



# INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND HEALTH CONFERENCE 2025



## TRADE AND HEALTH: PROMOTING EQUITY, INNOVATION, AND RESILIENCE IN A CHANGING LANDSCAPE

28-29 October 2025

Movenpick BDMS Wellness Resort, Bangkok, Thailand

Day 1 – Tuesday 28 October 2025	
08.00-09.00	Registration / Networking
09.00-09.10	<b>Opening of the conference</b>
	<b>Welcome and introduction to the Conference”</b> ❖ <b>Cha-aim Pachanee,</b> Conference Secretariat  <b>Opening remarks:</b> ❖ <b>Sampan Silapanad,</b> Chair of the National Commission on International Trade and Health Studies (NCITHS), Thailand
09.10-09.30	<b>Keynote address</b>
20 minutes	Topic: <b>"Fragmentation and Resilience: Navigating the Trade-Health Connection in an Era of Geopolitical Tensions"</b>  ❖ <b>Marc Saxer</b> Director, FES Office for Regional Cooperation in Asia, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES)
09.30-10.45	<b>Session 1: Geopolitical challenges and implications for trade and health policies and equity</b>
75 minutes	The current geopolitical challenges greatly impact on the global trade landscape, consequently affecting health system preparedness and response. This session will discuss the consequent risks and opportunities of these challenges, covering the following issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Possible impacts on economic stability and international trade, and health, such as through the effect on the supply chain</li><li>- The future of bilateral, regional, and multilateral cooperation under the current situation</li><li>- Balancing equity between the developing and developed worlds</li><li>- Opportunity for enhancing health as a driver of the economy and competitiveness</li></ul>

	<p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Bruno Casella</b> (Online) Senior Economist, Investment and Enterprise Division at United Nations Conference on Trade and Development</li> <li>❖ <b>Anne-Marie Thow</b> Professor, Public Policy and Health, Faculty of Medicine and Health, The University of Sydney, Australia</li> <li>❖ <b>Werapong Prapha</b> Former Thailand Trade Representative</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>H.E. Pimchanok Pitfield</b> Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Thailand to the World Trade Organization and the World Intellectual Property Organization, Geneva, Switzerland</li> </ul>
10.45-11.10	Morning coffee break and networking
<b>11.10-12.25</b>	<b>Session 2: Improving Innovation and access through trade and technologies for a healthier world</b>
75 minutes	<p>Equitable access to quality health products and technologies remains a global challenge, especially in the face of future pandemics, non-communicable diseases, and climate-related health threats. Strengthening local production capacities, enabling effective technology transfer, and securing resilient global supply chains are critical to drive innovations and ensure that health technologies are available and accessible to all populations. This session will discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improving health products, enhancing technology transfer, and strengthening the global supply chain for a healthier population</li> <li>- The role of emerging technologies in promoting innovation and access to healthcare, particularly in low and middle-income countries; legal implications for AI and IP protection related to AI in the healthcare sector</li> <li>- The importance of innovation ecosystems, including research collaboration among innovators across multi-sectors, that are responsive to public health needs (including related issues under the WHO Pandemic Agreement to be discussed in Session 3)</li> <li>- Outcome of the Regional meeting for capacity building in technology transfer and public-health oriented intellectual property licensing agreements to increase access to health technologies, 19-21 November 2024, Kerala, India</li> </ul> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>German Velasquez</b> Special Advisor on Policy and Health, The South Centre, Geneva, Switzerland</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Kaarlo Castren</b> Counsellor, Intellectual Property, Government Procurement and Competition Division, World Trade Organization, Geneva, Switzerland</li> <li>❖ Speaker from private sector / vaccine R&amp;D [TBC]</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Manisha Shridhar</b> Regional Advisor, WHO South-East Asia Regional Office, New Delhi, India</li> </ul>
12.25-13.30	<b>Lunch and networking</b>
<b>13.30-14.45</b>	<b>Session 3: International trade and health aspect of the WHO Pandemic Agreement</b>
75 minutes	<p>After more than three years of negotiation, the 78<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly adopted the draft WHO Pandemic Agreement on 20 May 2025, and the Agreement will be open for signature after the adoption of the Annex to Article 12. Under the WHO Pandemic Agreement, there are Articles related to international trade and health, which will be discussed in this session.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Analysis of <u>trade-related elements</u> under the WHO Pandemic Agreement (the principle, the issues of concern, the ecosystems for implementation),</li> <li>- Countries' perspectives on implementation of the WHO Pandemic Agreement</li> </ul> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Sukpuck Barnett</b> Counsellor (Health, Environment, Protocol and Legal Affairs) Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations Office and other International Organisations Geneva, Switzerland</li> <li>❖ Speaker from the Ministry of Health, Malaysia [TBC]</li> <li>❖ Speaker from Medicine Law and Policy, Amsterdam, the Netherlands [TBC]</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ [TBC]</li> </ul>
<b>14.45-15.10</b>	<b>Afternoon coffee break and networking</b>

