

International Trade and Health Conference 2022-2023

“International trade and health: A need for a paradigm shift”

24 – 25 January 2023

World Ballroom A, Fl. 23, Centara Grand at Central World
Bangkok, Thailand

1. Background and rationale

1.1 International Trade and Health Conference

The International Trade and Health (ITH) Conference has been organized annually since 2014 by the National Commission on International Trade and Health Studies (NCITHS) together with the International Trade and Health Programme and partners. The conference provides a platform for knowledge sharing, networking, capacity building, and policy recommendations. The outcomes of the conference have been provided to relevant agencies as input for policy decisions and their relevant work.

1.2 International Trade and Health Conference 2022-2023

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, we experienced seismic changes in international trade influenced by various factors, such as the shift in policy of the world's major powers towards global trade liberalization. At the time, the focus was on the trade war between the major powers, Brexit, China's Belt and Road Initiative, ASEAN Connectivity 2025, the growing role of India and Japan, and major free trade agreements such as the Comprehensive and Progressive Transpacific Partnership (CPTPP).

During the global pandemic of COVID-19 over the past three years, international trade has been severely affected. And never before has the interconnection between trade and health been more obvious and significant. It is clear that the world was not readily prepared for such a situation, giving the large scale of the impact on all sectors and all aspects.

In addition, changes in geopolitics, technology disruptions, concerns about energy consumption, the use of environmental protection as a barrier to trade, and changes in new trade rules have significant implications for international trade. Linking international trade and health would therefore be more challenging. The inequality in access to medicines, treatments, and vaccines that we witnessed during the pandemic confirms the need for a better global health system and global governance. Moreover, the role of the main global institutions responsible for governing international trade (the World Trade Organization: WTO) and health (World Health Organization: WHO) has been competed by many other players.

Given this situation and factors, a paradigm shift is needed to see trade liberalization as an opportunity for trade and health development and how these sectors can complement each other.

This will broaden the scope of trade beyond its traditional aspects and facilitate the trade and health sectors to be more collaborative rather than competitive.'

The International Trade and Health (ITH) Conference 2022-2023 will discuss the aforementioned issues and explore whether we can shift the paradigm of how we view trade and health considering the most important factor and the current situation. It is expected to identify evidence, actions, and needed capacity to provide input to prepare for international trade and health in the future.

2. Objectives of the conference

1. To discuss future international trade and health taking into account major factors of influence and current situation.
2. To identify evidence, actions and capacity needed to make a paradigm shift towards future international trade and health development
3. To expand network on international trade and health

3. Details of sessions (sub-themes)

Session 1: International trade and health outlooks: the needed paradigm shift

Session 2: International trade and health preparedness for public health threats

Session 3: Geopolitics and international trade and its implications on health

Session 4: [New] global governance of international trade: challenges and opportunities for health

Session 5: National level initiatives in support of the new development of international trade and health: What capacity is needed?

4. Expected outcomes

1. Knowledge sharing
2. Professional exchanges and joint research and collaboration
3. Policy recommendations for global, regional and national initiatives that improve international trade and health policy coherence
4. Expanded network and collaboration on international trade and health

5. Participants

Representatives from government agencies, academic researchers, civil society organisations, private sectors, international participants and partners from global health community.

6. Dates

Tuesday 24 to Wednesday 25 January 2023

7. Main organisers

- (1) National Commission on International Trade and Health Studies (NCITHS)
- (2) International Trade and Health Programme (ITH)
- (3) International Trade and Health Network Centres and partners
- (4) Enhancing Leadership in Global Health Thailand (EnLIGHT) Programme
- (5) WHO/ SEARO

PROGRAMME

Tuesday 24 January 2023	
Time	Session
13.00-13.30	Registration
13.30 - 13.40	<p>Conference opening</p> <p>Conference Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr Cha-aim Pachanee International Trade and Health Programme, IHPP <p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Sampan Silapanad Chair of National Commission on International Trade and Health Studies (NCITHS)
13.40-13.45	Photo session
13.45 – 15.15	Session 1 International trade and health outlooks: the needed paradigm shift
[90 minutes]	<p>This session will discuss the future situation of international trade and health, which will be shaped by the current situation of public health emergencies, especially COVID-19, and how lessons learned can be applied to balance trade and health interests, and how we can shift the views of concerned stakeholders.</p> <p><u>Panelists:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Marc Bacchetta Counselor, Economic Research and Statistics Division, WTO 2. H.E. Mrs. Pimchanok Pitfield Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Thailand to the World Trade Organization and the World Intellectual Property Organization 3. Speaker from the Federation of Thai Industries (FTI) [TBC] 4. Dr Matthias Helble Scientist, Evidence to Policy & Impact, Research for Health Department, World Health Organization <p><u>Moderator</u></p> <p>Mr Natapanu Noppakun Deputy Director-General, Department of Information, Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p>
15.15-15.30	Coffee break
15.30-17.00	Session 2 International trade and health preparedness for public health threats
[90 minutes]	<p>This session will discuss the role of both trade and health organisations at the global and national levels in preparing to address the public health threats, including pandemics and climate change.</p>

