

Global Health Office



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Message from the Vice-Dean (Global Health):

Dear colleagues,

We are delighted to present the inaugural edition of the Global Health Office (GHO) Newsletter. This newsletter will be published biannually, providing a platform to showcase key highlights in the School's global health initiatives.

GHO plays a pivotal role in advancing NUS Public Health's mission for regional and global impact. It actively facilitates and directs the School's global health expertise and resources, coordinating activities at both regional and international levels. This encompasses forming partnerships with external organizations, training global health leaders, and managing projects sourced from international funders. Additionally, the GHO lends its support to the School's programs in Lao PDR and Cambodia. The field of global health is dynamic and ever-evolving, and we are excited to contribute to the School's endeavors by presenting notable projects in this newsletter.

In this issue, we focus on selected work from the past year and also provide insights into the internationally oriented centers within the School that significantly contribute to the vibrant global health environment. For more in-depth information, you can refer to our reports at <https://sph.nus.edu.sg/global-health/>.

We trust that you will find this brief overview of GHO's work and the global health landscape within the School both informative and engaging.

Professor Hsu Li Yang



On 17 Jan 2024, the GHO administrative team spent an afternoon sharing and baking at the Food Playground (from left to right, top to bottom): Korn Laongkul, Elisa Coati, Prof Hsu Li Yang, Yvonne Teo, Felicia Yue, Zunairah Binti Lukman.

REGIONAL PROGRAMMES



CAMBODIA

The UHS-SSHSPH Integrated Research Programme (USIRP) is a collaborative venture between the University of Health Sciences (UHS) in Cambodia and the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health (SSHSPH) at the National University of Singapore (NUS). Launched in October 2014, USIRP focuses on tuberculosis and antimicrobial resistance. Under USIRP II (October 2019 - September 2024), it has expanded to address broader public health priorities in Cambodia and Southeast Asia, including HIV/AIDS, infection prevention and control, maternal and child health, sexual and reproductive health, non-communicable diseases, and mental health.

Operating under an implementation research framework, USIRP aims to develop and assess cost-effective interventions for healthcare access and improved outcomes, particularly for vulnerable populations. Collaborations span national programs, UN agencies, donor agencies, and NGOs, ensuring stakeholder involvement and translating findings into policy and action. The initiative has expanded its reach to Lao PDR, collaborating with the Lao Tropical and Public Health Institute.



Launch of project “Innovation Mobile Technology for Maternal and Child Health Care in Cambodia (i-MoMCARE): A Cluster Randomized Controlled Trial”, on 31 March 2023 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (LAO PDR)

LAUNCH OF LAO PDR PROGRAMME, VIENTIANE, ON 7 FEBRUARY 2023

The NUS SSHSPH - Lao PDR Programme was launched on 7 February 2023 in partnership with the Lao Tropical and Public Health Institute (Lao TPHI) in Vientiane Capital, of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR). The programme focuses on research, education, and training, offering courses and grants for researchers in Lao PDR to collaborate with NUS researchers, aiming to foster partnerships, strengthen capacity, and support evidence-informed public health policies aligned with the Ministry of Health's priorities.



In its inaugural year, the programme successfully collaborated with local partners achieving key milestones such as collaborative teaching activities, ongoing research projects and awarding of travel fellowships to strengthen collaborative efforts. The programme plays a pivotal role in supporting research collaborations through the NUS SSHSPH - Lao PDR Programme Research Grant, providing funding and collaboration opportunities for early stage research projects in Lao PDR.



Conferment Ceremony for Visiting Professor Mayfong Mayxay (third from left) at Lao Plaza Hotel, on 8 January 2024.

Prof Mayfong Mayxay was honoured at a conferment ceremony at Lao Plaza Hotel on 8 January 2024, with Prof Teo Yik Ying, Dean of SSHSPH (third from right) and over 50 esteemed representatives and leaders attending this significant event, with a shared objective of fostering future collaborations and fortifying partnerships between the School and institutions in Lao PDR.

