SESSION 1

Reflecting our response to COVID-19 pandemic – what did the pandemic teach us?

In this session, the non-health sectors’ point of view on pandemic preparedness and response will be shared. Understanding different viewpoints will help lead to better multisectoral pandemic preparedness and response in the future.

Panellists:

- **Mr Natapanu NOPAKUN**, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand
- **Mr Piotr ARAK**, Polish Economic Institute
- **Ms Hjh Rozaidah Hj Abd RAHMAN**, Ministry of Finance and Economy, Brunei Darussalam
- **Professor José-Manuel FREIRE**, Escuela Nacional de Sanidad-ISCIII, Spain

Moderator: **Dr Ramona LUDOLPH**, World Health Organization (WHO)

Session Coordinator: **Ms Riko KIMOTO**, Manager for International Public Health, ASEF
Dr. Ramona Ludolph, PhD, is a Technical Officer for Evidence-informed Policies in the Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness and Prevention Department at the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. Her work focuses on strengthening the global evidence base on the effectiveness and impact of public health and social measures (PHSM) during health emergencies and the development of tools and strategies to make PHSM implementation more equitable, balanced and sustainable. Ramona is also working on a new initiative on trust in the context of pandemic preparedness. Previously, Ramona worked in the WHO Department of Public Health, Environmental and Social Determinants of Health, where she developed norms and standards as well as implementation tools to promote evidence-informed interventions on urban health, healthy housing, clean energy use and social policies. At the WHO Regional Office for Europe, she provided capacity building and developed knowledge translation tools for a regional network for evidence-informed policy-making. Prior to joining WHO, Ramona was a research associate and lecturer at the University of Lugano, Switzerland. Ramona holds a PhD in Health Communication from the University of Lugano and a Master of Public Health from the University of Munich.

Mr Natapanu Nopakun, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand

Natapanu Nopakun is a Thai diplomat with 27 years of experience in bilateral, multilateral and management experience. He has worked on issues related to most regions of the world and on many substantial issues, such as human rights, refugees, migration, corruption, global health, and regional security, among others. He was Minister-Counselor at the Thai Mission to the UN in Geneva from 2012-2016 and served in diplomatic postings in Washington, D.C. and Phnom Penh. Natapanu was an official interpreter and speechwriter for three Prime Ministers of Thailand as liaison for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the Government House from year 2008 to 2011. His current position is Deputy Director-General, Department of Information and Deputy Spokesperson, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr Piotr ARAK, Polish Economic Institute

Director of the Polish Economic Institute

Macroeconomic analyst, director and co-creator of the Polish Economic Institute, he previously worked at Deloitte, the Polityka Insight think-tank, the United Nations Development Program, the Ministry of Administration and Digitization, and the Chancellery of the Prime Minister of Poland. Holds a PhD in public policy from the University of Warsaw, Postgrad in statistics, MA in social policy. Received a MBA from the Warsaw School of Economics and the Université du Québec à Montréal. Took part in advanced management programs at Harvard Kennedy School. His research is focused on macroeconomics, sustainable development and social indicators.
Ms Hjh Rozaidah Hj Abd RAHMAN, Ministry of Finance and Economy, Brunei Darussalam

Hjh Rozaidah binti Hj Abd Rahman is currently the Acting Assistant Director of Human Resource Development and Corporate Affairs Division, Ministry of Finance and Economy (MOFE), Brunei Darussalam. She started her career at the ministry as a Public Relations Officer in 2011. Over the past 10 years serving the ministry, she has gained a lot of knowledge, experience and exposure through her involvement in a wide range of projects which include the Bruhealth App (an app developed by the Government of Brunei Darussalam to provide COVID-19 information, contact tracing, preventive care information and government advisories to citizens of Brunei Darussalam); the Royal Customs and Excise Department’s Exit and Entry System; and Sistem Kebajikan Negara which is Brunei Darussalam’s online National Welfare System. In addition, she is the main coordinator for MOFE events and Ease of Doing Business roadshows. She also serves as part of the MOFE preparatory team for annual Legislative Council Meetings. In 2020, she moderated the Economic Blueprint Consultation Sessions 2020 with Cabinet Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Permanent Secretaries, Deputy Permanent Secretaries and other stakeholders. In 2021, she was a member of the secretariat for the ASEAN meetings hosted by MOFE. Prior to her profession at MOFE, she worked as a radio and TV presenter, scriptwriter and researcher at Brunei’s local broadcasting station – Radio Television Brunei (RTB). She hosted several radio and TV talkshow programmes which highlighted contemporary and social issues relevant to the society. Hjh Rozaidah graduated with a BA (Hons) Degree in Media Communication and Cultural Studies from University of Newcastle, UK in 2010. She also attained an HND in Media Production from University of Salford, UK in 2008.

