

Policy Dialogue on Triple Convergence: Health System Resilience on Pandemic Preparedness, Emergency Response, and Climate Adaptation in Southeast Asia

25–26 May 2026
Manila, Philippines



Background

Climate change causes approximately 250,000 additional deaths per year worldwide.¹ The COVID-19 pandemic revealed critical vulnerabilities in global health systems. Despite substantial recovery initiatives, most national health systems remain reactive rather than proactive. Reactive investments alone are not enough to address large-scale health emergencies and future climate shocks.² Much evidence suggests that pandemic preparedness and emergency response systems plans lack integration of climate data, early warning systems, and the ecosystemic perspective.³

Southeast Asia is a global hot spot for climate change vulnerability and emerging infectious diseases (EIDs). The region's high population density, swift urban growth, rich biodiversity, and intensive agriculture combine to increase the risk of zoonotic spillovers. Warming temperatures trigger rapid mosquito growth, enabling the spread of vector-borne diseases such as dengue, chikungunya, Zika, and malaria. Flooding, rising sea levels, and contaminated water sources lead to outbreaks of cholera and leptospirosis. Deforestation driven by commodity farming pushes wildlife into human habitats, increasing the risks of the Nipah virus and novel coronavirus.⁴

Problem Statement

Health systems face a dual challenge: they must prepare for acute pandemic threats while also adapting to ongoing climate-related stresses. Current policy frameworks often fail to fully address this nexus, leading to fragmented investments and missed opportunities to share information, infrastructure, and workforce development. Additionally, insufficient attention is given to upstream risk reduction at the human-animal-environment interface. Moreover, countries find it difficult to clearly define multisectoral roles, secure political commitment, and collaborate across borders, subnational levels, local entities, NGOs, and the private sector to effectively prepare for both climate impacts and pandemics.

In addition, the SEA's capacity for climate adaptation is limited. Health systems remain vulnerable to climate change and do not incorporate a gender-responsive, socially inclusive climate perspective into pandemic preparedness and response.⁵ Consequently, the vulnerable population in hard-to-reach areas and areas with climate risks lacks awareness of climate change, and frontline community health workers are not prepared for pandemics, emergency preparedness, and climate shocks.

¹ World Health Organization (2023). Climate Change. Available at <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/climate-change-and-health>

² World Bank (2024). Strategic Investment for Health System Resilience: A Three-Layer Framework.

³ Edwin C S. et al. (2023). Health Emergency Risk Management in World Health Organization Southeast Asia Region, during 2014-2023: synthesis of experiences, *Lancet Regional Health Southeast Asia* 2023 Oct 29;18:100304. doi: [10.1016/j.lansea.2023.100304](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lansea.2023.100304)

⁴ Treskova M. et al. (2025). Climate change and pandemic: a call for action. *The Lancet Planetary Health* 2025, Volume 9 Issue 9 101302

⁵ Source: AHA Centre. *ASEAN Risk Monitor and Disaster Management Review (ARMOR) 2nd edition, 2021*

Rationale

Recent international policy developments, such as the Pandemic Agreement adopted by the World Health Assembly in May 2025 and the UN Climate Change Conference 2025 (COP30), provide historic windows of opportunity for the integration.⁶ Simultaneously, WHO member states are finalizing action plans to address climate-related health risks to strengthen resilience in vulnerable communities. However, it is still necessary to adopt aspirational targets and advance global commitment to the triple integration in the incoming UN Political Declaration on Pandemic Preparedness and Response, to be adopted in September 2026. Therefore, specific policy actions, a concrete collaboration plan, the sharing of evidence-based solutions, and joint workforce development are urgently needed between the two sectors to reduce the risks and burdens posed by climate change and pandemics.

Through the initiatives of two Vice Presidents, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) explored a financing strategy for more equitable, effective, and agile pandemic preparedness and response and published the policy paper, “Fitting Pandemic Solution to Scale” in 2026.⁷ The policy paper highlights financing gaps and the evolving pandemic context in Asia and the Pacific, and outlines investment opportunities for multilateral financing agencies to strengthen pandemic preparedness. The policy paper also addresses the investment roadmap and calls for more equitable, effective, and agile pandemic solutions. According to the evidence-based policy updates, this policy dialogue will address the urgent need for strategies linking emergency response, pandemic preparedness, and climate health adaptation, focusing on investment, political commitment, and intercountry collaboration for health system resilience.

