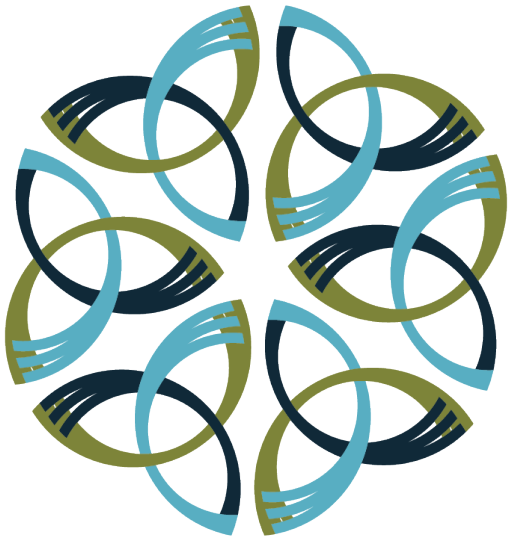
PMAC PRINCE MAHIDOL AWARD CONFERENCE 2018



PARALLEL SESSION 1.4

FINANCING PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS: WHERE IS THE MONEY?

| BACKGROUND

Recent experiences with the Ebola, Zika, and SARS outbreaks, among others, have underscored the need for countries to invest in pandemic preparedness, and to do so not only from a health perspective but also from an economic perspective: the socio-economic cost of outbreaks is often proportionally much larger than the corresponding impact on mortality and morbidity.

The International Working Group on Financing Preparedness (IWG) has recently made several recommendations to integrate pandemic preparedness into international macro-economic and market assessments that determine the availability of concessionary and other international financing eligible lower and middle income countries.

To date, however, what has largely been missing in global and country-level discussions is a systematic understanding about adequacy and modality of current financing arrangements for health security. Part of pandemic preparedness is embedded in health financing and service delivery. Part also deals with animal health which is the responsibility of livestock/agriculture sector. In addition to its multisectoral nature, there are contingency financing arrangements for pandemic preparedness that may or may not be linked to how countries manage other natural or man-made disasters. There is also risk that health security and pandemic preparedness may get lost in health financing transition that focuses more on financial protection and access to individual services than public goods.

Given the complexity of pandemic preparedness, better understanding of the current financing landscape would enable an informed dialogue on financing gaps and how best they could be filled given domestic and international fiscal constraints. The nature of health security implies that some of the objectives and functions that may be applicable to a generic health financing system would need to be amended to consider some of the unique characteristics of the specific sub-set of activities that constitute health security.

| OBJECTIVES

The objective of this session is to discuss issues on financing health security within the broader context of trends in health and public financing more generally. Specifically, the session will:

- Provide an overview of how to conceptualize and estimate financing for health security, including preparedness, response and recovery;
- Present and discuss some preliminary findings on health security financing analysis from select countries, including a 10-year evaluation of OIE PVS Pathway and gap analysis to strengthen/finance veterinary services;
- Examine key domestic policies and interventions to ensure sustainable financing for pandemic preparedness and opportunities for mobilizing domestic and international financing for rapid response.



Panelist

Benjamin Rolfe

CEO

Asia Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance
Singapore

Dr Ben Rolfe is the CEO of Asia Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance secretariat, formerly hosted by the Asian Development Bank and now independently incorporated in Singapore. Ben was the former Lead Senior Specialist for the Pacific at the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and has more than twenty years' experience in supporting health initiatives across 30 countries. Most recently at APLMA, he took a lead role in brokering the East Asia Summit agreement to eliminate malaria from Asia Pacific by 2030.