

PS 2.3

INTEGRATING HEALTH INTO NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

| BACKGROUND

Many of the solutions to common public health and environmental threats can only be found through cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary knowledge exchange, action and policy. This session will showcase how coherent and inclusive, evidence-based policies at the public health, environment, and climate nexus – through the lens of Nature-based solutions – can help prevent future health risks associated with ecosystem degradation, biodiversity loss and climate change, and chart a common path toward the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Nature-based solutions are actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems which address social, economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services, resilience and biodiversity benefits (UNEP/EA.5/Res.5). Ecosystem health underpins human well-being, from climate resilience, to food and water security, to human health – and investing in NbS can offer catalytic opportunity for the health and environment sectors to work together to drive improved health outcomes.

| OBJECTIVES

This session will promote guidance and tools to support health integration into Nature-based Solutions by: (1) identifying co-benefits and trade-offs for human and ecosystem health, (2) strengthening social and ecological resilience and (3) supporting a healthy, green and just recovery from COVID-19. This collaboration focuses on embedding ecosystem health, biodiversity and climate change in One Health policies, plans and projects, and driving knowledge exchange on the environmental and social determinants of health, while systematically integrating health co-benefits in the development, design and implementation of Nature-based Solutions to climate change.

This session will:

- Present an overview of Nature-based Solutions, as aligned with the IUCN Global Standard on NbS 1, and detail how the health sector can drive leadership in the development, design and implementation of these Nature-based Solutions;
- Examine the relationships between biodiversity, ecosystem degradation, climate and (infectious and noncommunicable) disease emergence, with a view to maximizing health co-benefits of sustainable ecosystem management and restoration.
- Assess the role of environmental, social and economic determinants of health and develop tools to strengthen cross-sectoral collaboration, policy coherence and the operationalization of an integrated Nature-based Solutions and One Health Approach;
- Mainstream health and biodiversity to support a transition toward sustainable and healthy food systems in ways that also support: dietary diversity; the sustainable management and use of biodiversity in agriculture, fisheries and forestry ecosystems; regenerative agriculture practices; crop diversity and sustainable harvesting practices; sustainable fisheries; sustainable management of livestock, wildlife, terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems; climate change adaptation and mitigation; and the interactions between these drivers, responses, and outcomes;
- Examine the contribution of biodiversity and green and blue infrastructure to support the creation of health-promoting environments and improve mental and physical health outcomes in both rural and urban areas, including the development and implementation of Nature-based climate Solutions focused on health co-benefits;
- Evaluate climate change as a cross-cutting driver and amplifier of ecosystem degradation, biodiversity loss and ill health, and developing policy guidance to maximize the health co-benefits of ecosystem-based adaptation and mitigation efforts.

This session will launch a new joint technical publication and key messages for policymaker on the integration of One Health and Nature-based Solutions, laying out concrete ways that actions to protect biodiversity, nature and ecosystem health have far-reaching outcomes for human health. This session will be jointly organised by the World Health Organization, through its Department of Environment, Climate Change and Health, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, and the Friends of Ecosystem-based Adaptation network, in consultation with the experts of the expert working group (EWG) on

Biodiversity, Climate, One Health and Nature-based Solutions.



Panelist

Pipit Aneaknithi

President

KASIKORNBANK
Thailand

A pharmacist turned seasoned banker, Pipit Aneaknithi has been appointed as KASIKORNBANK's President since January 2017. With over 20 years of experience in banking industry and his mastery, he is the one who introduced a medicinal-related solution to restore Nan province's pristine headwater forest.

Joining KASIKORNBANK in the middle of Asian Financial Crisis in 1990s, Mr. Aneaknithi has played an instrumental role in a series of the bank's post-crisis organization transformations, and, currently, is in the forefront of the re-formation of bank-wide digital strategy.

Furthermore, as KASIKORNBANK have determined to be the leader in ESG among banks in Southeast Asia, they have reconceptualized their strategic imperatives, enabling themselves to become net-zero in their own operations by 2030; in which Mr. Aneaknithi is one of the spearheading leaders on the decarbonization journey of KASIKORNBANK and piloting beyond-banking ESG initiatives in the bank's ecosystem.

Following the aspiration of Mr. Lamsam, Chairman Emeritus of KASIKORNBANK, to restore Nan forest, Mr. Aneaknithi has been leveraging his expertise in the world of capitalism, together with the knowledge in pharmaceutical science, to intensify possible and sustainable solutions to the deforestation from the ground up.

On one hand, through the lens of banker, he saw a misfit situation of Thai economy which excessively relies on the low-value carbohydrate agriculture; especially in Nan Province where these cash crops come at the expense of forest's health and villagers' well-being.

On the other hand, through the lens of pharmacist, he recognized the hidden gems of the forest, Natural Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (NAPI). With much higher value than the deforesting cash crops, medicinal plants, a Non-Timber Forest Product (NTFP) and the source of NAPI, can be the answer to the equation.

Bringing it all together, Mr. Aneaknithi formulated a strategy to create the 'end-to-end value chain' of medicines from plants as a 'game changer' to solve cohabitating issues between people and forest, the problem of which has been deeply rooted and leading to relentless deforestation. He wholeheartedly believes that medicines from plants will become a true potential Nature-Based Solution to Nan forest restoration. Subsequently, in order to execute the proposed strategy, Mr. Lamsam established K Agro-innovate Institution (KAI), under KASIKORNTHAI Foundation, in 2021 which Mr. Aneaknithi, as a steering committee, had helped laying the groundworks for the institute.

With KASIKORNBANK as a parent entity, KAI has access to industry's insight, network to key players, and source of funding to bring about the success in saving Nan, the pristine headwater forest of the world. Thus far, KAI has already funded numbers of medicinal researches, carried out a series of forestry experiment, and connected the dots along the value chain to create a proof of concept on this strategy. From zero to one, KAI is now on the path to create an example that forest and people can live healthily and harmoniously together.

Mr. Aneaknithi received his Bachelor's Degree in Pharmacy from Chiang Mai University, Thailand; his MBA from FH Pforzheim in Germany and University of Brighton in the United Kingdom. In addition, currently, he is serving as Chairman of the Board of KBank (China), as well as KASIKORN Securities Plc.