Objectives:

To foster consensus on actionable policy pathways, this policy dialogue aims to reinforce the call to action and to initiate a roadmap for integrating pandemic preparedness and emergency response into the Health National Adaptation Plans (H-NAPs) for climate change, to ensure pandemic and climate resilience in the health system. Detailed objectives focus on

1. Launch the ADB policy paper: Fitting Pandemic Solution to Scale for equitable, effective, and agile pandemic solutions.
2. Update global policy landscape, pandemic agreement, climate and health action plans, and the imperative for integration (Global Health Security, IHR 2005, and COP-30)
3. Identify priority regional policy initiatives and policy framework for converging pandemic preparedness, emergency response, and climate impacts on vulnerable populations.
4. Link political drivers and regional strategies to enhance triple convergence health resilience on climate, pandemic, and emergency response.
5. Discuss the call for actions and develop an overarching roadmap on equitable, effective, and agile pandemic solutions and climate health initiatives to explore future investment projects (One Health, legal and regulatory reform, public-private partnership, and strengthening primary care and UHC)

⁶ United Nations Climate Change (2025). COP 30, Brazil, Amazonia. Available at <https://cop30.br/en>

⁷ Asian Development Bank (2026) Fitting Pandemic Solution to Scale: Financing more equitable, effective, and agile pandemic preparedness and response: An investment Roadmap.

Target Audience:

- Policy makers from the health ministries (Minister/Vice-Minister, Permanent Secretary, and Director Generals from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste)
- Focal person for Pandemic and Emergency response
- Focal person for Climate Change
- Partners for climate health initiatives and pandemic preparedness and response
 - World Health Organization
 - United Nations Development Program
 - JICA
 - Representatives from ASEAN/ APCHEED centers
- Academic Institutions
 - National University of Singapore
- ADB staff and consultants

Deliverables:

1. Policy updates on pandemic, emergency response, and climate change
2. Priority climate-related infectious diseases, gaps, and challenges on triple convergence
3. Policy drivers and regional priority actions for triple convergence
4. Launch of the policy paper “Fitting Pandemic Solutions to Scale” by ADB Vice Presidents
5. Call to action for future investments and an integrated regional coordination mechanism for pandemic preparedness, emergency response, and climate change.

Thematic areas:Theme A: From Siloed to Integrated Systems

- Moving beyond disease-specific planning to flexible approaches emphasizes adaptable systems capable of responding to the triple priority. This requires multisectoral surveillance at the human-animal-environment interface, identifying drivers of zoonotic spillover (such as intensive farming and biodiversity loss), and building joint workforce capacity across sectors.

Theme B: Translating the Policies to Integrated Actions

- Translating the Pandemic Agreement and Disaster Response Actions, and Climate Change adaptation. This includes prioritizing regional collaboration for pandemic preparedness and climate change-linked emergency response, linking to the National Health Adaptation Plan (HNAP)

Theme C: Sustainable Governance and Coordination for Financing and Investment

- Strengthen multisectoral coordination, policy advocacy, and risk communication with clear decision triggers for various levels and local actors. Exploring cost-effective strategies (1) risk reduction via emergency-ready green primary health care, (2) detection and containment, and (3) advanced case management and surge response.

Agenda:

