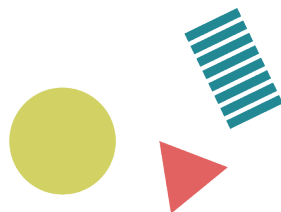




PMAC

PRINCE MAHIDOL
AWARD CONFERENCE

2019



PARALLEL SESSION 1.5

**WIN-WIN STRATEGY FOR THE CONTROL AND PREVENTION OF NCDS AND
TACKLING ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHALLENGES**



| BACKGROUND

Environmental factors are main causes of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs). Growing evidence indicates that early life exposure to environmental risks, such as chemicals, radiation and air pollutants, might increase NCD risk throughout the life course.¹ Air pollution alone causes about 6.5 million deaths a year, or one in eight of all deaths. The strongest causal associations are seen between PM_{2.5} pollution and cardiovascular and pulmonary disease as well as with several highly prevalent non-communicable diseases including diabetes, decreased cognitive function, attention-deficit or hyperactivity disorder and autism in children. Yet, around 2 billion children live in areas that exceed the World Health Organization annual limit of 10 µg/m³. These health burdens related to environmental pollution disproportionately fall on the poor and marginalized communities in low and middle income countries.²

There is a need for increased understanding on the environmental determinants of NCDs, including but not limited to: climate change (e.g. heat waves increasing risks for CVD and stroke), biodiversity loss, environmental pollution (air, water, soil, heavy metals, chemicals); impacts of the urban and built environment on NCDs (e.g. car-centric urban planning, environmental noise, housing, walkability, safe green spaces for physical activity and social interaction); consumption and production patterns across health, nutrition and other sectors. Moreover, the compounding effects of multiple environmental stressors (e.g. multiple contaminants through multiple exposure pathways) are poorly understood.

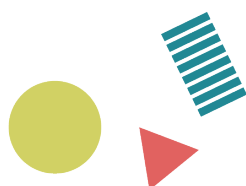
Although there is a growing understanding of the close relationship between health and environment, the linkages are not fully understood and integrated solutions are not effectively considered in policies and interventions across sectors. Moreover, there is a lack of policy recommendations that would enable policy makers to target the interventions across key sectors that would have the greatest beneficial long-term impacts on health, especially of vulnerable populations including children. Improving our understanding of these linkages and how they can be applied to support integrated decision-making can catalyse the public and private sector to act. Whole-of-government and whole-of-society actions are urgently needed for the control and prevention of NCDs and for reversing the alarming trend of environmental degradation and climate change.

¹ Preventing noncommunicable diseases by reducing environmental risk factors. WHO 2017

² The Lancet Commission on pollution and health (2017)

| OBJECTIVES

- To share the latest knowledge on environmental determinants of NCDs
- To share practical experiences and lessons learned on the use of science-based tools for identifying and assessing environmental risks of NCDs
- To share good practices and lessons learned on implementing actions to reduce environmental risks of NCDs
- To discuss multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder strategies, mechanisms and financing needs to tackle environmental determinants of NCDs



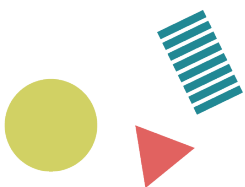


Moderator

Thaksaphon Thamarangsi

Director

Noncommunicable Diseases and Environmental Health, WHO South - East Asia
Regional Office
India





