



PMAC | PRINCE MAHIDOL
AWARD CONFERENCE **2018**



PARALLEL SESSION 2.1

BEYOND MERS AND ZIKA: ARE WE PREPARED FOR THE NEXT BIG EPIDEMIC?



| BACKGROUND

Over the past decade, Ebola, MERS, highly pathogenic avian influenza and, more recently, the Zika virus outbreaks have demonstrated the ability of epidemics to devastate communities through both extraordinary losses of life and severe morbidity as well as adverse social and economic impacts that jeopardize global health security. These recent disease outbreaks have not only made evident countries' lack of preparedness to adequately prevent, detect and respond to epidemics, but also the extent to which measures must cut across governance levels and all sectors of society in order to truly be effective. Furthermore, only one third of countries have met their commitments under the International Health Regulations (IHR). And although several tools and frameworks have been developed (by WHO, USAID, CDC, OIE, etc.) to provide guidance for countries to develop country epidemic preparedness and response plans, these are generally disease specific, have not been updated or tested through routine exercises, remain largely underfunded and are, therefore, not fully operational. As a result, many countries remain unprepared to prevent, detect, mitigate risks and respond to health threats and disease epidemics before they cause devastating consequences in the livelihoods of communities and the economies of countries.

| OBJECTIVES

- To present country experiences on strengthening IHR core capacities, including efforts for effective coordination, partnership models and financing mechanisms to strengthen health security.
- To identify critical elements needed for sustainable, inclusive, and effective preparedness at country level and propose solutions for more effective epidemic preparedness guidance.
- To discuss gaps in the current guidance and frameworks that need to be filled to develop country epidemic preparedness and response plans.



Panelist / Panelist / Moderator

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Dr Ronello C. Abila is the Sub-Regional Representative for South-East Asia of the World Organisation for Animal health (OIE). Dr Ronello C. Abila is the Sub-Regional Representative for South-East Asia of the World Organisation for Animal health (OIE). Dr Abila is a Filipino Veterinarian who graduated as a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) from the University of the Philippines and a Master of Science in Epidemiology and Preventive Veterinary Medicine from Free University of Berlin, Germany. Dr Abila joined the OIE in June 2004 as Regional Coordinator of SEAFMD Campaign, and in September 2007 he was given additional task to manage the OIE/AusAID Programme on Strengthening Veterinary Services in South East Asia until March 2009. In April 2009, he was appointed as the OIE Sub-Regional Representative concurrent with his position as Regional Coordinator of SEAFMD Campaign. Dr Abila has a wide experience in managing disease control programs. Among the major contributions of Dr Abila is the development of the SEACFMD Roadmap 2020 and in assisting countries to control FMD. Dr Abila is instrumental in the eradication of FMD in the Philippines, and in various OIE support to control FMD in Myanmar and Lao PDR. He also coordinate the sub-regional control of rabies in South-East Asia supported by One Health Component of the STANDZ programme. He supervised the development of a South-East Asia Dog Rabies Elimination Strategy which was later transformed into the ASEAN Rabies Elimination Strategy (ARES).