

Reimagining Global and Regional Health Governance: Insights from South and Southeast Asia Panel Discussion

Time: 16:30- 19:00 | **Date:** 8 June 2026 |

Level 3, Meeting Room 306
Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre

Background

Global Health governance is in turmoil and undergoing a period of rapid and profound transition, shaped by geopolitical dynamics and evolving financing landscapes. In response both to this shifting landscape as well as to the experience of Covid-19, countries in the Global South are making efforts to assert greater agency in shaping the future of global health and in developing more effective models of South-South health cooperation.

The regions of South and Southeast Asia are no exceptions to these efforts and aspirations. Home to a large share of the world's population and a growing proportion of its economic output, these regions face both threats and opportunities for strengthening their collective health security through improving regional health cooperations and governance, and by working collectively to more effectively influence the future evolution of global health governance.

This panel discussion will examine the evolving global health governance landscape through the lens of South and Southeast Asia and discuss how international health cooperation and both global and regional health governance may be strengthened. It will draw on research findings produced by UNU-IIGH and CSEP to map out the strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats for both regions.

Programme

1630 - 1700: Registration and tea/coffee

1700 – 1710: Welcome and opening remarks: Sandhya Venkateswaran (CSEP)

1710 – 1720: Setting the global and geopolitical scene: David McCoy (UNU-IIGH)

1720 – 1740: Global and regional health governance through the lens of South & Southeast Asia

- Maria Blandina (UNU-IIGH)
- Nadine Monteiro (CSEP)

1740 – 1810: Panel discussion with experts

- Rabi Abeyasinghe (World Health Organization)
- Nurhafiza Md Hamzah (National Institute of Health, Ministry of Health)
- Asnawi Abdullah (Head of Policy Planning, Ministry of Health, Republic of Indonesia) TBC

1750 - 1850: Audience Q&A

1850 - 1900: Closing remarks and takeaways