Panelist

Johannah Wegerdt

Health and well-being specialist

Green Climate Fund

Republic of Korea

Johannah Wegerdt is the Health and Well-being Specialist at the Green Climate Fund. Prior to that she was based in Thailand with UNDP with the Global Environmental Finance Unit developing climate change and health projects. At the Umea University Epidemiology and Global Health Unit she managed two FP7 consortia on social determinants of health and the other on climate and dengue fever. With Médecins Sans Frontier she conducted operational research on subjects ranging from environmental health to communicable diseases. In Myanmar, she evaluated several a vector-borne disease programmes specialising on dengue. She did her PhD at the University of Nottingham from 2000 to 2003 on aeolian dust, air pollution and childhood respiratory symptoms in Qaraqalpaqstan, Uzbekistan near the shrinking Aral Sea. Earlier studies were in Environmental Epidemiology and Policy at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine where she focused on air pollution (1999) for her Masters. Past consultancies have been with UNICEF, WHO, UN-OCHA, UNDP and WFP in Asia-Pacific and Southeast Asia. She was a Senior Epidemiologist for two UK government agencies, namely the Health and Safety Laboratory and the Health Protection Agency, and Epidemiologist for Valid International in multiple countries in Africa.



Panelist

Montira Pongsiri

Senior Research Associate

Cornell University
United States of America

Montira Pongsiri, PhD, MPH Dr. Montira Pongsiri was the first Science Advisor at the U.S. Mission to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Dr. Pongsiri led the Mission's efforts to develop and apply science and technology to support ASEAN's sustainability goals, and to strengthen the capacity of science-based policy-making through programs such as the ASEAN-U.S. sustainable cities partnership. She was on overseas assignment to the U.S. Mission to ASEAN from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Research and Development where she was an Environmental Health Scientist. At the EPA, Dr. Pongsiri developed and led a research initiative on biodiversity and human health which studied the links between anthropogenic stressors, changes in biodiversity, and infectious disease transmission. She was the agency's lead on technical partnerships with the Smithsonian Institution and with Rockefeller's 100 Resilient Cities Global Challenge. As a member of The Rockefeller Foundation-Lancet Commission on Planetary Health, Dr. Pongsiri brought expertise on environmental change-human disease linkages. Dr. Pongsiri is a Senior Research Associate at Cornell University. Dr. Pongsiri's primary research and science policy interests are in applying scientific understanding of the relationships between the condition of natural systems and human health to inform policy for long-term sustainability impact. Dr. Pongsiri is currently a Visiting Scientist at the UN Environment Asia-Pacific Regional Office in Bangkok where she works on planetary health demonstration studies and integrated methodologies and tools while also helping UN agencies in the region to incorporate environmental change-health issues into their strategic planning and activities. Dr. Pongsiri completed her Ph.D. at Yale University.



Panelist

Thar Tun Kyaw

Permanent Secretary

Ministry of Health and Sports
Myanmar

• He is currently Vice-President in WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO-FCTC) (2019-2020), Geneva, Switzerland. He is former Director General in Department of Public Health and Department of Medical Services(2016-2018) , Myanmar. He was Member in Malaria Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) (2013-2015) in Global Malaria Program (GMP), Geneva , Switzerland . He was Country Coordinating Director (CCD)(2012-2014) in Asia Collaborating Training Network in Malaria (ACT-Malaria) base in Manila , Philippine. He was Chair in Malaria Technical Advisory Group (Malaria – TSG)(2011-2014), Myanmar. He was voting member in Regional Steering Committee (RSC) (2013-2015), Greater Mekong Sub-region Artemisinin Resistance Initiative (GMS-RAI). • He is Malaria Experts and Public Health Specialist .He did his M.B,B.S(1985) and Master Degree in Public Health (M. Med. Sc – Public Health) (2003) in University of Medicine (2) ,Yangon, Myanmar. He studied malaria parasitology and medical entomology in Jichi Medical University (2008) , Japan. He also studied leadership, public administration and management in Crotonvill , GE training Center in New York (2013) and World Bank (Headquarter) ,(2017) Washington, USA.



