



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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The National Assembly
of the Kingdom of Thailand



World Health
Organization

Regional Conference for Parliaments of the Asia-Pacific Region on Global Health Security

2–3 December 2024, Bangkok (Thailand)

Jointly organized by the Parliament of Thailand and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU),
in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO)

PROGRAMME

Sunday, 1 December 2024

Arrival of delegates

Dinner provided by the Host Parliament at Feast Restaurant, Ground Floor, Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel & Towers

Monday, 2 December 2024

Conference moderator: Ms. Patchari Raksawong, journalist

8:30–8:45 Registration

8:45–9:45 **Opening session**

Opening cultural performance

Opening remarks:

- H.E. Mr. Somsak Thepsutin, Minister of Public Health of Thailand
- Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) (via video message)
- Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)
- H.E. Mr. Wanmuhammadnoor Matha, President of the National Assembly and Speaker of the House of Representatives of Thailand

Photo session

Master of ceremony: Ms. Patchari Raksawong, journalist

Venue: Ballroom I, 2nd Floor, Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel & Towers

09:45–10:45 **Setting the scene – Asia-Pacific: A region prone to disease outbreaks?**

The COVID-19 pandemic subjected global and country emergency preparedness to a tough stress test. The IPU Asia-Pacific region is particularly concerned due to rapid landscape, trade, consumption and demographic change. The session will

provide an overview of the health security risks in the region, with a focus on infectious diseases and their complex origins, antimicrobial resistance, as well as on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and other disease outbreaks.

Dialogue:

- Ms. Saima Wazed, WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia
- Ms. Khuat Thi Hai Oanh, Founder and Executive Director, Center for Support Community Development Initiatives, Viet Nam

The dialogue will be followed by an interactive discussion with the audience.

Venue: Ballroom I, 2nd Floor, Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel & Towers

10:45–11:00 Coffee break

11:00–12:25 **Session I: The global architecture for health emergency prevention, preparedness, response and resilience: What implications for countries?**

No parliament and no country can prevent pandemics alone. Building on the lessons of the COVID-19 pandemic, Member States of the World Health Organization (WHO), have agreed on amendments to the International Health Regulations (IHR, 2005) and are in the process of negotiating a new pandemic accord. This session will brief parliamentarians on developments in the context of the global architecture for health emergency prevention, preparedness, response and resilience and the amendments to the IHR (2005), and discuss the implications for countries in implementing these frameworks to be better prepared and to better protect their populations.

Setting the scene:

- Dr. Stella Chungong, Director, Health Security Preparedness, WHO

Country perspectives:

- Dr. Gina Samaan, Regional Emergency Director, WHO Health Emergencies Programme and Director, Division of Health Security and Emergencies, WHO Western Pacific Regional Office
- Dr. Soawapak Hinjoy, D.V.M., Senior Expert, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health of Thailand
- Dr. Ciriaco B. Gato Jr., Member of Parliament, Chairman of the Committee on Health, House of Representatives of Philippines
- Dr. Mirwais Rahimzai, Technical Director, Infectious Diseases and Global Health Security, fhi360

The interventions will be followed by an interactive discussion with the audience.

Venue: Ballroom I, 2nd Floor, Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel & Towers

12:30–14:00 Official luncheon hosted by H.E. Mr. Mongkol Surasajja, President of the Senate of Thailand

Venue: Ballroom III, 2nd Floor, Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel & Towers

14:00–15:30 **Session II: Leveraging parliamentary functions for health security preparedness**

Parliaments and parliamentarians play a unique role in strengthening health security by advocating for and adopting legislation that increases health emergency preparedness; in ensuring health emergency preparedness and response capacities are adequately funded and flexible enough to fund a response to an unexpected health emergency; and in overseeing the government's implementation of health emergency preparedness and response plans. This session will present concrete examples and tools to help parliamentarians understand options for action. Participants are encouraged to share their experiences, challenges and lessons learnt.

Speakers:

- Ms. Aleksandra Blagojevic, Programme Manager for International Development, IPU
- Ms. Dawn Mapatano, Global Health Security Agenda, Legal Preparedness Action Package
- Dr. Srinivas Tata, Director, Social Development Division, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
- Professor Emeritus Kraisid Tontisirin, former Member of the Senate of Thailand
- Mr. Mardani Ali Sera, Member of Parliament, Chair of the Committee for Interparliamentary Cooperation, House of Representatives of Indonesia

The presentations will be followed by an interactive discussion with the audience.