Professor José-Manuel FREIRE, Escuela Nacional de Sanidad-ISCIII, Spain

José-Manuel Freire, MD, MPH, MHSA. Emeritus Professor of the Department of International Health at the Spanish National School of Public Health of the Instituto de Salud Carlos III in Madrid. He is former Regional Minister of Health of the Basque Government and was Director of the Spain’s the National School of Public Health. He has worked in different capacities with WHO, UE, GAVI, Council of Europe and other international organizations. Most recently he has been a non-parliamentary member of the Social and Economic Reconstruction Commission of the Spanish Parliament in the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis.

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SESSION 2

Shifting to new-normal – how can we choose the best possible policy options to minimise economic disruptions while protecting public health?

This session aims to share the good practices and lessons learnt from the COVID-19 policies in shifting to new normal from a pandemic response mode. Necessary internal communication/coordination in order to reach optimal consensus among different stakeholders will be discussed.

Panellists:

- **Dr Iris HUNGER**, Deputy Head, Center for International Health Protection, Robert Koch Institute (RKI), Germany
- **Prof Juhwan OH**, Professor, Seoul University, Korea
- **Mrs Angela PAJA**, Special Advisory, National Public Health Organization, Greece
- **Ms Karen TAN**, Deputy Chief of Government Communications (Development) & Senior Director (Transformation), Ministry of Communication and Information (MCI), Singapore

*Moderator*: **Professor Ilmo KESKIMÄKI**, THL

*Session Coordinator*: **Ms Riko KIMOTO**, Manager for International Public Health, ASEF
Professor Ilmo KESKIMÄKI, THL

Ilmo Keskimäki (MD, PhD) is Research Professor at the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare and Professor of Health Services Research at the Tampere University. He has specialised in Public Health Medicine. His research has focused on health systems and policy analysis and developing research methods for the use of register based longitudinal data in health services research. He has particular interest in research on equity in health care and impacts of reforming services on health system performance. He has worked in research and administrative positions in national research institutes in Finland and advised the government on issues related to health systems and policy development and research.

Dr Iris HUNGER, Deputy Head, Center for International Health Protection, Robert Koch Institute (RKI)

Iris Hunger is Deputy Head of the Centre for International Health Protection (ZIG) of the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) in Berlin, Germany. ZIG works with partner countries and international public health actors to strengthen public health systems and to respond to public health emergencies worldwide. It focuses on all public health functions relevant to international health protection, including surveillance, diagnostic capacity, programme evaluation and operational and implementation research, public health workforce development, and emergency structures and processes. ZIG integrates and makes available core competencies of the RKI for international health protection. Iris moved to ZIG from RKI’s Federal Information Centre for Biological Threats and Special Pathogens (IBBS), where she focused on national public health preparedness and response capabilities to biological threats caused by highly pathogenic or bioterrorism-related agents. From 2006-2011 Iris headed the Hamburg Research Group for Biological Arms Control at the University of Hamburg, Germany, where her work concentrated on bioweapons non-proliferation and arms control, security aspects of the life sciences, and the role of civil society in preventing the (re)emergence of biological weapons. She also held positions at the Office for Disarmament Affairs at the United Nations in Geneva and the Planning Staff of the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin. Iris has a Master in Biochemistry and a PhD in International Relations.

Prof Juhwan OH, Professor, Seoul University, Korea

Dr. Juhwan Oh is a professor of international health policy and management at Seoul National University College of Medicine and SNU Hospital. He is a MD and PhD in Public Health (Political economy in health and health business administration) and studied global health as Takemi fellow at Harvard T.H.Chan School of Public Health. During his sabbatical study leave from SNU to Harvard (2019. 6-2021.12), he studied and published articles about COVID-19 response effectiveness and disruption in other arena. He took a study to investigate the performance of COVID-19 response in Korea and beyond and Europe with grant support from European Bank for Reconstruction & Development. His research interests are health equity, social determinants of health, smart health cities, value-based healthcare, health economics, and health insurance as well as pandemic response.
Mrs Angela PAJA, Special Advisory, National Public Health Organization, Greece

Detail-oriented Project Manager and Public Health Professional with curvilinear experience in several positions. Diplomatic, personable, and adept at managing sensitive topics, such as European Safety Appliance System, Business Ethics and Public Health. Highly organized, self-motivated, and keen to leverage leadership and managerial expertise as a project manager. Ongoing participation in training programs regarding the legal framework for the EU Marketable Materials in relation to the Environment and Public Health. With a strong interest in Public Health, my ambition is to be able to combine my academic knowledge, my business experience and the common good in my professional identification.

