



CONCEPT NOTE FOR PLENARY SESSION

14th Priorities 2024 Conference

Plenary Session 4

The 14th Priorities Conference
Millennium Hilton
Bangkok, Thailand

Title: Greening Our Health: Prioritizing Environmental Sustainability

Date: 9 May 2024

Time: 13:00 – 14:15

Session coordinators: Ms. Wilasinee Samniang and Ms. Annapoorna Prakash

Background:

Climate change, driven largely by human activity, poses significant challenges to global health, exacerbating existing health disparities and threatening the stability of healthcare infrastructures. As temperatures rise, extreme weather events become more frequent, and ecosystems are disrupted, the impact on public health becomes increasingly evident.

In response to these challenges, there has been a call for healthcare systems to prioritize sustainability and resilience, not only to mitigate the health risks associated with climate change but also to ensure the long-term viability of healthcare services. This necessitates a paradigm shift in how healthcare is delivered and managed, with an emphasis on reducing carbon emissions, minimizing waste, and promoting environmental stewardship across all levels of care.

Against this backdrop, this session seeks to explore the synergies between environmental sustainability, healthcare, and climate change, bringing together experts to discuss practical strategies for integrating sustainable practices into healthcare systems. By examining the intersection of environmental and public health, the session aims to inspire action and drive meaningful change towards a more sustainable and equitable future for healthcare.

Objective:

This session aims to explore the integration of environmental sustainability and climate change considerations into healthcare systems, focusing on practical solutions, policy advocacy and their impact on public health, particularly in low- and middle-income settings.

Expected output/outcome:

A report detailing actionable strategies and recommendations for policy changes and institutional initiatives that promote sustainable practices as highlighted during the session. The report will be uploaded to the HITAP website for wider dissemination, while key messages will be further circulated on HITAP's social media platforms to reach a broader audience.

Format:

Expert presentations followed by a moderate panel discussion.

Agenda: The tentative agenda is highlighted below

Time	Particular	Description of the session	Person (s) responsible
13.00 – 13.05	Introduction to the session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of the session Welcoming speakers and the moderator 	Dr. Renzo Guinto
Expert presentations			
13.05 – 13.15	Synergies in Action: Integrating Environment, Health, and Climate Change for a Sustainable Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case study from Thailand delving into the practical aspects of integrating environmental considerations, and climate change mitigation efforts to ensure a sustainable future. 	Dr. Sarawut Thepanondh
13.15– 13.25	Policy Integration for Sustainable Development: Challenges and Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthcare in Thailand: Rethinking the sustainability and climate goal 	Dr. Suthirat Kittipongvises
13:25- 13:35	Policy Advocacy: Shaping Sustainable Healthcare Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case studies from Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam, this presentation introduces HCWH SEA's initiatives in climate, environment, and health. It will delve into insights, lessons, and recommendations, offering a nuanced and focused exploration of how to shape sustainable healthcare agendas. 	Mr. Ramon San Pascual
13:35- 13:45	Sustainable Health Technology Assessment: Harmonizing Healthcare, Environment, and Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confluence of Health Technology Assessment and Environmental and Climate Science 	Mr. Sarin K C
13:45- 13:55	Highlight Questions!		
Moderated panel discussion			
13:55 – 14:10	Integrating Sustainability in Healthcare - Challenges and Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore the interconnectedness of the topics, the challenges faced in implementing sustainable practices in healthcare, and potential solutions. 	Moderated by Dr. Renzo Guinto, with all speakers as the panelists
14.10 – 14.15	Closing remarks		Dr. Renzo Guinto

Speakers:

1. Renzo R. Guinto (Moderator)



Renzo R. Guinto, MD DrPH is Associate Professor of Global and Planetary Health at the SingHealth Duke-NUS Global Health Institute (SDGHI), Duke-NUS Medical School, National University of Singapore. Holding visiting appointments at the St. Luke's Medical Center (Philippines) and University of Cambridge, Renzo is currently a member of the National Panel of Technical Experts of the Philippine Climate Change Commission; World Health Organization's Technical Advisory Group on the ethics of climate and health; editorial boards of several journals including The Lancet Planetary Health and PLOS Global Public Health; and two Lancet Commissions – The O'Neill-Lancet Commission on Racism, Structural

