

AMR IN ACTION

The outcome from the conference

“Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in an Era of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and Pandemics”

AMR people centred approach
& the Future of Antibiotics



Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in an Era of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and Pandemics

The Asia-Europe Foundation Public Health Network (ASEF PHN) has been leading efforts to emphasise the connection between addressing AMR while strengthening national health systems toward UHC. Building on the consensus reached during our meeting in 2018¹, a follow-up conference, “*Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in an Era of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and Pandemics*” took place in Feb 2023². The participants agreed that tackling AMR under the health system is integral to attaining UHC and enhancing Pandemic Preparedness and Response (PPR) capacities, ultimately contributing to Global Health Security (GHS). The conference yielded tangible actions based on the key messages outlined in the outcome document³.

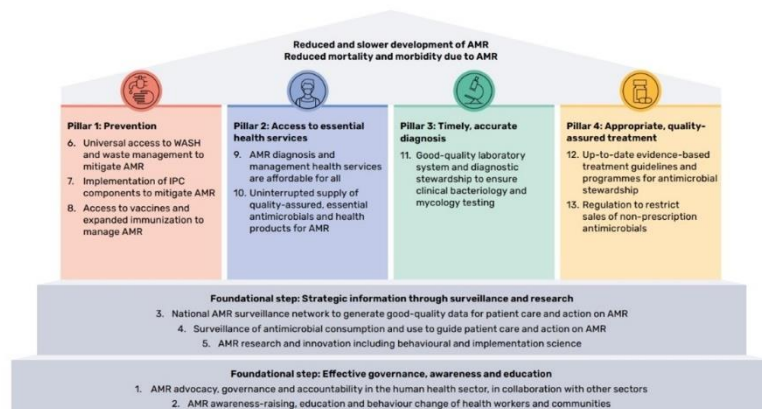
1. WHO’s proposal on a new initiative titled “*Addressing antimicrobial resistance (AMR) by strengthening primary health care (PHC): Piloting the **AMR People Centred Approach** in priority countries*” to test the WHO people-centred approach to addressing AMR in human health and the core package of interventions at the PHC level of implementation.
2. **The Future of Antibiotics** – New partnerships for antibiotic discovery led by the University of Warwick

AMR People Centred Approach (PCA)⁴

For a sustainable and comprehensive response to AMR, it is essential to link/mainstream AMR interventions at the country level more firmly with health systems strengthening efforts including to achieve UHC through primary health care (PHC) and building capacity for pandemic preparedness and response efforts. Mainstreaming AMR

requires a shift from addressing AMR as purely a biological phenomenon, and instead placing people and their health needs and health system challenges along the people AMR journey at the centre of the response. To provide guidance to countries for a more comprehensive and programmatic response to AMR in the human health sector linked with health systems strengthening efforts, WHO has developed a People Centred Approach (PCA) to address AMR in the human health sector. PCA recognizes and aims to address the challenges and health system barriers people face when accessing health services to prevent, diagnose and treat (drug-resistant) infections. It puts people and their needs at the centre of the AMR response and guides policymakers in taking programmatic and comprehensive actions to mitigate AMR in line with a core package of 13 AMR interventions.

This unprecedented approach, led by WHO and supported by ASEF, has been piloted in 4 countries to date – Indonesia, Thailand, Kazakhstan and Sweden. The practical lessons identified from the implementation of AMR PCA in these selected countries will provide possibilities for other countries to adopt similar strategies. The results of these pilot case studies in these 4 countries will help the WHO in developing guidance on mainstreaming AMR interventions into PHC strengthening efforts. This will form the basis for the WHO’s strategic and operational priorities for 2025-2035. An interim update, including key messages



1 <https://asef.org/projects/high-level-meeting-universal-health-coverage-as-a-tool-to-combat-infectious-diseases/>

2 2023 Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in an Era of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and Pandemics Conference – Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

3 [ASEF-PHN_UHC-in-an-Era-of-AMR_2023_Report.pdf](#)

4 [9789240082496-eng.pdf \(who.int\)](#); e-learning course on the PCA: <https://openwho.org/courses/AMR-people-centred-approach>

from the initial 2 country missions in Indonesia and Thailand, was discussed at the side event during the 77th World Health Assembly, and is available [here](#).