Featured Project

With support from the World Health Organization Asia Pacific Observatory (APO) of Health Systems, a team from SSHSPH is updating the Lao HiT. This will be a year-long project and collaboration with the Lao Tropical and Public Health Institute (Lao TPHI) with support from the NUS Lao office. Asst. Prof Jasper Tromp, Asst. Prof Kiesha Prem and Dr Viengsamay Sengchaleun are serving as editors of the Lao HiT and will collaborate with a diverse set of authors from Lao TPHI, the Lao University of Health Sciences (UHS), the Lao Ministry of Health, and Lao healthcare practitioners to write the new HiT.



On 23-24 November 2023, the team organised the kick-off meeting with an adjacent workshop to start the project. The meeting took place in Vientiane with participants from TPHI, Lao UHS, WHO APO, the WHO country office, Thailand's International Health Policy Program (IHPP), and the Singapore Embassy in Lao. The meeting, which included a capacity-building workshop, was very well attended and received by participants.



Ministry of Public Health of Thailand's team (four on the left) with SSHSPH's faculty members (four on the right) at NUS on 17 January 2023.

Prof Hsu Li Yang with Prof Mondastri Korib Sudaryo, Dean of the Faculty of Public Health, Universitas Indonesia (right) in NUS SSHSPH on 5 June 2023.



A/Prof Jason Yap hosting a visit for Mahidol University's Master of Public Health Administration students, including A/Prof Sukhontha Kongsin (left) and Asst. Prof Sariyamon Tiraphat (middle) in NUS SSHSPH on 31 August 2023.



Prof Teo Yik Ying with Prof Liang Wannian, Executive Vice Dean of Tsinghua University Vanke School of Public Health (left), in NUS SSHSPH on 4 October 2023.



CENTRES IN NUS PUBLIC HEALTH WITH INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH



ADVANCing Clinical Evidence in Infectious Diseases (ADVANCE-ID)

The ADVANCE ID network conducts research to develop the most effective ways to treat and prevent life-threatening drug-resistant infections.

Website: <https://www.advance-id.network/>

Asia Centre for Health Security

The Asia Centre for Health Security (ACHS) is a newly established academic think tank that is working towards an Asia prepared for current and emerging biological threats, by engaging in collaborative research, training initiatives, and strategic partnerships.

ACHS is based at the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health (SSHSPH), National University of Singapore (NUS), and operates in close partnership with the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University and the National Centre for Infectious Diseases.

Climate, Environment and Health Programme

Climate, Environment and Health Programme is a research programme leveraging cross-disciplinary expertise to understand and evaluate the health risks associated with climate and other environmental changes. Data-driven methods and technologies are used to monitor the impacts of environmental change on health and identify solutions to protect human and ecosystem health.

Website: <https://sph.nus.edu.sg/research/climate-environment-and-health-programme/>

News: yahoo!finance, NUS Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health announces programme to further research into climate, environment and health, 1 December, 2023.

Dr Kimberly Fornace and Assoc. Prof Yann Felix Boucher will lead this programme to investigate, monitor and assess the impact of climate on public health and well-being in Southeast Asia, and further interdisciplinary research in the region.

For more information: <https://sg.finance.yahoo.com/news/nus-saw-swee-hock-school-000000350.html>

MIDSEA Network

The MIDSEA Network is a consortium of people working in the area of modelling (M) infectious (I) diseases (D) in South (S) East (E) Asia (A). The network exists to bring together modellers, broadly defined, from our region to share ideas, learn from each other, and contribute to controlling outbreaks in Southeast Asia through our research. It was envisioned to promote modelling to decision makers by engaging them in our symposiums and seminar series. This will allow both modellers and decision makers to understand each other better.

Website: <https://midsea.network>

Thank you for reading our newsletter.

Do you have any content you would like to share for the next newsletter? Do get in touch at the address below !

Contact Us



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