

Celebrating World Health Day 2026

TOGETHER FOR HEALTH.

STAND WITH SCIENCE.

7 April 2026, 02:30 – 04:00 PM

watch LIVE on [youtube.com/@whosoutheastasia](https://www.youtube.com/@whosoutheastasia)

Programme

- 02:30 – 02:33 PM Welcome Address by Mr Manoj Jhalani, Director, Department of Health Systems, WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia
- 02:33 – 02:36 PM Screening of World Health Day Video
- 02:36 – 02:43 PM Keynote Address by Dr Catharina Boehme, Officer-in-Charge, WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia
- 02:43 – 03:00 PM Screening of regional video of World Health Day 2026
- Regional video on One Health
 - Regional Launch of Regional Director's Annual report on the Work of WHO in the South-East Asia Region during 2025
 - Regional Launch of The Banyan Framework for Health and Well-Being in the WHO South-East Asia Region (2026–2028)
- 03:00 – 03:06 PM Address by Ms Punya Salila Srivastava, Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India
- 03:06 – 03:13 PM Address by Chief Guest H.E. Dr Nalinda Jayatissa, Minister of Health and Mass Media, Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
- 03:13 – 03:37 PM **Lightning Talks by Key Experts**
- Partnerships to translate evidence into action** - Dr Rajiv Bahl, Secretary to Government of India, Department of Health Research and Director-General, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), India
- Role of AI to accelerate action for public health** - Dr Supiya Charoensiriwath, Principal Researcher and Director of Assistive Technology and Medical Devices Research Group, National Electronics and Computer Technology Center (NECTEC), Thailand
- Sharing success stories from the region: Rabies Elimination in Bhutan – One Health Approach** - Mr Kinga Jamphel, Director General, Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Health, Bhutan
- Evidence generation for climate change and health in Bangladesh** - Dr Tahmeed Ahmed, Executive Director, International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research (ICDDR), Bangladesh
- 03:37 – 03:42 PM Thematic Cultural Performance – The YP Foundation
- 03:42 – 03:44 PM Vote of Thanks by Mr Robert Chelminski, Director, Department of Business Operations and Compliance, WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia
- 03:44 PM Closing of the event followed by High Tea