New Partnerships for Antibiotic Discovery and Development

Current funding models and policy frameworks do not encourage scientists to specialise in antimicrobials, resulting in a significant loss of capacity and capability in terms of human resources. This initiative that is aimed at addressing this problem, arose out of discussions associated with the Feb 2023 conference. It is funded by the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation (GBSF) and the Howard Dalton Centre (HDC) at the University of Warwick. The issues with research and development (R&D) of antimicrobials are well known – a reliance on the market has failed to mobilise sufficient investment; although various schemes have been established to fill in the financial gap, they are not providing sufficient incentives to attract young scientists to make a career in antibiotic discovery and development.

There is an urgent need for a new approach that mobilises cutting-edge science, national infrastructure, inter-country partnerships and underpinning policy change to address these challenges. The project, “*Future of Antibiotics – New Partnerships for Antibiotic Discovery*”, was established as a collaborative effort between British and Japanese philanthropies. This five year project was launched at a high level Joint Japan/UK Science and Policy workshop in March 2024 at the National Centre for global Health and Medicine (NCGM) and at a reception at the British Embassy in Tokyo, where two AMR Policy Fellowships, named after Mr Yasuhisa SHIOZAKI, former Minister of Health, Japan and Dame Sally DAVIES, former chief medical officer of the UK, were announced. The aim is to create career tracks that attract, train and retain excellent researchers with the necessary skills to build a discovery ecosystem, enhanced by new technologies and new partnerships between academic research centres and private companies.

Objectives of the side event

The main purpose of this event is to promote for actions against AMR by sharing the best practices and lessons identified from the 2 initiatives that originated from our conference in Tokyo in 2023. More specifically, the discussion aims to;

- Encourage other countries to address AMR as part of health system strengthening efforts while progressing towards UHC and better PPR in the human health sector.
- Contribute to expanding the “Future of Antibiotics” project, beyond the UK and Japan. Other countries and organisations are encouraged to join this collaborative program to address needs across sectors, regionally, nationally and internationally, building new research and policy partnerships across academia, industry, philanthropy and governments to tackle issues surrounding the next generation of leaders and wider ecosystem for antimicrobial R&D.

Agenda

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| 9:30 | Welcome Address | H.E. Mr. YAMANAKA Osamu Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations |
| | Opening Remarks | Dr Saia PIUKALA, Regional Director, WHO Regional Office for Western Pacific (WHO WPRO) |
| 9:40 | Panel discussion 1 | MODERATOR: Dr Norio OHMAGARI, Director, AMR Clinical Reference Center, National Centre for Global Health and Medicine (NCGM), Japan PANELLISTS: Dr Yvan HUTIN, Director, Surveillance, Prevention, Control (SPC) Department, AMR Division, WHO Dr Malin GRAPE, Ambassador on AMR, Swedish Ministry of Health and Social Affairs Dr Ricardo BAPTISTA LEITE, President, UNITE |
| 10:25 | Q&A | Dr Norio OHMAGARI, NCGM, Japan |
| 10:40 | Panel discussion 2 | MODERATOR: Ms Riko KIMOTO, Head, Public Health Network, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) PANELLISTS: Professor Christopher DOWSON, Co-director, Sir Howard Dalton Centre, the University of Warwick Dr Damiano DE FELICE, Chief of External Affairs, Carb-X Hon. S. Niranjan REDDY, Member of Parliament, UNITE |
| 11:25 | Q&A | Ms Riko KIMOTO, ASEF |
| 11:40 | Closing remarks | Professor António CORREIA DE CAMPOS Member, Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance Former Minister of Health, Professor Emeritus of Health Economics, National School of Public Health, New University of Lisbon, PORTUGAL Dr Norio OHMAGARI, NCGM, Japan |
| 11:45 | Networking session | |
| 12:30 | End of the Event | |

Moderators & Panellists

OPENING REMARKS

H.E. Mr. YAMANAKA Osamu



Ambassador YAMANAKA Osamu is an experienced diplomat currently serving as the Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations. Born on September 15, 1966, he graduated from Hitotsubashi University in March 1990 and began his diplomatic career in April of the same year by joining Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA).

