



PMAC | PRINCE MAHIDOL
AWARD CONFERENCE **2018**



PARALLEL SESSION 4.3

COMMUNITY SYSTEMS: THE BEDROCK OF RESPONSES TO EID AND AMR



| BACKGROUND

Community preparedness and response to emerging infectious diseases (EID) and antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) is critical to the health outcomes of individuals. In HIV, people both living with and affected by HIV have been at the forefront of providing treatment preparedness to promote health-seeking behavior, improve adherence and other health outcomes, whilst advocating for increased availability, accessibility and uptake of key viral load diagnostics as well as 2nd and 3rd line antiretroviral therapy. In Malaria, civil societies work with other stakeholders to address artemisinin resistance in Southeast Asia via educating communities about the hazards of substandard drugs and organizing public awareness campaigns to complete a 3-day treatment course and on measures to prevent further spread of resistant pathogen strains. Similarly in tuberculosis, community-based outpatient treatment of MDR-TB in resource poor settings yield higher cure rates and facilitated better referrals to other health services required by TB affected communities. Furthermore, lessons learned from the early response to Ebola in West Africa have recognised the problem of sidelining community engagement as a key factor contributing to failure of the early emergency health programs to meet the needs and realities confronting affected populations in the region.

Today, prevention, detection and response to EID relies significantly on an effective surveillance system which starts at the community level with effective mechanisms in place to ensure linkage into national level health systems reporting. The Ebola crisis highlights the importance of integrated community case management (iCCM) and the roles of the network of community health workers and community leaders in early and better case reporting, contact tracing and bringing people into care, whilst reducing stigma and discrimination associated with the virus. Community-based control and preventive behaviours for vector control is recognized as a key pillar in disease response and preparedness for Zika and other mosquito-borne diseases. The use of innovative technologies in the response to EID by communities and community health workers contributed to the prompt control of the outbreak by providing a valuable platform for early warning and guiding early actions.

| OBJECTIVES

The session aims to explore community roles in preparedness and response to EID and AMR, concentrating on lessons and approaches deployed in disease-specific programs, such as HIV, TB, Malaria, Ebola and Zika, whilst underscoring the importance of focusing on people, i.e. ensuring that systems for health involve the affected community and promotes community action as part of the overall health system critical for identifying, reporting and responding to emergency health threats.

The session is designed to generate discussions on commonalities and contexts of community action, and to reflect on emerging challenges that still persist in response to EID and AMR from the community perspectives, as well as to identify practical solutions drawing the lessons learned from community responses to the epidemics of HIV, TB, Malaria and to the most recent outbreaks of Ebola and Zika across the globe.



Panelist

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Kannikar Kijtiwatchakul is NGO representative in NHSO board committee. She has no medical background but journalism. Among NGO communities, she is a campaigner on Intellectual Property Right and Access to Medicine, Drug System Monitoring and Development Program, Chulalongkorn University and also an active member of FTA Watch, Thailand; a coalition that monitoring and campaigning on free trade negotiations that have severe socially effected. Recently, FTA Watch held a meeting called 'Global and Regional Investment Policy: Implications on Thailand and ASEAN' and produced an clip video explaining ISDS. In journalism, she writes a monthly column called Itchy World in Way Magazine. Besides, she hosts a radio newscast called 'Chao Tan Lok' (Morning World Review) on FM 96.5 MHz featuring reporting and commentaries on world news. Here she earns a reputation for her remarkable ability to make such difficult issues like global affairs, medicine patents in particular, immediately accessible to her audiences. She wrote several books and articles on access to medicine and intellectual property issue as "Drug Patent: Rich People's Darling" (2005) and "The Right to Life" (2007). She is also a co-author of "Sustaining Access to Antiretroviral Therapy in Developing Countries: Lessons from Brazil and Thailand" published in AIDS 2007.