Venue: Ballroom I, 2nd Floor, Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel & Towers

15:30–17:00

Session III: Parliamentary leadership for building trust and social cohesion

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown the importance of social trust, solidarity and leadership before and during an emergency. The session will discuss how communication and collaboration with communities can support more effective and equitable health emergency preparedness and response taking into account the needs of people more at risk of being impacted by health emergencies and pandemics. It will also address the issue of misinformation and disinformation and the role of science and evidence.

Speakers:

- Ms. Sarah Moulds, Deputy Chair, International Parliament Engagement Network (IPEN); Associate Professor in Law, University of South Australia
- Ms. Santi Indra Astuti, Lecturer of the Faculty of Communication Science, Islamic University of Bandung (UNISBA), Indonesia
- Dr. Cholnan Srikaew, former Minister of Public Health, Member of the House of Representatives of Thailand
- Mr. Moemen Nader, Migration Health Officer, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- Ms. Perpetua Sappa Konman, Congresswoman, Chair of the Committee on Health and Social Affairs, Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia

The presentations will be followed by an interactive discussion with the audience.

Venue: Ballroom I, 2nd Floor, Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel & Towers

18:00

Official reception hosted by H.E. Mr. Wanmuhammadnoor Matha, President of the National Assembly and Speaker of the House of Representatives of Thailand
(Participants to assemble at the lobby from 17:30 and start embarking at Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel's pier from 17:45)

Tuesday, 3 December 2024

09:30–11:00

Session IV: Building resilience through multi-stakeholder action

The complexity of health security preparedness requires action in a number of related fields. This session will highlight the need for inclusive multi-stakeholder mechanisms and illustrate through concrete examples the linkages between health security and universal health coverage, climate change and technology with a view of building more resilient communities and societies.

9:30–10:00:

Introduction on what multi-stakeholder partnership means in the context of health security preparedness and examples of coordination mechanisms.

- Ms. Miriam Sangiorgio, Project Officer for Health and Development, IPU
- Mr. Ludy Suryantoro, Head, Multisectoral Engagement for Health Security Unit, WHO Emergencies Programme

Venue: Ballroom I, 2nd Floor, Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel & Towers

10:00–11:00:

Breakout groups: Each breakout group will focus on a specific issue; discuss country examples; and identify concrete recommendations to advance parliamentary action.

[Breakout group A: Universal health coverage](#)

Strengthening health systems is required for both universal health coverage (UHC) and health security. Advancing UHC can help ensure adequate investment in public health; increased resilience for the provision of essential health services during disease outbreaks and pandemics; and greater health equity in access to health.

- Moderator: Dr. Rapeepong Suphanchaimat, Medical Officer, Expert Level, Division of Epidemiology, Ministry of Public Health of Thailand

Venue: Ballroom I, 2nd Floor, Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel & Towers

[Breakout group B: Climate change](#)

Climate change is increasing health risks by changing disease patterns and intensifying health impacts from extreme weather events and natural disasters. Climate change and health are also interrelated when it comes to air pollution, a significant health risk in the Asia-Pacific region. The One Health approach, which emphasizes the close interlinkages between the health of people, animals and the environment, is also crucial in addressing the impacts of climate-driven environmental change on public health, such as antimicrobial resistance, emerging zoonotic diseases, as well as food and water safety and security.

- Moderator: Mr. Afnan Ullah Khan, Senator, Parliament of Pakistan

Venue: Riverside III, 2nd Floor, Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel & Towers

[Breakout group C: Technology and innovation](#)

Technology and innovation, including artificial intelligence, can support surveillance systems, response capacities and communication before and during emergencies. Also, technology transfer emerged as a key challenge during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Moderator: Dr. Richard Brown, Programme Officer, WHO Country Office, Thailand

Venue: Riverside IV, 2nd Floor, Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel & Towers

11:00-11:30 **[Report to plenary](#)**

Venue: Ballroom I, 2nd Floor, Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel & Towers

11:30–12:00 **[Closing: A shared vision for strengthening pandemic preparedness in Asia-Pacific](#)**

Outcome document – Rapporteur: Ms. Kalyapat Rachitroj, Member of the House of Representatives of Thailand

Online evaluation survey

Closing remarks:

- Mr. Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General
- H.E. Mr. Mongkol Surasajja, President of the Senate of Thailand

12:00–13:30 Lunch provided by the Host Parliament at Feast Restaurant, Ground Floor, Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel & Towers

13:30-17:00 Study visit
1. Bueng Yitho Medical and Rehabilitation Center, Pathum Thani Province **OR**
2. Department of Thai Traditional and Alternative Medicine, Nonthaburi Province

Wednesday, 4 December 2024

Departure of delegates