Throughout his career, Ambassador YAMANAKA has held key positions in Japan's foreign relations, specializing in areas such as international cooperation, human rights, and humanitarian affairs. His roles have taken him to various international postings, including stints in Malaysia, Geneva, and Brazil. Notably, he has served as Japan's representative in international organizations such as the OECD and the International Energy Agency.

Ambassador YAMANAKA's diplomatic journey also includes leadership roles in human rights and humanitarian efforts within MOFA, as well as significant contributions to Japan's foreign trade policies while serving at the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI). Since August 2022, he has played a vital role in Japan's representation at the United Nations in New York, engaging in critical multilateral diplomacy to advance Japan's global interests.

Dr Saia Ma'u PIUKALA



Dr Saia Ma'u Piukala is WHO Regional Director for the Western Pacific and the first Pacific islander to take up this role. He was nominated for this position by the Regional Committee for the Western Pacific in October 2023, appointed by the WHO Executive Board in January 2024 and took office on 1 February 2024.

Dr Piukala is a politician, public health leader and surgeon who brings to the role nearly 30 years of experience working in Tonga and across the Pacific. He is a champion of multisectoral collaboration to tackle noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and the threat to health posed by climate change. He has led initiatives to achieve universal health coverage and address emerging infectious diseases. He has been a strong advocate for initiatives on youth health, tobacco control, safe surgery, and disaster preparedness and response.

Prior to his election as WHO Regional Director, Dr Piukala was a Member of Parliament and Minister of Health of the Kingdom of Tonga. He also served as Vice-Chair of the WHO Regional Committee for the Western Pacific (October 2022 to October 2023), and chaired the Pacific Health Ministers meeting hosted by Tonga in September 2023. From 2019 to 2022 he served a member of the WHO Executive Board, and he was a Commissioner for WHO's Independent High-Level Commission on NCDs from 2018 to 2020.

Previously, Dr Piukala was Medical Superintendent of the main referral hospital in Tonga, and worked as a Senior Medical Officer and General Surgeon in Tonga and other Pacific islands including Fiji, Nauru, Niue and Tuvalu.

Dr Piukala holds a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery (1995), Postgraduate Diploma in Surgery (2005) and Master of Medicine in Surgery (2009) from Fiji School of Medicine / University of the South Pacific.

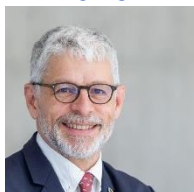
MODERATOR

Dr Norio OHMAGARI



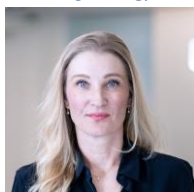
Dr Norio OHMAGARI is acting as Director, AMR Clinical Reference Center, which is commissioned by Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare Japan, and Director, Disease Control and Prevention Center of National Center for Global Health and Medicine (NCGM), Japan. He is also acting as the Director of Director, WHO Collaborating Center for Prevention, Preparedness and Response to Antimicrobial Resistance (JPN-98). Dr. Ohmagari is engaged in the care, prevention and research of infectious diseases from a global perspective. He is also active in activating R/D for infectious disease medicines.

Dr Yvan J-F. Hutin



Dr Yvan J-F. Hutin is the director of the Department of Surveillance, Prevention and Control [SPC] of the AMR Division of WHO headquarters. Following his MD and specialization in hepato-gastroenterology in France and an MSc in clinical tropical medicine at the London School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, he joined the Epidemic Intelligence Service of the US-CDC and completed a PhD at the Swiss Tropical Institute. He worked on public health in Burkina Faso, in Uganda and in Sweden at the European CDC. During more than twenty years at WHO at the three levels of the Organization, he initiated the Safe Injection Global Network (SIGN), assisted India in the setup of its Field Epidemiology Training Programme (FETP), worked on hepatitis B in China, coordinated strategic information at the Global Hepatitis Programme and was director of communicable diseases in the Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean Region. His areas of expertise include epidemiology, prevention, care and treatment of communicable diseases, public health training, economic analyses, and financing. Dr Hutin co-authored more than 140 publications in peer review journals.

