston,
Massachusetts, the United States of
America |
| 1988-1992 | Bachelor Degree in Accountancy, the 2nd
honor Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok,
Thailand |

WORK EXPERIENCE

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 2012-Present | Trade Officer, Senior Professional Level Bureau of Trade in
Service and Investment, Department of Trade Negotiations,
Ministry of Commerce |
| 2005-2012 | Trade Officer, Professional Level Bureau of ASEAN Affairs,
Department of Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Commerce |
| 1999-2005 | Trade Officer, Practitioner Level Bureau of International
Economic Policy, Department of Economic Commerce,
Ministry of Commerce |
| 1998-1999 | Trade Officer, Policy and Planning Analyst Bureau of Goods
and Marketing Research, Department of Economic
Commerce, Ministry of Commerce |