COVID-19 has highlighted the key role of trade and transport in fighting the pandemic. In this context, ESCAP, together with the World Health Organization, is implementing the research project “From Lab to Jab: Improving Asia-Pacific’s Readiness to Produce and Deliver Vaccines” to better understand the determinants of vaccine production and delivery in Asia-Pacific, with a focus on cross-border cooperation, trade, and transportation. The findings of the project should help developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region to improve vaccine trade and transport connectivity and better prepare for the next pandemic as well as fight other communicable diseases.

This expert group meeting (EGM) brings together researchers and experts to discuss preliminary research findings of the thematic studies commissioned, and to provide suggestions on further direction in the project.

**Meeting Plan**

Due to the pandemic the meeting will be held online. In order to keep the virtual meeting relatively short, we would like to suggest the following meeting plan:

**Before the meeting**

Ten days before the meeting, draft papers, pre-recorded video presentations (up to 15 min each) and the PPT presentations of preliminary research findings will be shared with all invited participants. Sending queries/comments by email in advance (by 27 January 2022) will be highly appreciated to allow the researchers to have a few days to reflect on them and answer them during the EGM.

**At the meeting**

The main objective of the meeting is to provide feedback to the authors of the thematic studies. It is expected that all participants of the EGM have familiarized themselves with the content of all studies prior to meeting. We particularly recommend that they have watched already all pre-recorded video presentations. When the researchers present their draft papers during the EGM, they can therefore focus on the key findings and do not need to explain the paper in detail. When the paper is written by several authors, we strongly recommend that only one of the authors presents the main finding.
Each thematic session will have 25-30 minutes with the scenario as follows:

1. The researcher will give a brief presentation, highlighting the key points (5 minutes) and thereby setting the stage for the discussion.
2. Designated discussant will give feedback, suggestions, ask questions (10 minutes).
3. The researcher/s will respond to the questions and present their views on the suggestions (5 minutes).
4. Other Q&As from the floor (5-10 minutes).

Video presentations by project researchers (15 min each)

- **Research and Development** of Vaccines in the Asia-Pacific Region: State of Play and the Potential, by Antonio Postigo, London School of Economics
- **Vaccine Global Value Chains** and Regional Production Capacity in Asia-Pacific, by Pavida Pananond, Thammasat University and Alvaro Cuervo-Cazurra, Northeastern University
- **Intellectual Property** and Vaccine Manufacturing in the Asia-Pacific Region, by Andrew Mitchell, Monash University, and Antony Taubman, World Trade Organization
- **Trade and Trade Barriers** in Vaccines and Inputs to Vaccine Production in the Asia-Pacific Region, by Pralok Gupta, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, and Ayona Bhattacharjee, International Management Institute
- **Regulatory Convergence and Cooperation** in Vaccines in the Asia-Pacific Region, by Andrew Mitchell, Monash University, and Simon Lacey, University of Adelaide
- **International Transport and Logistics** of Vaccines and Inputs Across Borders: the Case of the Asia-Pacific Region, by Rawinkhan Srinon, Duangpun Kritchanchai, and Thananya Wasusri, Mahidol University
- **Equitable Access** to COVID-19 Vaccines in the Asia-Pacific Region, by Valerie Gilbert Ulep, Philippine Institute for Development Studies
## Tentative Programme

### 31 January 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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| 19:00 – 19:05 | Opening and setting the scene  
* Rupa Chanda, Director, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, United Nations ESCAP |
| 19:05 – 19:35 | Round-table discussions  
(5 min presentation, 10 min discussant comments, 15 min Q&A for each paper) |
| 19:05 – 19:35 | Theme 5: **Regulatory Convergence and Cooperation** in Vaccines in the Asia-Pacific Region  
* Presenter: Andrew Mitchell, Monash University or Simon Lacey, University of Adelaide  
* Discussant: Simon Evenett, University of St. Gallen  
* Q&A |
| 19:35 – 20:05 | Theme 3: **Intellectual Property** and Vaccine Manufacturing in the Asia-Pacific Region  
* Presenter: Andrew Mitchell, Monash University or Antony Taubman, World Trade Organization  
* Discussant: Anthony D. So, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health  
* Q&A |
| 20:05 – 20:35 | Theme 4: **Trade and Trade Barriers** in Vaccines and Inputs to Vaccine Production in the Asia-Pacific Region  
* Presenter: Pralok Gupta, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, or Ayona Bhattacharjee, International Management Institute  
* Discussant: Keith Maskus, University of Colorado Boulder  
* Q&A |
| 20:35 – 21:05 | Theme 2: **Vaccine Global Value Chains** and Regional Production Capacity in Asia-Pacific  
* Presenter: Pavida Pananond, Thammasat University or Alvaro Cuervo-Cazurra, Northeastern University  
* Discussant: Ronald Labonté, University of Ottawa  
* Q&A |
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<tr>
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<th>Discussant</th>
<th>Q&amp;A</th>
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<tr>
<td>19:00 – 19:30</td>
<td><strong>Theme 1:</strong> Research and Development of Vaccines in the Asia-Pacific Region: State of Play and the Potential</td>
<td>Antonio Postigo, London School of Economics</td>
<td>Michael Toole, Burnet Institute, and Gavin Yamey, Duke University</td>
<td>Q&amp;A</td>
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<tr>
<td>19:30 – 20:00</td>
<td><strong>Theme 7:</strong> Equitable Access to COVID-19 Vaccines in the Asia-Pacific Region</td>
<td>Valerie Gilbert Ulep, Philippine Institute for Development Studies</td>
<td>Deborah Gleeson, La Trobe University, and Eduardo P. Banzon, Asian Development Bank</td>
<td>Q&amp;A</td>
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<tr>
<td>20:00 – 20:30</td>
<td><strong>Theme 6:</strong> International Transport and Logistics of Vaccines and Inputs Across Borders: the Case of the Asia-Pacific Region</td>
<td>Rawinkhan Srinon, Duangpun Kritchanchai, or Thananya Wasusri, Mahidol University</td>
<td>Kamal Ait-Ikhlef, World Health Organization</td>
<td>Q&amp;A</td>
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<tr>
<td>20:30 – 21:00</td>
<td><strong>Theme 8:</strong> Financing Research and Development for New Vaccines in developing Asia-Pacific countries [Research Outline]</td>
<td>Gavin Yamey, Duke University</td>
<td></td>
<td>Q&amp;A</td>
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<tr>
<td>21:00 – 21:25</td>
<td>Brainstorming and way forward</td>
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