



**PMAC** | PRINCE MAHIDOL  
AWARD CONFERENCE **2018**



## **PARALLEL SESSION 3.1**

**GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR COUNTRY OUTCOMES**



## | BACKGROUND

Despite significant scientific and technological advances, as well as ongoing collaborative efforts to prevent, detect, and respond to high-impact diseases associated with emerging infectious or antimicrobial-resistant pathogens, these diseases continue to emerge and pose threats to human and economic security. The underlying causes of their emergence include growing human populations, increasing socioeconomic development, and associated industrialized food production, urbanization, and globalization. Each of these factors in turn results in ever-increasing personal interaction, animal-human interface, and interdependence within and among communities at the local, regional, and global levels. In the context of such an inter-connected world -- with disease drivers ready to multiply and amplify the adverse impacts of emerging infectious or antimicrobial-resistant pathogens -- cross-sectoral collaboration is needed more than ever to facilitate and enhance prevention, detection, and response.

Although the first line of defense in disease prevention and control rests at the country level, pandemics respect no borders. Thus, regional and global cooperation and coordination, with increasing involvement of the private sector and communities, are essential to tackle problems from various angles. Although many multi-sectoral partnerships have to date been initiated with different mechanisms and structures, some partnerships and networks have been used in coordinated manners to manage globally concerning health crises such as the 2014 Ebola epidemic in Africa. It will be valuable to learn from such examples and understand how partners from different sectors were engaged to serve public needs. It will also be beneficial to identify obstacles to and gaps in coordinated action during joint crisis-management efforts and to explore options for improved preparedness and response in the future.

## | OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this session are therefore to:

- Discuss the models and platforms that currently exist globally and regionally
- Share findings on the effectiveness of these models and platforms in guiding practice and partnerships
- Identify common needs and bottlenecks that can be practically addressed to establish a more effective and inclusive partnership for management of EIDs and pandemics, as well as AMR



## Speaker

### Yap Him Hoo

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Dr Yap Him Hoo is the Director-General and Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Regulatory Programmes & Operations) of the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA), the national authority entrusted with the mission to ensure a resilient supply of safe food, safeguard the health of animals, fish and plants, as well as facilitate agri-trade for Singapore. Dr Yap is also Singapore's Official Delegate to the World Animal Health Organisation (OIE) and the Secretary-General of the OIE Regional Commission for the Asia, the Far East and Oceania. In Singapore, he co-chairs the One Health Coordinating Committee with colleagues from the Health and Environment ministries. He is also a member of the Singapore Standards Council and the Vice-Chairman of its Food Standards Committee. Prior to his current post, Dr Yap was the Senior Director of the Infrastructure Division of the Singapore's Ministry of National Development. His responsibilities included development of policies related to agriculture, food and veterinary matters; greenery and biodiversity matters; and construction and building control matters. Dr Yap graduated as a veterinarian from the University of Queensland, Australia in 1994 and completed the Masters of Preventive Veterinary Medicine (MPVM) in the University of California, Davis in 2003. He was involved in the activities of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), particularly in the areas of agriculture and forestry. He was part of the ASEAN Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Taskforce and worked on the establishment of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Animal Health and Zoonoses (ACCAHZ). The current initiative for the region, which Singapore is playing a lead role is addressing the issues of AMU/AMR in livestock production and aquaculture. Dr Yap received Singapore National Day Awards: Public Administration Medal (Bronze) in 2007 and Public Administration Medal (Silver) in 2015.