

INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND HEALTH CONFERENCE 2025

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

Tuesday 28 to Wednesday 29 October 2025

Bangkok, Thailand (Hybrid)

Day 1 – Tuesday 28 October 2025

08.00-09.00	Registration / Networking
09.00-09.10	Opening of the conference
	Welcome and introduction to the Conference” Opening remarks:
09.10-09.30	Keynote address
20 minutes	Topic: "Fragmentation and Resilience: Navigating the Trade-Health Connection in an Era of Geopolitical Tensions"
09.30-10.45	Session 1: Geopolitical challenges and implications for trade and health policies and equity
75 minutes	<p>The current geopolitical challenges greatly impact 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Possible impacts on economic stability and international trade, and health, such as through the effect on the supply chain - The future of bilateral, regional, and multilateral cooperation under the current situation - Balancing equity between the developing and developed worlds - Opportunity for enhancing health as a driver of the economy and competitiveness
10.45-11.10	Morning coffee break and networking
11.10-12.25	Session 2: Improving Innovation and access through trade and technologies for a healthier world
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"> - Improving health products, enhancing technology transfer, and strengthening the global supply chain for a healthier population

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 - 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) - 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
12.25-13.30	Lunch and networking
13.30-14.45	Session 3: International trade and health aspect of the WHO Pandemic Agreement
75 minutes	<p>After more than three years of negotiation, the 78th 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"> - Analysis of <u>trade-related elements</u> under the WHO Pandemic Agreement (the principle, the issues of concern, the ecosystems for implementation), - Countries' perspectives on implementation of the WHO Pandemic Agreement
14.45-15.10	Afternoon coffee break and networking
15.10-16.15	Session 4: Enhancing regional resilience in the current global context
65 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Experience from the Regions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (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" (2) Case study from the Caribbean and Latin America: "The Latin American and Caribbean Medicine Agency (AMLAC)" - How can countries work together to enhance regional resilience in the current and future situation? - What are the best practices/models for regional structure or regional integration? - Future regional collaborative platform
16.15-16.30	Wrapping up for Day 1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key issues that arose from the discussion during the day - Additional Q & A or discussion, if any <p>By The Conference Secretariat</p>

Day 2 Wednesday 29 October 2025	
09.00-09.10	Highlights of Day 1 and Introduction to Day 2
09.10-10.25	Session 5: From insight to impact: Research collaboration to promote equity, innovation, and resilience
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"> - 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 - Strategy for collaboration among multi sectors [trade, health, civil society, private sector, academic] - Possible research topics, shared research goals, potential funding mechanisms, and cross-institutional coordination models
10.25-10.45	Morning coffee break and networking
10.45-12.05	Session 6: The way forwards and opportunities for trade and health synergy
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>
12.05-12.20	Conference Summary
12.20-12.30	Conference Closing
12.30-14.00	Lunch and networking
14.00-16.30	Meeting of the ITH Conference Organising Subcommittee

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For more information, please contact ith.programme@gmail.com