Discrimination, and Global Health, and The Lancet Commission on Sustainable Healthcare. An Obama Foundation Asia-Pacific Leader and Aspen Institute New Voices Fellow, he has served as consultant for various organizations including the WHO, World Bank, USAID, and Wellcome Trust. At present, Renzo also serves as convener of Planetary Health Philippines, and chair of the Committee on Environmental Health and Ecology of the Philippine Medical Association and of the Thematic Working Group on Climate Resilient and Sustainable Health Systems of Health Systems Global. He obtained his Doctor of Public Health from Harvard University and Doctor of Medicine from the University of the Philippines Manila, and received further training from Oxford, LSHTM, Copenhagen, Western Cape, Institute of Tropical Medicine-Antwerp, and East-West Center (Hawaii). He has traveled to and lectured in nearly 60 countries and 100 universities across the world; published more than 200 reports and articles in scientific journals, books, and popular media; and directed and produced short films that communicate the message of planetary healing to the world. In 2020, Renzo was included by Tatler Magazine in its Gen.T List of 400 leaders of tomorrow who are shaping Asia's future. In 2022, he was named one of The Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) and Women of the Philippines for pioneering the field of planetary health in the Philippines and Southeast Asia.

2. Dr. Sarawut Thepanondh



Dr. Sarawut Thepanondh, a dynamic force in academia, is the Associate Professor and Faculty Dean at Mahidol University, Thailand. Holding a Ph.D. in Atmospheric Science from Monash University, Australia, he spearheads groundbreaking research in emission inventory and air pollution modeling, featured in esteemed international journals. Beyond academia, Dr. Thepanondh actively shapes global environmental policies, advising Thailand's House of Representatives and collaborating with influential entities like UNEP and the World Bank. His passion for cleaner air resonates globally, making him a pivotal figure in atmospheric science.

3. Dr. Suthirat Kittipongvises



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Suthirat Kittipongvises is currently a lecturer at Environmental Research Institute, Chulalongkorn University (ERIC) and also Director of Environment Development and Sustainability (International Program), Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. She received Ph.D. degree in Sustainability Science from the Graduate Program in Sustainability Science (GPSS), Graduate School of Frontier Sciences, the University of Tokyo, Japan. Her research focuses on environmental sustainability, climate change mitigation, GHG quantification, climate change impacts and natural resources management, low carbon society, disaster management, ecological resilience and sustainability, environmental concern and worldviews, climate change perception and communication and so on. She also has experience as a visiting scholar at the School of Sustainability, Arizona State University, USA. Furthermore, she has attended and presented her research at various international conferences including International Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, International Conference of Climate Change and Global Warming , Venice, Italy, International Conference on Sustainability Science, Arizona, USA, International Conference on Ecology, Ecosystems and Climate Change, Athens, Greece, International Expert and Dialogue on Applying Resilience Concept for Climate Change Study and Disaster Management in Thailand Context, Bangkok, Thailand, and International Conference on Ecosystems, Environment and Sustainable Development, Sydney, Australia.

4. Ramon San Pascual



Ramon San Pascual, MPH, is the Executive Director of Health Care Without Harm - Asia, a pivotal role he has held since 2016, driving the organization's mission to transform the healthcare sector's environmental footprint and champion sustainability and environmental health justice globally. His rich background includes serving as a faculty member at the PUP College of Social Sciences and Development, specializing in Health Economics, and leading roles within the Philippine Department of Health and the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, emphasizing his dedication to health policy and legislative reform. A Gates-Packard Fellow and holder of a Master of Public Health from the University of Washington, as well as a Bachelor in Political Economics from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines, Manila, San Pascual's extensive experience and education have established him as a respected figure in advancing sustainable healthcare and public health policies both in the Philippines and internationally.

5. Sarin K C



Sarin is a Health Economist at HITAP and has been working to inform health policies across Asia and Africa.

His area of research includes HTA, strengthening the use of infectious disease modelling, DCEA, digital health, and now environment and climate.