Dr Malin GRAPE



Dr Malin GRAPE is the Swedish Ambassador on Antimicrobial Resistance since March 2022. In her previous position as Deputy Head of Department for Communicable Disease Control and Health Protection and Head of Unit for Antibiotics and Infection Control at the Public Health Agency of Sweden she was responsible for national coordination and international cooperation on antimicrobial resistance and healthcare associated infections.

Dr GRAPE is a licensed pharmacist and holds a PhD in medical science from the Karolinska Institute. Her research and previous professional experience span a broad field from clinical microbiology to global health. Dr Malin Grape has been the chair of the national sectorwide coordinating mechanism on antibiotic resistance including 22 governmental agencies as well as director of a WHO Collaboration Centre for antimicrobial resistance containment. She was a member of the programme committee of the national research programme on antibiotic resistance and council member of the National Council for Patient Safety.

Dr Ricardo BAPTISTA LEITE



Dr Ricardo BAPTISTA LEITE is a Portuguese-Canadian medical doctor trained in infectious diseases with extensive experience in global health, health systems and science-based policymaking. Prior to his current role as CEO of 'HealthAI - The Global Agency for Responsible AI in Health' in Geneva, Dr. Ricardo served four terms as a Member of Parliament in Portugal on both health and foreign affairs committees.

Ricardo is the founder and President of the 'UNITE Parliamentarians Network for Global Health', a network of current and former policymakers from more than 110 countries. With more than 15 years of academic experience, he is Chair of the Board of the Harvard-Charité Global Health Policy Lab, based in Berlin, and Chair of the Centre for Global Health at NOVA University Information Management and Data Science School in Lisbon. He is also a city councillor in Sintra and previously served as Deputy Mayor of Cascais. He completed postgraduate studies at Johns Hopkins University, Harvard Kennedy School of Government and Harvard Medical School. Previously, Dr Baptista Leite worked as a practising physician in the Portuguese National Health Service for several years, including an internship at the World Health Organization.

More recently, he served as a medical volunteer both during the COVID pandemic in his hometown hospital in Portugal for over a year and as part of a humanitarian mission at the Lviv Regional Hospital in Ukraine during the first summer after the beginning of the war.

SESSION 2

MODERATOR

Ms Riko KIMOTO



Riko KIMOTO joined ASEF in April 2016, and she leads ASEF's thematic area of Public Health, called ASEF Public Health Network (ASEF PHN). Before joining ASEF, she gained extensive field NGO/volunteer experience in Latin America, collaborating with local/international agencies such as the Ministry of Health and UNHCR on various health-related issues. Besides 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 has become very capable of adapting to different cultures and lifestyles and enjoys it.

Riko has a Bachelor of Nursing degree from Australian Catholic University and is a qualified nurse with several years of clinical experience. She then obtained her Master's in International Public Health (MIPH) from the University of Queensland. For MIPH, she conducted her research in Mexico, and her article was published in a professional journal afterwards.

Professor Christopher DOWSON



Antimicrobial resistance is a cross sectoral global problem requiring integrated solutions. Trained in Applied Biology specialising in Microbiology I have worked across the academic industry interface for almost 40 years, latterly leading transnational interdisciplinary teams tackling antimicrobial resistance, integrating science and policy partners.

Post COVID, philanthropy has begun to engage with the sector, recognising the loss of human capital, collapse of the antimicrobial discovery ecosystem and the need for action. Various initiatives have arisen from this at Warwick including the formation of the Sir Howard Dalton Centre and a recent UK-Japan collaboration establishing a 'next generation leadership' program with 'Dame Sally Davies' and 'Mr Yasuhisa Shiozaki' fellowships working alongside national centres of excellence in UK and Japan AMR policy and science research.

