



CONCEPT NOTE FOR SECURE WEBINAR 23

Advancing Green Procurement in Health Systems towards Sustainable Pathways in Southeast Asia

2 October 2025 (2:00-3:30 pm Manila Time)

Background

Healthcare systems worldwide account for 5% of total carbon emissions, which exceeds that of aviation and shipping. 71% of the sector's climate footprint is attributed to the supply chain of medical devices and pharmaceuticals, which encompasses manufacturing, production, packaging, transportation, and disposal.¹ The World Economic Forum predicts this footprint could triple by 2050 without remedial actions. The healthcare sector in Southeast Asia (SEA) consumes significant resources, causing environmental damage through high energy use, medical waste, and unsustainable procurement practices. With increasing awareness of climate change and its health impacts, there is a growing need for health systems in the region to adopt a climate-friendly procurement system.

Green procurement is the process of purchasing products and services with minimal environmental impact, thus enabling health systems to reduce their carbon footprint, enhance efficiency, and promote sustainability.² Many technological solutions are available for sustainable procurement, such as procuring products with reduced packaging and extended durability, giving preference to products that meet environmental standards, and digital solutions. These enhance the safety of patients and health workers and reduce waste disposal, and lower operational costs for healthcare facilities. However, SEA countries face obstacles in transitioning to green procurement, including higher initial expenses of sustainable options, a scarcity of reliable and sustainable suppliers, cultural resistance to green procurement practices, and the absence of standardized measurement tools.³ Additionally, the transition to green procurement was hindered by the pandemic leading to an increased reliance on single-use products.

The SECURE Webinar Series serves as a venue for knowledge exchange among governments, the private sector, development partners, civil society networks, and other stakeholders promoting innovation and best practices to strengthen health security among developing SEA member countries. This series is supported by the ongoing ADB-supported technical assistance on Supporting Enhanced COVID-19 Vaccination and Post-COVID-19 Health Security Response in Southeast Asia (TA 6767-REG).

¹ World Economic Forum (2023). Emission Measurement in Supply Chains: Business Realities and Challenges. White Paper. November 2023, Geneva, Switzerland.

² Global Leader in AI-Powered Procurement and Supply Chain Transformation (GEP) 2025. What Is Green Procurement? Web updated 2025. Available at <https://www.gep.com/knowledge-bank/glossary/what-is-green-procurement>

³ ASEAN Circular Economy (2024). Knowledge Brief: Enabling ASEAN through Circular Economy Practice in Green Public Procurement (GPP). February 2024. Jakarta, Indonesia. Available at <https://ce.acsd.org/knowledge/knowledge-brief-enabling-asean-through-circular-economy-practices-in-green-public-procurement-gpp/>

The SECURE team convenes this webinar in collaboration with TA 10485-REG to disseminate knowledge and showcase best practices for climate-resilient health systems in Southeast Asia.

Session Objectives:

1. To share the experiences, challenges, best practices, and technological solutions to advance the green procurement systems.
2. To raise awareness of green procurement practices among policy decision makers, health professionals, private sector suppliers, and partners.
3. To explore the policy implications, strategies, guidelines, and scalability of investments in green procurement.

Target Audience:

- Policymakers and public health professionals
- Supply chain management professionals
- Researchers and scientists on health systems and climate change impacts
- Technology developers, industry experts, and innovators
- International NGOs and international health organizations

Webinar Format:

90-minute online session featuring presentation, panel discussion, and open forum.

Guiding questions:

- What are the global and regional impacts of health care supply chains on carbon emissions?
- What are the current challenges to transition to green procurement in the health care sector?
- What are the policy implications and strategies to advance towards green procurement for health systems?
- Which technologies exist to enhance green procurement in resource-limited developing countries?
- How to improve awareness and build the capacity of climate-friendly supply chain management for health care professionals and suppliers?
- What are the investment opportunities to strengthen green procurement in health systems?

Session Flow:

Duration/Time	Topic	Speakers
	Welcome and Introductions	Ms. Mylene Claudio, National Climate Health Expert/Moderator
2:00-2:05 pm	Opening Remarks	Ms. Karin Schelzig Director Human and Social Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 3 ADB
2:05 - 2:20 pm	Greening the Blue: Policy framework and the UN System's efforts toward green procurement	Mr. Senthil Kumar Subramani Senior Procurement Advisor United Nations' Office for Project Services (UNOPS), East Asia and the Pacific Regional Office
2:20 – 2:35 pm	ADB's best practices on green and sustainable procurement for health systems	Mr. Philipp E. Kalpaxis Principal Procurement Specialist ADB
2:35–2:50 pm	Innovative technologies and digital solutions for the green procurement of medicines and medical devices	Dr. Nick Watts Associate Professor National University of Singapore
2:50 -3:05 pm	Country experiences on the transition to green procurement	Dr. Chansaly Phommavong Deputy Director Department of Planning and Finance Ministry of Health Lao PDR
3:05-3:15 pm	Reflections and way forward	Dr. Eduardo Banzon Director Human and Social Development ADB
3:15 -3:30 pm	Open Forum, Synthesis, and Closing Remarks	Dr. Alexo Esperato Senior Health Specialist ADB