

Speaker Bios



Ms. Cecilia Oh

Program Advisor, HIV Health and Development Group and Coordinator, Access and Delivery Partnership (ADP), United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

Cecilia Oh is the Programme Advisor with UNDP's HIV, Health and Development Group, based at the UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub. Since 2014, she has coordinated the Access and Delivery Partnership, a global project led by UNDP in collaboration with TDR, WHO and PATH, aimed at supporting health systems in low- and middle-income countries through strengthened institutions and human capacities. Before joining UNDP, Ms Oh was consulting on development, trade and intellectual property issues. In 2010, she joined Duke University's Program on Global Health and Technology Access and was appointed Adjunct Associate Professor of the University's Global Health Institute. Ms Oh has held other positions on trade and health: Asia-Pacific Trade Policy Advisor at the UNDP Regional Centre in Colombo (2006-2008) and Technical Officer at WHO's technical cooperation programme on trade agreements, intellectual property rights and public health. Between 1998-2003, she was a Senior Researcher and Legal Advisor of Third World Network.



Dr. Suwit Wibulpolprasert

Ministry of Public Health, Thailand

Dr. Suwit Wibulpolprasert is a public health specialist and policy advocate at national and global level. He began his career as a Director and practitioner in rural areas and has worked for Thai Food and Drug Administration, the Bureau of Health Policy and Planning, Deputy Permanent Secretary, and the senior expert in Health Economics and Disease Control. His current position is a global health advisor to the Ministry of Public Health. He is a well-known global health leader who fight to protect the benefit of poor people.

Dr. Suwit was the first Program Director when Thailand started the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in 2001 and have been the board member of the National Health Security Board which manage the UHC including this current term. He used to chair the Benefit package and service delivery and the National Essential Drug List committee. In additions, he is a board member of the National Electronics and Computer Technology Center (NECTEC), the National Nanotechnology Center (NANOTEC), the Executive Board of the National Health Commission Office (NHCO) and the Chair of the Committee for Yothi Health Innovation District Development.

Dr Suwit is also the Vice Chair of the International Health Policy Program Foundation (IHPF) and the Health Intervention and Technology Assessment Foundation (HITAF), the Chair of the Institute for the Development of Human Research Protections Foundation (IHRPF), and the Chair of the Health and Society Creation Foundation and Asia-Pacific Observatory on Health Systems. Prior to his retirement, he served the highest government official rank as a Senior Advisor in Disease Control to the Thai Ministry of Public Health. Since December 2015, he is as an adviser to the Ministry of Public Health on Global Health. Currently, he also serves as a Member of the National Health Security Board, Health Systems Research Institute Board, and the National Research and Innovation Policy Council.



Mrs. Deepika Adhikari

Senior Laboratory Officer/COVID-19 Media Focal Person, Ministry of Health, Bhutan

Deepika Adhikari has a bachelor's degree in Bioinformatics and has been working with the Ministry of Health of Bhutan for 10 years. She looks after Health Technology Assessment under the Essential Medicines and Technology Division and currently she is one of the COVID-19 Media Focals trying to make risk communication effective during the COVID-19 response in Bhutan.



Ms. Jamaica Briones

PCV Researcher (former Department of Health), Philippines

Jamaica is a pharmacist by background and her first major task at the HTA Unit at the Department of Health, Philippines was to lead the study on PCV re-assessment. She finished her master's degree on HTA at the Mahidol University, Thailand prior joining DOH. She finished her pharmacy degree at the University of the Philippines, Manila. Her current research interest is on performing economic evaluations to inform coverage decisions for better accessible, acceptable, and affordable healthcare.



Dr. Auliya Suwantika

Lecturer and Researcher, Universitas Padjadjaran, Indonesia

Dr. Auliya has been a lecturer and researcher at the Universitas Padjadjaran, Indonesia since 2015. More recently, he has also taken on other roles including consulting with the Clinton Health Access Initiative in Indonesia, serving as a health economist on the Indonesian Technical Advisory Group on Immunization and member of the National Drug Formulary Committee since earlier this year.



Dr. Rukmanee Butchon

Researcher, Health Intervention and Technology Assessment Program (HITAP), Thailand

In 2000, Rukmanee Butchon, PhD. Graduated with a bachelor's degree in physics from the faculty of Sciences at the KhonKaen University. After that, she worked as a research assistant at the department of Health Research Project and Coordination at the office of the national research council of Thailand where she became interested in Statistics. She pursued a master's study in Statistics at the Kasetsart University. Thereafter, she became part of the HITAP team.



Dr. Wanrudee Isaranuwatjai

Program Leader and Senior Researcher, Health Intervention and Technology Assessment Program (HITAP)

Dr. Wanrudee Isaranuwatjai is a Program Leader and Senior Researcher of the Health Intervention and Technology Assessment Program (HITAP), which is a semi-autonomous research institute of Thailand's Ministry of Public Health in Bangkok, Thailand. She is also an Affiliated Scientist at St. Michael's Hospital, and an Assistant Professor at the Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation, University of Toronto, in Canada.

Her research focuses on how to apply health economics and health technology assessment (HTA) in the real-world setting as well as how to advance methods in economic evaluation. She has experience conducting economic evaluations using various methods with specific interest in the potential of big data (also person-level data from sources such as administrative databases, registries, and clinical trials) in health economics and HTA to support evidence generation and policy-making process. She has collaborated with researchers, health professionals, and

policymakers in various areas to help communicate the value of health initiatives using economic evidence around the world (e.g., Bhutan, Kenya, and Canada). She has contributed to the training on HTA to support universal health coverage (UHC) and health systems in Asia, Africa, and North America. Dr. Isaranuwachai is dedicated to the creation and use of evidence in healthcare decision making.



Dr. Shankar Prinja

Additional Professor of Health Economics, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), India

Dr. Shankar Prinja is an Additional Professor of Health Economics at the PGIMER School of Public Health, Chandigarh, India. He is a medical doctor with specialization in community medicine/ public health. Subsequently he trained in health economics at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and London School of Economics. His main research interests involve economic evaluation of health care interventions and programs, costing of health care services, and analyzing impact of health financing policies in the context of universal health coverage. He is a member of the subgroups of Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council on "Investment in Human Resources and Infrastructure" as well as "Converging Health Care and Social Security Financing Platforms", member of Government of India's taskforce on costing for health care services; member of the Technical Appraisal Committee for Health Technology Assessment Board; member of the Expert Group for costing of National Health Assurance Mission; member of the Research Advisory Council of the Public Health Foundation of India, and Temporary Advisor to World Health Organization on use of Health Intervention and Technology Assessment and Universal Health Coverage. At the PGI School of Public Health, he has set up a Resource Centre for India's Health Technology Assessment Board. He has authored 175 research papers in leading national and international peer-reviewed scientific journals. He is also an Academic Editor of the PLoS One and member of the editorial board of Pharmacoeconomics Open.