Ms Karen TAN, Deputy Chief of Government Communications (Development) & Senior Director (Transformation) Ministry of Communication and Information (MCI), Singapore

Ms Karen Tan is the Deputy Chief of Government Communications (Development) with the Ministry of Communications and Information (MCI) Singapore. Karen holds a key role in Whole-of-Governent efforts to transform government communications, including development of capabilities, training and capacity building. She is the Managing Director for the Academy of Communications & Engagement under the Civil Service College. Karen is also concurrently the Group Director (Communications and Engagement) with Ministry of Health. She oversees the entire spectrum of MOH public comms, comms research and analysis, stakeholder engagement and crisis' communications. She manages the public communications for COVID-19 and has also been previously involved in managing mass communication during the SARS epidemic in 2003 and the influenza A (H1N1) pandemic in 2009. Karen joined MCI as Senior Director in 2011. She headed the Public Communications Division (2011 - 2018) and oversees the planning and execution of Whole-Government public communications, content production and Singapore national marketing. Karen also serves as an expert advisor on risk communications to World Health Organisation in various regional and international platforms, including the IHR emergency Committee on Covid-19.

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SESSION 3

Avoiding the “panic-then-neglect” cycle

This session aims to discuss ways to establish sustainable financing mechanism in country level based on the lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic in each country’s setting.

Panellists:

- Dr Sutayut OSORNPRASOP, Senior Operations Officer, World Bank
- Dr Ngoc Hoang VAN, Senior Official, Ministry of Health Viet Nam
- Dr Fergus CUMMING, Chief Economist, UK Health Security Agency

Moderator: Ms Riko KIMOTO, Manager for International Public Health, ASEF
Ms Riko KIMOTO, Manager for International Public Health, ASEF

Riko KIMOTO, a Japanese national, joined ASEF in April 2016, and she leads ASEF Public Health Network. Prior to joining ASEF, she has gained extensive field NGO/volunteer experience in Latin America, collaborating with the local/international agencies such as Ministry of Health and UNHCR, dealing with a wide range of issues related to health. Other than the Americas, she also worked in Africa as a project supervisor for hospital management. Since she has lived much of her adult life in countries other than her own including Haitian Batey (village) in rural Dominican Republic, she became very capable of adapting to different cultures and lifestyles, and enjoys it. Riko has a Bachelor of Nursing degree from Australian Catholic University, and she is a qualified nurse with several years of clinical experience. She then obtained her Master’s degree in International Public Health (MIPH) from University of Queensland. For MIPH, she conducted her research in Mexico, and her article has been published on a professional journal afterwards.

Dr Sutayut OSORNPRASOP, Senior Operations Officer, World Bank

Dr. Sutayut Osornprasop is Senior Operations Officer in the Development Effective unit of the Eastern and Southern Africa region of the World Bank, based in Washington, DC. He is leading the M&E initiative for the region. Previously, he was Senior Health Specialist, and led a number of World Bank-financed projects as well as analytic and advisory work to support countries to improve human development, health and nutrition outcomes across East Asia, South Asia and the Pacific. He is widely known for his leadership in promoting sustainable financing and resilient systems for health security and pandemic preparedness, universal health coverage, innovative HIV prevention interventions, promoting multi-sectoral actions to address double burden of malnutrition and the rise of non-communicable diseases and obesity, including health taxation policy. His leadership and contribution to the post-disaster damage and losses assessment of the health sector following Thailand’s devastating floods in 2011 and Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar in 2008 is well recognized. He has worked on health financing and co-authored public expenditure reviews of the health sector in Thailand and Myanmar.

Dr Ngoc Hoang VAN, Senior Official, Ministry of Health Viet Nam

I have worked at the General Department of Preventive Medicine of the Ministry of Health since 2018. I am currently in charge of border health quarantine, emergency response activities on infectious diseases (Public Health Operation Centre).
Dr Fergus CUMMING, Chief Economist, UK Health Security Agency

I am Deputy Director of Advanced Analytics and Chief Economist at the UK Health Security Agency, where I lead multidisciplinary teams that provide actionable insights for the health-related public bodies associated with the UK government. Before that, I worked at the Bank of England on monetary policy and financial stability issues for more than a decade. I completed my DPhil in Economics at Nuffield College, Oxford and hold a BSc and MSc from the London School of Economics. My research interests include macro-health economics, macroeconomics, and institutional design.

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