

As of Feb. 11, 2025



Side Event during APFSD 2025
Empowering the Next Generation: Advancing Well-Being in the Asia-Pacific Region
Friday 28 February, 10:45 – 12:00
MR-A, United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand
On-site

This side event aims to empower youth across the Asia-Pacific region to lead public health advocacy and education, while highlighting the critical role of educational institutions in promoting health and academic outcomes. Aligned with the United Nations' view of health—encompassing physical, mental, and social well-being—the event will focus on youth-led, community-based initiatives that promote healthy behaviours, raise awareness of health challenges, and foster sustainable health practices.

The event will highlight how educational institutions can foster a cycle where healthier students perform better academically, and educated students lead healthier lives. Special attention will be given to gender-sensitive public health interventions, which are essential for improving learning outcomes and removing barriers to education, particularly for girls. These initiatives are crucial for promoting gender equality and ensuring that all students can thrive academically and socially. These efforts contribute to achieving SDGs 3 (Good Health and Well-being), 4 (Quality Education), 5 (Gender Equality), and 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth).

The session will explore practical health interventions in educational institutions, showcasing how they support Sustainable Development Goals, and contribute to a healthier, more educated population. It will also emphasize the role of safe, supportive learning environments in preventing violence, addressing adverse childhood experiences, and improving student outcomes. This roundtable discussion will allow students to pitch their health and education initiatives, with insights from panellists representing governments, academia, community organizations, and the private sector.

Two key questions will guide the conversation:

1. What are the most effective strategies for integrating health initiatives into educational institutions?
2. How do health and education influence and reinforce one another?

Key Outcomes and Recommendations:

This event will highlight actionable outcomes and real-life projects where students can engage in advancing the 2030 Agenda.

Key takeaways will include:

- Practical examples of child or youth-led health and education initiatives.
- Recommendations for integrating health interventions to improve learning and well-being.
- Strategies for building partnerships that advance the Sustainable Development Goals, with a focus on youth empowerment and gender equality.
- Steps to create safe, supportive learning environments that foster holistic student development.

Program		
Time	Activity	Details
10:45	Welcome by MC and Opening	MC: Madelyn Almazora, Regional Adviser, Subregional Office for South-East Asia, ESCAP (TBC)
	Remarks by rep of the co-organizers	Prof. Wilert Puriwat, D.Phil., President, Chulalongkorn University
10:50	Presentations	<p>Moderator: Taskin Rahman, Head of Advocacy and Campaigns, Save the Children International</p> <p><i>“Competency Training Curricula for Healthcare Providers focusing on Role-Specific Service in Thailand's Medical Hub” (7 mins)</i> Assoc. Prof. Dr. Smith Boonchutima, Faculty of Communication Arts, Chulalongkorn University Dr. Sudkanueng Rittruechai, Faculty of Communication Arts, Chulalongkorn University</p> <p><i>“Bridging Socio-Economic Gaps Among Youth through Digital Literacy and Generative AI: Promoting Sustainability in Science Education” (7 mins)</i> Asst. Prof. Dr. Sara Samiphak, Faculty of Education, Chulalongkorn University</p>
11:04	Pitching Session	<p>Moderator: Taskin Rahman, Head of Advocacy and Campaigns, Asia at Save the Children International, Save the Children</p> <p>Youth Representatives (5 mins each) Three student/ group representatives pitch their health and education initiatives. These initiatives should address the Sustainable Development Goals and showcase community-based approaches to improving health and learning outcomes. Guiding document for the representative to be provided, and they can develop a small deck to use for the pitching.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representative from Eco Stove Representative from One Health Coop project (APRU SDG4GC 2024) Representative from Student-led health and education initiative, Faculty of Medicine, Chulalongkorn University <p>Respond to the pitches, offering insights, advice, and potential collaboration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deepali Gupta, Advocacy and Partnership Specialist, Global Partnership for Education Share best practices and offer feedback on the initiatives. Alif Nadvi Rahman, Managing Director, Fashion Asia (TBC) Discuss how the private sector can support these initiatives TBD, World Health Organisation Insights on global health initiatives and alignment with the 2030 Agenda. <p>Open discussion (Interventions, questions to speakers, panellists)</p>
11:56	Closing Remarks	Ruhimat Soerakoesoemah, Head, Subregional Office for South-East Asia, ESCAP