The South East Asia Regional webinar on Knowledge Translation Management

Lessons from COVID-19 research-to-policy

16 November 2021

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the urgent need to strengthen capacity for knowledge translation across the world. The collective experience during the pandemic has also provided an unprecedented opportunity to assess the evidence-policy-society nexus. Notably, the pandemic has had an unequal impact across regions, revealing variations in terms of weaknesses in preparedness, response capacities, and knowledge translation capacity. To take stock of and explore the lessons learned during this pandemic, WHO plans to organize the Global Evidence-to-Policy Summit that will be held on 15–17 November 2021. The Global Summit ultimately is expected to chart the way forward for evidence-informed decision-making (EIDM) during the evolving of Covid-19 pandmeic and in a post-COVID-19 world. There is a need to contextualize the way forward, taking variations across regions as noted above into account. Thus, to take stock of and explore the lessons learned from the South East Asia region during the pandemic, the organization of a WHO SEARO Regional event on COVID-19 research-to-policy lessons learned is being proposed.

Goal
The regional event will bring together researchers and policy-makers from the South East Asia region to identify common challenges, share lessons learned, identify the gaps, and provide recommendations to advance evidence-informed decision-making in the region.

Objectives
1. Identify key lessons learned on the evidence-policy-society interfaces and catalyze learning for those engaged in evidence-to-policy process (producing, acquiring, synthesizing, brokering, and using knowledge) in the region.
2. Advance the institutionalization of evidence-informed policy-making and strengthen partnerships and collaboration at the regional level.
3. Chart the way forward in the region for evidence-informed decision-making during the evolving Covid-19 pandemic and in a post pandemic world.

Outputs
1. Technical report
2. Publication manuscript

Outcomes
This regional event will initiate a regional network and scheme to strengthen and sustain research-to-policy-society systems, and increase health system resilience against current and future crises.

Audience
Policy-makers, researchers, civil society, press/media and other stakeholders interested in promoting the research-policy-society interfaces in the South East Asia.

Approach
The virtual regional event will be a public event organized on 16 November 2021 in conjunction with the Global Summit on Evidence-to-Policy

Draft Provisional Agenda

Time (IST)	Programme
13.00-13.10	**Opening Remarks** – Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, Regional Director of the WHO South-East Asia Region
13.10-13.30	**Keynote speech: Strengthening the research-policy-nexus:** Dr Viroj Tangcharoensathien, Senior Adviser, International Health Policy Program, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand
13.30-15.00	**Panel Discussion: Challenges, capabilities and opportunities at the research policy- society interface in the South East Asia** **Chair:** Dr. Ananda Wijewickrama (The National Institute of Infectious Disesease, Sri Lanka) **Panelists:** • Dr Yodi Mahendradhata, Faculty of Medicine, Public Health and Nursing, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia • Dr Malabika Sarker, JPG School of Public Health, BRAC University, Bangladesh • Prof Tikki Pang, National University of Singapore, Founding Editor of Health Research Policy and Systems • Prof Balram Bhargava (The Indian Council of Medical Research)
15:00-15.15	**Preview of the Call for action to promote research-to-policy-society systems:** Dr Tanja Kuchenmüller, Research for Health Department, WHO HQ
15:15- 15:30	**Concluding remarks: advancing evidence-to-policy in the South East Asia** Dr Siswanto, Regional Advisor, WHO the South-East Asia Region