

Promising the Green Economy: Conceptualizing Green Initiatives to Health Facilities in Asia and the Pacific

SECURE: Webinar Series, 7 July 2023

I. Background

Strong, balanced, secure, sustainable and inclusive growth in the economy is one of the major drivers of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Putrajaya Vision 2040. To attain the sustainable growth outcomes, APEC member countries focus on policy responses to environmental and social challenges, such as, climate change, and health. In order to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic recovery, countries foster economic growth that benefits greater health and well-being for all people to ensure the region is resilient to pandemics and other emergencies.

Mitigating the effects of global climate change is essential in the health sector by taking steps to limit its climate footprint. Ensuring sustainable and safe environment of health facilities is crucial to achieving universal health coverage. Green and clean health facilities are instrumental solutions to cope with climate change, pandemic and provision of sustainable health services to the community. The model of green hospitals includes conserving energy, designing green and clean buildings, generating renewable energy, reducing fuel consumption for transport, provision of sustainable and clean food, preventing pollution, reducing and recycling waste and conserving safe and clean water in health facilities. Green hospitals also contribute to APEC Bio Circular Green (BCG) economy concept, with integrated solutions to provide a common framework on balanced, inclusive, sustainable, innovative and secure growth to encourage achieving the sustainable APEC outcomes¹. The Green hospital initiatives also conform with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and align with the Asian Development Bank's Strategic Vision 2030².

During the post COVID-19 pandemic, the awareness on sustainable climate footprint has significantly improved among ADB's Developing Member Countries (DMCs) and the demand for green initiatives in the health sector is increasing. Despite the countries' enthusiasm to adopt the green and clean models, the opportunity and capacity is much diverse among DMCs. Singapore and Thailand have demonstrated good practices in conceptualization and implementation of the green hospital in Southeast Asia. Thailand has adopted the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) by establishing Environment, Modernization and Smart Services (EMS) criteria in the Kingdom's health facilities. In order to foster the green and clean initiatives, policy, leadership, knowledge and resources are essential for any sustainability transformation at the public hospitals and community to take place.

This webinar aims to share the global policy, conceptualization of green hospital and sharing Thailand and other countries experiences on their "Green and Clean" initiatives in health facilities.

¹ APEC SOM Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation, Understanding the Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Economy Model, August 2022, Melbourne Australia,

² Asian Development Bank. Strategy 2030. Achieving a Prosperous, Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable Asia and the Pacific, July 2018. Philippine, Manila.

Target audiences

- Health sector policy formulation divisions of member countries
- Health care administration departments from the health ministries
- Preventive medicine, research and academic institutions,
- ADB community
- Other development partners

Main Objectives

- Introduce the concept and model of Green and Clean Hospitals
- Share the knowledge and best practices to promote awareness of Green Hospitals
- Discuss formulation of a technical network on to support Green and Clean Hospitals
- Explore opportunities to leverage resources and investments to adopt the Green Hospital models at various level of the health facilities among DMCs

Deliverables

- Improve awareness on Green Hospitals among officials from the health ministries
- Identify challenges, gaps and opportunities for implementation of green hospitals
- Establish a network for knowledge sharing related to green hospitals

II. Structure and agenda

The webinar will be conducted via zoom (virtual) according to the following schedule:

- Date: 7 July 2023, Time: 2:00 pm-3:30 pm Manila time

Agenda

Time	Topic	Responsible person
2:00-2:15 pm	Opening Remarks	Mr. Anouj Mehta Country Director, ADB Thailand
	Introduction and outline of the webinar	Mr. Kyi Thar Moderator and TA 6767 consultant
2:15 -2:30 pm	Global policy and climate change initiatives on green hospitals: Case study of Member States	Ms. Elena Villalobos Prats Capacity Building and Country Support Led, Climate Change and Health World Health Organization (Geneva)
2:30 -2:45 pm	Sharing Singapore experiences and case studies on green hospital	Mr. Donald Wai Wing Tai Khoo Teck Puat Hospital (Singapore)
2:45-3:00 pm	Conceptualization of Bio Circular Green Economy (BCG), green hospital and mitigation of pollution in the community. (Thailand)	Dr Nutta Taneepanichskul Associate Professor Chulalongkorn University, College of Public Health Sciences (Thailand)
3:00-3:15 pm	Sharing experiences on implementation of the Green Hospital Project at district hospital Thailand. (Energy and fuel conservation, water treatment, waste management and green environment)	Dr. Jakchai Tittabut, Director, Debaratana Vejjanukula Green Hospital, Mae Cham District, Chiang Mai (Thailand)
3:15 - 3:30 pm	Reactions to the speakers: Regional Perspectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ramon San Pascual, Health Care Without Harm • Antoine Morel, Principal Environment Specialist, South East Asia Regional Department, ADB Questions and Answers	Reactors, Speakers All participants
3:30- 3:45 pm	Way forward: leverage resources on green hospitals Closing remark	Dr. Eduardo Banzon Principal Health Specialist, (SEHS), Southeast Asia Department, ADB