Date/Time	Topic	Speaker/Presenter
Day 1:		
8:30 – 9:00	Registration	ADB Secretariat
9:00 – 9:10	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asian Development Bank Ministry of Health, Timor-Leste Department of Health, Philippines 	Ms. Ayako Inagaki Senior Director, Human and Social Development Sector Office (SD3), ADB H.E. Dr. Flavio Brandão Mendes de Araújo Vice Minister for the Operationalization of Hospitals Ministry of Health, Timor-Leste Dr. Ronald Law Director, Health and Climate Change Office, Department of Health, Philippines
9:10 – 9:15	Introduction of Participants and Overview of the Meeting	Randy Dacanay Project Coordinator , ADB
Session 1: Update on the global policy landscape, pandemic agreement, climate, and health action plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective: To update global and regional policies on climate-sensitive infectious diseases, pandemic agreements, and the agreement on COP-30, as well as emphasizing the need for integration 		
9:15 – 9:30	Leaving no one behind: engaging regional frameworks for inclusive emergency preparedness and climate resilience	Kathleen Taylor Warren Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Technical Officer, WHO WPRO
9:30 – 9:45	Socio-economic impact of pandemic and climate risks, and equitable financing and investment	Alexo Esperato Senior Health Specialist, ADB
9:45 – 10:00	The Sustainability Management of JICA, an integrated approach for climate, biodiversity, social, and gender	Noguchi Ai Program Officer, Operation Strategy Department, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
10:00 – 10:15	Q & A	
10:15 – 10:30	Photo session and coffee break	
Session 2: Country advocates for policy actions addressing pandemic, emergency response, and climate change initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective: To identify pandemic risks and climate impacts, gaps and challenges, and policy actions to strengthen pandemic preparedness and climate health initiatives 		
Moderator: Randy Dacanay, Project Coordinator, ADB		

Date/Time	Topic	Speaker/Presenter
10:30 – 10:40	Cambodia: Policy initiatives, gaps, and challenges on pandemic response and climate health actions	Dr. Muy Seang Lak, Acting Director for Preventive Medicine, Ministry of Health of Cambodia
10:40 – 10:50	Lao People’s Democratic Republic: Policy initiatives, gaps, and challenges on pandemic response and climate health actions	Ms. Somphone Phengphommy, Technical Officer of the Department of Hygiene and Health Promotion, Ministry of Health of Lao PDR
10:50 – 11:00	Indonesia: Policy initiatives, gaps, and challenges on pandemic response and climate health actions	Representative from the Ministry of Health, Indonesia
11:00 – 11:10	The Philippines: Policy initiatives, gaps, and challenges on pandemic response and climate health actions	Dr. Ronald Law, Director of Health and Climate Change Office, Department of Health of the Philippines
11:10 – 11:20	Thailand: Policy initiatives, gaps, and challenges on pandemic response and climate health actions	Dr. Soawapak Hinjoy, Senior Advisor of the Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health of Thailand
11:20 – 11:30	Timor-Leste: Policy initiatives, gaps, and challenges on pandemic response and climate health actions	Dr. Delfim Da Costa Xavier Ferreira, National Director of Pharmacy and Medicine, Ministry of Health of Timor Leste
11:30 – 11:40	Vietnam: Policy initiatives, gaps, and challenges on pandemic response and climate health actions	Dr. Vu Vi Quoc, Deputy Head of Planning and Finance Division, Viet Nam Administration of Disease Prevention
11:40 – 12:15	<p><u>Policy Dialogue 1: Enhance understanding among policymakers in gap and challenges</u></p> <p>Exercise 1: Identify common risks and challenges of pandemic and climate change in the SEA region (<i>Mentimeter exercise</i>)</p> <p>Exercise 2: Identify policy gaps and policy drivers for triple convergence in the SEA region. (<i>Mentimeter exercise</i>)</p> <p>Roundtable policy discussion to address the common challenges and gaps</p>	<p>Moderator</p> <p>Kyi Thar, Regional Climate Health System Specialist, ADB</p> <p>All representatives</p>
12:15 – 13:15	Lunch Break	Venue: Multi-Function Hall 3