	<p><u>Panelists:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Roger Kampf Counsellor, Intellectual Property, Government Procurement and Competition Division, World Trade Organization Mr Hoe Lim [TBC] Director, Trade and Environment Division, World Trade Organization Mr Othoman Mellouk International Treatment Preparedness Coalition Speaker from Bill & Melling Gate Foundation [TBC] <p><u>Moderator:</u></p> <p>Dr. Liviu Vedrasco Head of Simulation Exercises and After Action Reviews Unit, World Health Organization</p>
17.00-17.10	Wrapping up for Day 1
Wednesday 25 January 2022	
Time	Session
8.30-09.00	Registration
08.55-09.00	Key messages from Day 1 and introduction to Day 2
09.00-09.30 [30 minutes]	<p>Keynote address on “The new global health landscape and international trade: In search of policy coherence”</p> <p>Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala [TBC] Director-General, World Trade Organization</p>
09.30-09.35	Photo session
09.35 -11.05	Session 3 Geopolitics and international trade and its implications on health
[90 minutes]	<p>This session will discuss the current geopolitical situation that inevitably affects international trade and what are the major positive and negative consequences of this impact on health.</p> <p><u>Speaker</u></p> <p>Dr Jesse Bump Department of Global Health and Population, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health</p> <p><u>Panelists</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Associate Professor Piti Srisangnam [TBC] Executive Director, ASEAN Foundation Mr. Natee Vichitsorasatra Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

	<p>3. [TBC]</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u></p> <p>Dr Suwit Mangkhala Department of ASEAN Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand</p>
11.05-11.20	Coffee break
11.20-12.30	Session 4 [New] global governance of international trade: challenges and opportunities for health
[70 minutes]	<p>This session will discuss the [new] global governance of international trade including influential players, mechanisms, rules, and decision-making processes, and the challenges and opportunities for health</p> <p><u>Speakers</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Dr Ashley Schram Menzies Centre for Health Governance, RegNet, the Australian National University, Australia Dr Chantal Blouin Institut national de santé publique du Québec, Canada H.E. Mrs. Pimchanok Pitfield [TBC] Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Thailand to the World Trade Organization and the World Intellectual Property Organization <p><u>Moderator:</u></p> <p>Mr. Parinthorn Apinyanunt Minister Counsellor, Thailand Permanent Mission to ASEAN</p>
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch
14.00 -15.30	Session 5 National level initiatives in support of the new development of international trade and health: What capacity is needed?
[90 minutes]	<p>This session aims to draw key conclusions from recent development challenges related to the trade-health nexus that all stakeholders in a given country should take advantage of. A wide range of stakeholders will be covered, from government agencies to academics to NGOs, as complementarity among them is also critical to turning potential into reality. Responses include overall policy stance at national, regional, and global levels, changes in rules and regulations, research directions, and collaboration among actors.</p>

	<p><u>Speaker and moderator</u></p> <p>Assoc Prof Archanun Kohpaiboon Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University</p> <p><u>Panelists:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr Manisha Sridhar, Regional Advisor, Intellectual Property Rights, Trade and Public Health, World Health Organization, South-East Asia Regional Office 2. Ms Tanja Kuchenmüller Unit Head, Evidence to Policy, World Health Organization, Geneva 3. Mr. Jayant Menon Senior Fellow, Regional Economic Studies Programme, ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore 4. Ms. Donghyun Park Economic Advisor (Strategic Knowledge Initiatives) Asian Development Bank
15.30-15.45	Coffee break
15.45-16.15 [30 minutes]	<p>Conference summary and recommendations</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u></p> <p>Dr Cha-aim Pachanee International Trade and Health, IHPP</p>
16.15-16.30	<p>Final words and closing</p> <p>By Mr. Sampan Silapanad Chair of National Commission on International Trade and Health Studies</p>

Please see www.iththailand.net for more detail

Or contact ith.programme@gmail.com

Registration for ON-SITE participation: <https://pmac2023.com/sidemeeting> by 15 January 2023

Registration for ON-LINE participation: <https://forms.gle/CLF9vFsYRyDD9Q877> by 23 January 2023