<b>15.10-16.15</b>	<b>Session 4: Enhancing regional resilience in the current global context</b>
65 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Experience from the Regions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Case studies from Asia and the Pacific: “Regional integration and cooperation through trade and technology transfer policies to enhance affordable and equitable access to essential medical goods in Asia and the Pacific”</li> <li>(2) Case study from the Caribbean and Latin America: “The Latin American and Caribbean Medicine Agency (AMLAC)”</li> </ul> </li> <li>- How can countries work together to enhance regional resilience in the current and future situation?</li> <li>- What are the best practices/models for regional structure or regional integration?</li> <li>- Future regional collaborative platform</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Anthony So</b> Director, IDEA Initiative &amp; Distinguished Professor of the Practice Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, United States of America</li> <li>❖ <b>Piti Srisangnam</b> (online) Executive Director, ASEAN Foundation</li> <li>❖ <b>Rupa Chanda</b> Director of Trade and Investment, The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) Bangkok, Thailand</li> <li>❖ <b>Representative from the Caribbean/ Latin America</b> [TBC]</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ [TBC]</li> </ul>
<b>16.15-16.30</b>	<b>Wrapping up for Day 1</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Key issues that arose from the discussion during the day</li> <li>- Additional Q &amp; A or discussion, if any</li> </ul> <p>By The Conference Secretariat</p>

Day 2 Wednesday 29 October 2025	
08.00-09.00	Registration / Networking
09.00-09.10	Highlights of Day 1 and Introduction to Day 2 <a href="#">By the Conference Secretariat</a>
<b>09.10-10.25</b>	<b>Session 5: From insight to impact: Research collaboration to promote equity, innovation, and resilience</b>
75 minutes	<p>This session will serve as a starting point for collaboration in research related to issues discussed at the conference that serve countries' needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With the decrease in financial support for research and development, how to maintain the generation of knowledge to support decision-making in international trade and health</li> <li>- Strategy for collaboration among multi sectors [trade, health, civil society, private sector, academic]</li> <li>- Possible research topics, shared research goals, potential funding mechanisms, and cross-institutional coordination models</li> <li>- <b>[Note:</b> The Conference will identify research needs to get the right research topics, e.g., by developing a working paper on research and development for the Conference, and by a brief discussion after each session to summarise possible research topics as inputs to Session 5. In addition, there will be a platform for continued discussion on research after the Conference.]</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Eduardo Banzon</b> <a href="#">[online]</a> Director, Health Practice Team, Human and Social Development Office, ADB Sectors Department, Asian Development Bank, Manila, Philippines</li> <li>❖ <b>Anne-Marie Thow</b> Professor, Public Policy and Health, Faculty of Medicine and Health, The University of Sydney, Australia</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Matthias Helble</b> World Health Organization Geneva, Switzerland</li> </ul>
<b>10.25-10.45</b>	<b>Morning coffee break and networking</b>

<b>10.45-12.05</b>	<b>Session 6: The way forwards and opportunities for trade and health synergy</b>
80 minutes	<p>Taking into account the discussion in sessions 1-5 and the future scenario, this session will provide a forward-looking strategy for trade and health synergy, an enhanced role of the health sector in the economic development, institutional leadership, possible collaborative platform, and follow-up mechanisms.</p> <p>This session will also provide recommendations from the Conference based on the top three recommendations from each session discussed earlier.</p> <p><b>Speakers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Pimchanok Pitfield</b> Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Thailand to the World Trade Organization and the World Intellectual Property Organization, Geneva, Switzerland</li> <li>❖ Speaker from international organisations [TBC]</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Suwit Mangkhala</b> Chargé d'affaires a.i. &amp; Deputy Permanent Representative of Thailand to ASEAN Permanent Mission of Thailand to ASEAN Jakarta, Indonesia</li> </ul>
<b>12.05-12.20</b>	<b>Conference Summary</b>
15 minutes	By the Conference Secretariat and Rapporteur Team
<b>12.20-12.30</b>	<b>Conference Closing</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Sampan Silapanad</b> Chair of the National Commission on International Trade and Health Studies</li> </ul>
<b>12.30-14.00</b>	<b>Lunch and networking</b>
<b>14.00-16.30</b>	<b>Meeting of the ITH Conference Organising Subcommittee</b>

<https://www.iththailand.net/public/en/events/detail/17/321>

For more information, please contact [ith.programme@gmail.com](mailto:ith.programme@gmail.com)