



PMAC | PRINCE MAHIDOL
AWARD CONFERENCE **2018**



PARALLEL SESSION 2.3

**DEALING WITH AN INTER-CONNECTED WORLD: PARTNERSHIPS FOR
PREPAREDNESS, DETECTION AND RESPONSE DURING HIGH VISIBILITY EVENTS**



| BACKGROUND

Mass gatherings are recognised to have the potential to enhance spread of infectious diseases as well as being potential targets for deliberate events. Although both these risks are unlikely, the rise of Zika infection in the run up to the Rio 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) in Saudi Arabia highlighted how these events can create a perceived, if not actual, global health threat and a political as well as health challenge.

The inspiration of this session derives from the next three Olympiads (Winter 2018, Summer 2020 and Winter 2022) being in the western pacific region (S Korea, Japan and China respectively). This session will be based on previous sporting mass gatherings such as the Rio Olympics, the London Olympics, and the World Cup, religious gatherings such as the Hajj, and large state events such as the King's funeral in Thailand. The session aims to share learning and best practices from a biosecurity and terrorism perspective and to explore how such mass gathering events can best be planned to minimise any health risks. Many mass gatherings, especially international sporting events, are organised by what are effectively private sector companies and the relationship between the private and public sector partners is vitally important.

| OBJECTIVES

- To share learning and experience from previous events
- To explore effective risk mitigation strategies
- To examine the health and political interface of mass gatherings, including private sector partners
- To explore how mass gatherings can be used to improve global health security capacity



Panelist

Paul Arbon

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Professor Arbon is a Matthew Flinders Distinguished Professor, Director of the Torrens Resilience Institute and the Flinders University WHO Collaborating Centre for Mass Gatherings and Global Health Security at Flinders University. The Torrens Resilience Institute was established in 2009 to improve the capacity of organisations and societies to respond to disruptive challenges that have the potential to overwhelm local disaster management capabilities and plans. Current research and development is focused on community and organisational resilience, mass gathering management and health security. The Institute hosts the City Security and Resilience Networks for Australia and Asia. Professor Arbon is former President of the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine, a member the International Health Regulations Roster of Experts, Editorial Board Member of the disaster health journal Pre Hospital and Disaster Medicine and Fellow of the Australian College of Nursing and the American Academy of Nursing.