

SECURE Webinar 9
COVID vaccination and beyond: Lessons from Southeast Asia
8 December 2023, 10:00 AM–12:00 NN

Background

The Supporting Enhanced COVID-19 Vaccination and Post-COVID-19 Health Security Response in Southeast Asia (SECURE) technical facility was established to support various aspects of vaccination and other COVID-related programs including logistics, regulation, contingency planning, information systems, and regional health security. Under this facility, a book project was launched to compile the lessons learned from ADB's regional partnerships with seven DMCs: Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao DPR, Philippines, Thailand, Timor Leste, and Viet Nam. The book is comprised of five chapters, each tackling a different aspect of vaccination programs that have proven to be decisive in shaping the successes and challenges faced by the DMCs. Specifically, these chapters would discuss: 1) the implementation of vaccination programs, 2) vaccine hesitancy and related communication efforts, 3) digitization of vaccine information systems, 4) pharmacovigilance and vaccine safety, and 5) the roles of public-private partnerships in vaccination programs. Additionally, the book includes interviews with high-ranking ministers and health officials who have been critical to state-led efforts during the pandemic in Southeast Asia. While by no means comprehensive, this book nonetheless provides contemporary and grounded accounts of public health which converse with other such efforts in the region and beyond.

In relation to the book's forthcoming publication, a webinar will be conducted on 8 December 2023. Three invited speakers will take part in the webinar: two panelists and one discussant who will each speak for a maximum of 15 minutes. The two panelists will be invited to relate their thematic interest to any or all of the following questions:

1. What lessons can we learn from the COVID-19 vaccination experience for health governance, both for overall public health and for pandemic preparedness?
2. How can we advance health equity based on these insights?
3. What are the opportunities and barriers in regional collaboration in terms of health security interventions and health crisis management?

The discussant, who is familiar with the regional context and with experience in public health governance, will react to the panelists' presentations and reflect on their relevance within and beyond Southeast Asia. An open forum (30 minutes) will follow the three speakers.

While the webinar is designed to herald the publication of the SECURE book project, it will also lay the groundwork for future avenues of discussion and deliberation. As a gathering of medical and public health professionals, researchers, policy makers, community leaders and government officials, and individuals who work across various healthcare settings, it will foster discussions on best practices, as well as ways of improving, vaccinations and vaccination programs, public health campaigns, and health policymaking in general. In other words, it will be an opportunity to look beyond the current pandemic by serving as a platform to discuss the future of healthcare across the region. In this way, it will help identify the gaps in health research, governance, policy, advocacy, and program implementation, all of which will be necessary in national and regional responses to future pandemics and other health crises.

The webinar will be conducted via Zoom (virtual mode) on 8 December 2023 from 10:00 AM–12:00 NN.

Tentative program

Time	Topic	Speaker
9:30-10:00	Technical checks Group Photo with speakers	
10:00-10:10	Opening Remarks	ADB
10:10-10:15	Introduction of the panelists	Dr. Vincen Gregory Yu Moderator
10:15-10:30	Working title: "Governing health crises beyond the COVID-19 pandemic"	H. E. Lo Veasnakiry Secretary of State Ministry of Health, Cambodia
10:30-10:45	Working title: "Equity amid epidemics: Lessons from the past, challenges for the future"	Dr. Soawapak Hinjoy Director, Office of International Cooperation, Department of Disease Control Ministry of Public Health, Thailand
10:45-11:00		Dr. Gideon Lasco Discussant
11:00-11:30	Open Forum	Reactors, Speakers All participants
11:30	Closing remarks	Dr. Eduardo Banzon Principal Health Specialist, ADB