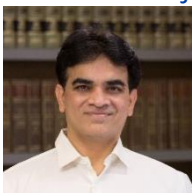
The aim is to work with other national and international partners to extend this program more widely, with discussions already ongoing to establish funding and programs with India and Scandinavia. There is an urgent need develop new partnerships across academia, industry philanthropy and governments. I hope that the UNHLM2024 is an opportunity for action to help deliver this.

Dr Damiano DE FELICE



Damiano DE FELICE, PhD, is a non-profit executive with experience leading teams across multiple functions, including business development and fundraising, policy and external relations, strategy and impact, operations and finance. He joined CARB-X from the Access to Medicine Foundation, where he served as Director of Strategy and a member of the Management Team. With expertise in the areas of global health, human rights and sustainable investing, Damiano has published his research and interviews in international news, magazines and academic journals, including the Financial Times, The Guardian, Harvard Business Review and Human Rights Quarterly. He has served on multiple expert and advisory groups, including the World Economic Forum Global Future Council on Antimicrobial Resistance, World Economic Forum Global Future Council on Human Rights, SASB Advisory Group for the pharmaceutical sector, Global AMR R&D Hub Stakeholder Group, and Expert Committee for the UN Sustainable Procurement Index for Health. Throughout his career, Damiano has advised international organizations, companies, governments and NGOs, including the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights and the Italian Ministry of Economic Development. Damiano holds a PhD in International Relations from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Hon. S. Niranjan REDDY



Mr. S. Niranjan Reddy is a Senior Advocate at the Supreme Court of India and a Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha. He serves on several key committees, including the Rajya Sabha Standing Committee on Housing and Urban Affairs, the Committee on Subordinate Legislation, and the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Law and Justice. He was also a member of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Amendment Bill, 2022.

Known for his active engagement, Mr. Reddy frequently participates in debates on national and international issues, with a particular focus on legal reforms, emerging technologies, and their techno-legal implications.

CLOSING REMARKS

Professor António CORREIA DE CAMPOS



Prof CAMPOS served as Minister of Health in Portugal from 2001-2002 and from 2005-2008. He is currently Professor Emeritus at the National School of Public Health at the New University of Lisbon. He was a Member of the European Parliament and one of the co-builders of the Portuguese National Health Service. Prof Campos authored numerous books and articles on health care, health economics, health policy and public administration services. As a trained health economist and health politician, he is deeply concerned with the social and economic implications of healthcare associated infections to individuals and society. He received his degree in Law by the University of Coimbra, Directeur d'Hôpital by the École Nationale de la Santé Publique de Rennes, and Master of Public Health from The Johns Hopkins University. He is also a member of the Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance.

Organiser

Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) & ASEF Public Health Network (ASEF PHN)

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)⁵, founded in 1997, is an intergovernmental not-for-profit organisation representing the 53 ASEM Partners⁶: 30 European and 21 Asian countries, plus the European Union and the ASEAN Secretariat. Following the 6th ASEM Summit (ASEM6; 2006; Helsinki, Finland), where the leaders expressed their determination to combat avian influenza and a possible human influenza pandemic, the *ASEM Initiative for the Rapid Containment of Pandemic Influenza*, financially supported by the Government of Japan, was officially launched at the 9th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting (ASEM FMM9; 2009; Hanoi, Viet Nam). Since then, the 2 components of the Initiative (*ASEM Stockpiling of Anti-viral Drugs and Personal Protective Equipment*, as well as *ASEF Public Health Network*) have contributed to strengthening ASEM Partners' capacity to manage public health emergencies.

Co-Organiser

AMR Clinical Reference Center, National Centre for Global Health and Medicine (NCGM)

The AMR Clinical Reference Center was established in April 2017 as a project commissioned by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare to implement measures based on the action plan for antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and to promote measures against AMR. The Center mainly conducts work related to clinical epidemiology based on the antimicrobial resistance (AMR) action plan, and work related to information and education.



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This project is sponsored by the Government of Japan.

⁵ <http://www.ASEF.org>

⁶ <https://www.ASEFinfoboard.org/about/partners>