

Thematic Solution Forum 7, Global South-South Development Expo 2022

Social Protection and Health: South-South and Triangular Cooperation to Enhance Capacity to Produce and Deliver Vaccines

Tuesday 13 September 2022, 9.00-10.15 hours (75 minutes), UNCC CR-3 and online (Hybrid format)

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the centrality of a range of factors including trade, transport, logistics, and Intellectual Property, among others, in tackling public health crises. Open trade in vaccine inputs and capital goods as well as the smooth transfer of knowledge and know-how are direly needed to ramp up vaccine production, while transportation and logistics are critical for effective distribution of vaccines across and within countries.

In responding to and recovering from the global pandemic, South-South and triangular cooperation has also played a central role and has been proven more relevant than ever to overcome this unprecedented crisis and build back better, owing also to the stark inequalities between and within countries in health systems as well as access to vaccines, medicines, and diagnostics.

As co-host of the Global South-South Development Expo to be held from 12 to 14 September 2022 (jointly with UNOSSC and the Government of Thailand), ESCAP in collaboration with the UNDP and WHO will convene a Thematic Solution Forum on South-South and Triangular Cooperation to boost readiness to produce and deliver vaccines on 13 September 2022 from 09.00-10.15 hours (GMT+7) at the United Nations Conference Centre and online.

Objectives

- Underscore the tremendous potential of South-South and Triangular Cooperation to help countries in the global south scale up responses to global crises such as COVID-19 and develop solutions tailored to their needs and context
- Highlight the range of cross-border issues that affect affordable and equitable access to essential vaccines and present possibilities for regional cooperation to enhance such access
- Serve as preparatory discussion ahead of the launch of the ESCAP Development Account project (15th Tranche) on Regional Integration and Cooperation to Promote Affordable and Equitable Access to Vaccines, Diagnostics and Therapeutics in Asia-Pacific
- Provide a platform for countries in Asia-Pacific and beyond to deepen their engagement in SSTRC to strengthen their health system resilience and boost readiness to produce and deliver vaccines

Target Participants

Policymakers, industry experts from multiple sectors including health, relevant international organizations, academia, GSSD participants

Tentative Agenda

Opening remarks (5 minutes)

- Cecilia Oh, Programme Advisor, HIV, Health and Development Group, UNDP

Presentations (30 minutes)

- Prof. Dr. Anthony So, Professor of the Practice and Founding Director of the Innovation+Design Enabling Access (IDEA) Initiative, Johns Hopkins University - “Towards a Regional Approach to Ensuring Vaccine Access as part of Pandemic Preparedness and Response”, synthesis paper based on the ESCAP-WHO Lab to Jab project
- Prof. Frederick Abbott, Edward Ball Eminent Scholar Professor of International Law, Florida State University, College of Law - “Regionalizing Pharmaceutical Production and Innovation” by Frederick M. Abbott and Padma Gehl Sampath, prepared for the UNDP

Panel discussion (20 minutes)

- Moderator: Rupa Chanda, Director, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division (TIID), UNESCAP
- Prof. Dr. Narendra Kumar Arora, Executive Director, The INCLEN Trust International
- Dr. Nakorn Prem Sri, Director, National Vaccine Institute (NVI), Ministry of Public Health, Thailand

Interaction with audience and experts (15 minutes)

Concluding remarks- key takeaways and way forward (5 minutes)

- Srinivas Tata, Director, Social Development Division, UNESCAP