

## **GHS2026 Conference Workshops**

***Day One - Tuesday 9 2026, 4pm-6pm  
Room 410***

### **Strengthening Legal Preparedness and Governance Frameworks for Public Health Emergencies in ASEAN**

#### **Aim & Objectives:**

Legal preparedness for public health emergencies (PHE) in ASEAN is fragmented, and, to date, there has been no single consolidated assessment of the region's legal preparedness. Therefore, Monash University Malaysia's Policy Hub for PHE is working with Matahari Global and a team of ASEAN experts to develop a Baseline Report and a novel Benchmarking Tool on legal preparedness for PHE in the ASEAN region. Based on stakeholder engagement, in-depth desk review and key informant interviews, the Report and Tool will address areas such as biosecurity and biosafety protocols, pathogen access and benefit sharing, JEE score, surveillance, emergency powers and interagency One Health cooperation frameworks.

To strengthen the analytical rigour, stakeholder reach and policy relevance of the Baseline Report and Benchmarking Tool, we propose a workshop at GHS2026 to:

- Present the Baseline Report and Benchmarking Tool on national and regional PHE legal preparedness in the ASEAN region for discussion and validation with participants;
- Facilitate peer learning on good practices, challenges and gaps in PHE legal preparedness and governance frameworks; and
- Discuss recommendations for wider governance of public health emergencies in the ASEAN region, including on risk communication and community engagement, coordination of supply, and monitoring, learning and evaluation.

#### **Target audience:**

This workshop will provide policymakers, public health officials, regulators, civil society representatives and academics from the ASEAN region working across PHE, pandemic prevention preparedness and response, biosecurity and One Health with evidence-informed insights and peer learning opportunities to strengthen national and regional PHE legal preparedness and governance frameworks. It will be particularly relevant to institutions responsible for formulating, implementing and monitoring PHE-related laws and policies.

Proposed geographical or population focus

The primary focus is the ASEAN region and member states and other relevant stakeholders, with attention to regional mechanisms (e.g., ASEAN Secretariat) and alignment with global legal and governance frameworks.