Panelist

Tony Capon

Professor of Planetary Health

University of Sydney
Australia

Anthony Capon is the inaugural Professor of Planetary Health at the University of Sydney. A former director of the global health institute at United Nations University (UNU-IIGH), Tony is a public health physician and authority on environmental health and health promotion. For more than 20 years, Tony has been leading transdisciplinary research and capacity building efforts on the broad theme of urbanisation, sustainable development and human health. Since 2008, he has advised the International Council for Science (ICSU) on their global interdisciplinary science program on health and wellbeing in the changing urban environment using systems approaches. Tony is a member of The Rockefeller Foundation–Lancet Commission on Planetary Health which published its report *Safeguarding human health in the Anthropocene epoch* in 2015. He has served in numerous honorary leadership roles with professional and not-for-profit organisations including the International Society for Urban Health and the Frank Fenner Foundation.



Panelist

William A Suk

Director, Superfund Research Program, Division of Extramural Research and Training

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, US National Institutes of Health

United States of America

Dr. Suk is Chief, Hazardous Substances Research Branch, and Director, Superfund Hazardous Substances Basic Research and Training Program [Superfund Research Program], National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), National Institutes of Health (NIH). His primary interest is in the assessment of adverse effects on human health, primarily in vulnerable populations, resulting from exposure to deleterious environmental agents. Aside from a two-year period in which he was the Acting Deputy Director of NIEHS, Dr. Suk has served since its inception as Director of the NIH/NIEHS Superfund Hazardous Substances Basic Research and Training Program, a unique Program fostering interdisciplinary research and training approaches to address the complex problems associated with potentially hazardous environmental exposures, and to develop technologies to reduce these exposures, thereby reducing the burden of disease. Dr. Suk is currently or has been affiliated with a number of organizations and committees, including: member, roundtable on Environmental Health Sciences, Research, and Medicine of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences; member, International Advisory Board of the Chulabhorn Research Institute, Bangkok, Thailand; co-chaired the World Health Organization Consultation on Scientific Principles and Methodologies for Assessing Health Risks in Children Associated with Chemical Exposures; Chairman, Board of Directors of the Pacific Basin Consortium for Environment and Health. Dr. Suk has assisted in the conceptualization and implementation of research and training programs in children's environmental health, exposure biology (the exposome), and in understanding gene-environment interactions, to name but a few. Dr. Suk received his B.S. and M.S. in biology from American University, his Ph.D. in microbiology from the George Washington University Medical School, and his Masters in Public Health in health policy from the School of Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He has been or is on the editorial advisory boards of several international journals; is a member of several scientific societies; and has been a National Science Foundation fellow. Dr. Suk has been honored at the NIH with several NIH Director's Awards and with numerous NIH Award of Merit for his efforts, and has received the DHHS Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service. He was privileged with receiving the Roy E. Albert Memorial Award for Translational Research in Environmental Health from the University of Cincinnati; the Child Health Advocacy Award from the Children's Environmental Health Network; the John P. Wyatt Lecture Award in Environmental Health and Disease from the University of Kentucky; the Adel F. Sarofim Award for Outstanding Professional Achievement in Championing Research on the Origin, Fate and Health Effects of Combustion Emissions; the Society of Toxicology Founders Award; and the first Chairman's Award from the Pacific Basin Consortium for Environment and Health. Dr. Suk is a Fellow of the Collegium Ramazzini, the international society of scholars in environmental and occupational health. Dr. Suk is a Fulbright global scholar.



Panelist

Yevgeniy Goryakin

Health economist

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
France

Yevgeniy Goryakin is a Health Economist/Policy Analyst at the Health Division of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, where he focuses on modelling health and economic impact of public health interventions promoting healthier diet and physical activity, as well as reducing harmful alcohol consumption. His other interests include econometric analysis of environmental and socioeconomic determinants of health and health behaviours, including the impact of macro-level factors such as technological change, urbanization, economic and social globalization. He has also done research on the socioeconomic inequalities in overweight/obesity, as well as on the impact of chronic health conditions associated with obesity on labour market outcomes. He has a PhD in Health Services and Policy Analysis from the University of California at Berkeley, as well as an MPhil in Development Studies from Cambridge University, UK.

