

SECURE Webinar Series #3: COVID-19 Vaccination Programs and Climate Change
28 June 2022, 3:00-5:00 PM Manila time

SECURE Webinar Series is a platform to document, disseminate and promote innovative approaches and best practices for coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccination among Southeast Asia developing member countries (DMCs). It is supported by the ongoing technical assistance (TA), Supporting Enhanced COVID-19 Vaccination and Post-COVID-19 Health Security Response in Southeast Asia. The series serves as a venue for knowledge and information exchange among governments, development partners, CSO networks and other key stakeholders. Core messages of the SECURE Webinars are: (1) immunization is still the most critical public health intervention for COVID-19 control and prevention, and (2) COVID-19 vaccines must be treated as a global public good.

The SECURE Webinar Series #3: **COVID-19 Vaccination Programs and Climate Change** brings together experts, scholars and practitioners to share experiences and observations over climate change and health issues that beset the implementation of COVID-19 vaccination programs globally, and to help inform and strengthen the current and future vaccination initiatives within the Southeast Asia region.

Among the key environmental and climate issues that emerged during the pandemic period is the proliferation of plastic waste brought about by the use and overuse of disposable protective gears or what is better known as personal protective equipment (PPE). The waste that was generated from gowns, gloves, masks, face shields in the prevention and treatment of COVID-19 and in the conduct of vaccination campaigns have impacted the environment, posed a climate threat, and heightened the health vulnerability of the population. These negative effects must be managed through policy interventions and effective programs that can help save lives without destroying the climate and natural environment.

COVID-19 vaccination is the largest immunization campaign in the world as billions of people have been vaccinated and more will be targeted in the coming years, and which is expected to further generate an unprecedented amount of waste. Innovative practices can help reduce overall waste and provide a framework for safely processing and disposal of hazardous materials.

The other issue that links vaccines and climate change is the mistrust of science. Vaccine hesitancy and denial of climate change has the following things in common: (i) they are considered as a threat to personal, community and global health; (ii) effective policy action is contingent upon social cooperation and global collaboration; and (iii) support of the broad population is dependent on trust in science. Both vaccine hesitancy and climate change were considered as major threats to public health in 2019. The correct messaging and building of public trust through a consistent communications strategy is key.

Effective vaccination measures will significantly reduce carbon emission even in terms of waste volume reduction. Vaccination will form part of a package of actions that will help reduce environmental and climate impacts of the pandemic. Digital living since the pandemic penetrated remote work, education, shopping, commuting, travel, and business logistics. Improved health security of people derived from vaccination will hopefully translate to lessons and learnings with greater environmental and climate actions. The health crisis caused by COVID-19 will provide vital lessons on how we will handle it being triggered by climate change.

The SECURE Webinar Series 3 aims to highlight these relationships between climate, pandemic and the succeeding vaccination campaign in the Southeast Asia Region. Ultimately, this event seeks to contribute to the ongoing discourse of attaining health security through effective vaccination and deliberate climate actions.

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AGENDA

| Time | Session |
|-------------------------|--|
| | <p>Introduction and Program Review</p> <p>Mr. Ramon San Pascual MPH - Moderator TA 6767 Climate Change and Health Expert (Consultant), Asian Development Bank Executive Director, Healthcare Without Harm Asia</p> |
| 03:00 – 03:10 PM | <p>Welcome Remarks and Overview of the SECURE Webinar Series and TA6767</p> <p>Dr. Eduardo Banzon, MD Principal Health Specialist, Human and Social Development Division, Southeast Asia Department, Asian Development Bank</p> |
| 03:10 – 03:30 PM | <p>Environmental and Climate Impact of the Pandemic: How the Vaccination Fares</p> <p>Dr. Glenn Paraso, Executive Director and CEO, Mary Johnston Hospital, Philippines</p> |
| 03:30 – 03:50 PM | <p>Obtaining Health Security amidst the Pandemic and Climate Change</p> <p>Dr. Suherman Chairperson, Health Promoting Hospitals, Indonesia Member, Asia Advisory Council Health Care Without Harm SE Asia</p> |
| 03:50 – 04:10 PM | <p>Climate Crisis as Health Crisis and Vaccination as Climate Adaptation Measure</p> <p>Dr. Le Thai Ha (Mrs.), B.Sc, M.Sc, PhD Vice Director, National Institute of Occupational and Environmental Health (NIOEH) Director, National Center for Water quality surveillance & In charge of International Collaboration, NIOEH, Ministry of Health, Viet Nam</p> |
| 04:10 – 04:30 PM | <p>Vaccine Hesitancy and Climate Change Denial, a case to Improve Health Communication</p> <p>Prof. Tan Sri Dr. Jemilah Mahmood Executive Director, Sunway Center for Planetary Health, Sunway University, Malaysia</p> |
| 04:30 – 04:55 PM | <p>Q and A</p> <p>Moderator: Ramon San Pascual, TA 6767 Climate Change and Health Expert (Consultant), Asian Development Bank</p> |
| 04:55 – 5:00 PM | <p>Closing Remarks</p> <p>Dr. Esperanza Cabral Former Philippine Secretary of Health Chairperson, Board of Trustees Health Care Without Harm SE Asia</p> |