Date/Time	Topic	Speaker/Presenter
Session 3: Turning challenges into opportunities on triple convergence health resilience (Climate change, pandemic, and emergency response)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective: To share the best practices, link political drivers and regional strategies to enhance triple convergence in the SEA 		
Moderator: Randy Dacanay, Project Coordinator, ADB		
13:15 – 13:30	Best practices on multisectoral collaboration and policy cohesion for Public-Private Partnership on pandemic response and climate health actions	Cecilia Oh Senior Health Focal, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
13:30 – 13:45	JICA support to ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED)	Ikuma Nozaki ACPHEED Secretariat Establishment Office, Thailand
13:45 – 14:45	<p><u>Policy Dialogue 2: Convergence solutions on pandemic preparedness and climate change Policy action framework for triple convergence</u></p> <p>Formulate policy actions framework and priority actions based on Policy Dialogue exercise 1</p> <p><u>Group 1:</u> Promoting governance, regulations, coordination, and private sector engagement for integrating pandemic and emergency response into climate change initiatives</p> <p><u>Group 2:</u> Enhancing surveillance, early warning, and information systems and regional mechanisms for policy and public advocacy on triple convergence</p> <p><u>Group 3:</u> Building resilience capacity for triple convergence, human resources, standards, and climate-smart technologies in the health system</p>	<p><u>Breakout Session:</u></p> <p>Moderator Kyi Thar Regional Climate Health System Specialist</p> <p>Facilitators: Group 1: Kyi Thar and Phommalath Phonesavanh (Joy)</p> <p>Group 2: Liza Tabora and Phoud Sisupanh</p> <p>Group 3: Randy Dacanay and Mylene Claudio</p>
14:45 – 15:00	Presentation of group outputs Discussion, Questions and Answer	All participants
15:00 – 15:15	Coffee break	
15:15 – 16:30	<p>Launching event on the ADB Report, Fitting Pandemic Solutions to Scale: An Investment Road Map for More Equitable, Effective, and Agile Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness, and Response</p> <p>Congratulatory remarks (5 mins)</p> <p>Report Unveiling and photo session (10 mins)</p> <p>Presentation of the Report's Key Insights and Strategic Priorities for PPR (15 mins)</p>	<p>Moderator Jae Kyoun Kim Health Specialist, ADB</p> <p>Scott Morris, Vice President, ADB</p> <p>Scott Morris, Vice President, ADB</p> <p>Eduardo Banzon, Director, Human and Social</p>

Date/Time	Topic	Speaker/Presenter
	Ministerial Reflections Panel (35 mins) Advancing the Agenda: Partner Reflections and Commitments (10 mins)	Development Sector Office (SD3), ADB Head of Country Delegates (Thailand, Lao PDR, Timor-Leste) Moderator, Ayako Inagaki Senior Director, Human and Social Development Sector Office (SD3), ADB WHO, UNDP, JICA
Day 2:		
9:00 – 9:15	Recap of Day 1	Kyi Thar Regional Climate Health System Specialist
Session 4: Policy declaration, regional cooperation, and leveraging resources for triple convergence health system resilience. ❖ Objective: Policy commitment and declaration to strengthen regional collaboration and resource mobilization for the integration of climate change into pandemic preparedness and emergency response.		
9:15 – 10:30	<u>Policy Dialogue 3: Exploring regional collaboration and possible resources and investment opportunities on the PPRCH convergence.</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing a regional cooperation mechanism for triple convergence • Aligning mandates for coherent governance and financing • Identifying new investment projects requires enhancing health system resilience on triple convergence Discussion of group outputs from two breakout group exercises: Country Work and Regional Work	<u>Breakout Session:</u> Moderator: Kyi Thar Regional Climate Health System Specialist Facilitators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kyi Thar and Phommalath Phonesavanh (Joy) • Liza Tabora and Phoud Sisuphanh • Randy Dacanay and Mylene Claudio All participants
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee break	
10:45 – 11:45	Policy declaration to enhance triple convergence of health resilience. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of proposed activity: a timeline of the priority regional policy action framework 	Moderator: Randy Dacanay Project Coordinator, ADB Kyi Thar Regional Climate Health System Specialist

Date/Time	Topic	Speaker/Presenter
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy recommendations, synthesis, and call to action for convergence between pandemic and climate change • Reflection and next steps for future collaborations and enhancing regional cooperation mechanics for triple convergence 	Eduardo Banzon, Director, Human and Social Development Sector Office (SD3), ADB
11:45 – 11:55	Closing Reflections (Key Takeaway Messages)	Heads of Delegation from participating countries
11:55 – 12:00	Closing Remarks	Eisuke Tajima, Director, Human and Social Development Sector Office (SD3)
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch	Venue: Podium

Note: The SECURE Dissemination Workshop: From Evidence to Investment will follow at 2:00 PM at Multi-Function Hall 1 & 2. Participants are encouraged to stay on.