



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

Eduardo Banzon

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Dr. Eduardo P. Banzon is a Principal Health Specialist in the Asian Development Bank where he champions Universal Health Coverage (UHC) all over Asia and the Pacific, supports countries pursue UHC, and provides advice on designing and implementing country UHC strategies. He is a former President and Chief Executive Officer of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth). He was a Regional Adviser for Health Economics and Financing of the World Health Organization-Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (WHO-EMRO) where he advised countries in the Middle East and North Africa on improving their health systems and achieving UHC. He was also a Health Economist in WHO-Bangladesh and Senior Health Specialist for the World Bank. He first joined government as Vice President of PhilHealth in 2000 where he provided technical leadership in its shift from a traditional indemnity health insurer into a proactive health insurance program that addresses the health needs of both the formal and informal sector population. Eventually, he was given additional assignments by the Department of Health to help facilitate and enable the growth of generics medicines, and promote the use and application of information technology tools in the health sector. Dr. Banzon was a Clinical Associate Professor of the University of the Philippines (UP) College of Medicine where he was member of the Department of Family and Community Medicine and the Department of Clinical Epidemiology. He was a Research Associate Professor of the UP-National Institutes of Health. He was also a faculty member of the Ateneo Graduate School of Business; and an adjunct faculty in the Asian Institute of Management and Ateneo School of Government. He is a medical doctor who worked as a community health physician and community organizer in rural and urban poor communities with the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement, the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction, Botika Binhi, and the Institute of Maternal and Child Health. He completed his medical degree in the UP College of Medicine in 1992 and later completed an MSc in Health Policy, Planning and Financing from the London School of Economics and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in 1998. He has been recognized by his alma mater and others when he was awarded a Distinguished Alumnus Award (Health Policy Development) by the University of the Philippines Alumni Association in 2015, and tasked to give the commencement talks for the graduating medical classes of UP College of Medicine 2013 and the Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health 2015. Dr. Banzon was born in Bacolod City in November 4, 1966, and graduated High School valedictorian from St. John's Institute which has recognized him as one of its most outstanding alumni. He is married to Johanna Solon Banzon and they are blessed with three children, Juan Eduardo 16, Julian Francisco 12 and Julianna Fidelis 10.