2019 Asia-Pacific Children’s Environmental Health Symposium

亞太兒童環境健康研討會

19-20 October 2019, Taiwan
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About the Symposium

The focus of the Asia-Pacific Children’s Health Symposium will be to inform healthcare professionals, environmental and public health practitioners about the impact of air pollution on children’s health and the link between environmental and public health, and to facilitate an open dialogue on promoting children’s health in the region.
Aims and Goals

• Strengthen the network of government-level stakeholders committed to developing early-stage intervention strategies to protect children’s health in the Asia-Pacific region.

• Share the US and Taiwan experience making children’s health a priority area of focus for interagency collaboration.

• Introduce the U.S. EPA experience implementing a government-wide mandate to protect children’s health.

• Share a template for creating a children’s environmental health program and policies which can help ensure the unique vulnerabilities of children are addressed in a collaboratively across the government.

• Identify a set of regional actions, priorities and commitments for the Asia-Pacific Children’s Health Network.
# Agenda: Oct.19

## Introducing Children’s Environmental Health Protection

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<td>09:00-09:30</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<td>09:30-09:40</td>
<td>Welcome Video Address</td>
<td>Vice President Chien-Jen Chen</td>
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<td>09:40-10:00</td>
<td>Opening/Distinguished Guest’s Remark</td>
<td>Minister Tzi-Chin Chang, Taiwan EPA</td>
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<td>Acting Secretary General Shun-Ping Cheng, Ministry of Health and Welfare</td>
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<td>Deputy Director Raymond Greene, American Institute in Taiwan</td>
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<td>Jane Nishida</td>
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<td>Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, USEPA</td>
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<td>10:10-10:20</td>
<td>Opening Performance</td>
<td>New Taipei City Hsinhe Elementary School</td>
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<td>10:20-11:00</td>
<td>Youth Innovation Challenge</td>
<td>Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation</td>
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<td>Young leaders will present</td>
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<td>about work in their communities to</td>
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<td>protect health and the environment</td>
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<td>Photo &amp; Break</td>
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<td>11:10-11:50</td>
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<td>Dr. Michael Firestone</td>
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<td>Lifestage Approach &amp; Intervention”</td>
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| 11:50-12:30      | Air Pollution & Children’s Health          | Dr. Mark Miller  
Associate Clinical Professor, University of California San Francisco |
| 12:30-13:30      | Lunch                                      |                                                                        |
| 13:30-14:15      | U.S. Children’s Health Roadmap             | Dr. Henry Falk  
Former Assistant Administrator, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry |
| 14:15-14:45      | Children’s Environmental Health in Taiwan: Challenges & Opportunities | Dr. Yue-Liang Guo,  
Professor, National Taiwan University |
| 14:45-15:00      | Coffee Break                               |                                                                        |
| 15:00-18:00      | Country Roundtables                        | Ms. Nsedu Obot Witherspoon  
Executive Director for the Children’s Environmental Health Network |
|                  |                                            | Dr. Michael Firestone  
Senior Scientist, US EPA  
Office of Children’s Health Protection |
| 18:00            | Conclude                                   |                                                                        |
# Agenda: Oct.20

**Global Health Forum, Focused/Interactive Sessions & Consultations**

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**Workshop: Environmental Health Promotion & Policy for Children**

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| 11:00-12:30   | **Topic 1** Air Pollution & Children-Public Awareness, Education, and Engagement | Dr. Mark Miller  
Associate Clinical Professor, University of California San Francisco  
Dr. Yue-Liang Guo, Professor, National Taiwan University |
|               | **Topic 2** Partnerships & Collaboration        | Ms. Nseduc Oboit Witherspoon  
Executive Director for the Children’s Environmental Health Network  
Dr. Chang-Chuan Chan, Dean, College of Public Health, National Taiwan University  
Dr. Laura Anderko, Professor, Georgetown University |
|               | **Topic 3** Developing a Children’s Health Policy | Dr. Henry Falk  
Former Assistant Administrator, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry  
Ms. Martha Berger, Program Manager, US EPA Office of Children’s Health Protection  
Dr. Luan-Yin Chang, Professor, National Taiwan University |
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<td>17:15-18:15</td>
<td>Wrap-up Regional Consultation</td>
<td>Dr. Leslie Rubin&lt;br&gt;Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics at Morehouse School of Medicine</td>
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<td>Identifying regional priorities</td>
<td>Dr. Laura Anderko&lt;br&gt;Professor, Georgetown University</td>
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<td>18:15</td>
<td>Closing Remarks</td>
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Vice President Chen Chien-Jen was born in Cishan Township, Kaohsiung County (now merged into Kaohsiung City) in 1951. As a veteran epidemiologist, he has made significant contributions to public health and infectious disease control as well as science and technology development in Taiwan. He is widely recognized for his crisis management skills and leadership abilities, as well as his open-mindedness and passion for communication.

Dr. Chen received his Bachelor Degree in Zoology (1973) and Master Degree in Public Health (1977) from National Taiwan University. In 1982, he received his Doctor of Science Degree in epidemiology and human genetics from Johns Hopkins University. His areas of expertise include epidemiology, human genetics, public health, and preventive medicine.

Dr. Chen then returned to Taiwan to serve in the following positions: associate professor (1983-1986) and professor (1986-2015) in National Taiwan University; director of the Graduate Institute of Public Health (1993-1994), founding director of the Graduate Institute of Epidemiology (1994-1997), and dean of the College of Public Health of National Taiwan University (1999-2002); Distinguished Research Fellow of the Genomics Research Center (2006-2015) and Vice President of Academia Sinica (2011-2015).

Dr. Chen’s research on blackfoot disease, chronic arsenic poisoning, viral hepatitis and liver cancer, and oncogenic viruses has made a tremendous contribution to human health promotion and disease prevention. He was awarded the Academic Award (1997) and National Chair Professor (1997-2002) of the Ministry of Education. He was also elected Academician of Academia Sinica (1998), and awarded the Presidential Science Prize of Taiwan (2005) and the Executive Yuan’s Outstanding Contribution in Science and Technology Award (2013). He has also been honored as a member of the World Academy of Sciences (2005), a foreign associate of US National Academy of Sciences (2017) and a Cutter Lecturer on Preventive Medicine of Harvard University (2008), and
received the Knowledge for the World Award from Johns Hopkins University (2012) along with many other prestigious international awards.

Dr. Chen served as Director General of the Division of Life Sciences at the National Science Council (1997-1999), and later as the Council’s Deputy Minister (2002-2003), promoting numerous national programs and cutting-edge research. During Taiwan’s SARS outbreak in 2003, he was appointed Minister of Health, and successfully controlled the crisis in a short period. To enhance Taiwan’s capabilities in public health and infectious disease control, Dr. Chen also actively promoted the organizational reengineering of the Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control, Department of Health; establishment of a national healthcare system for infectious diseases; amendments to the Communicable Disease Control Act; and fundamental reforms to the health insurance system.

After being appointed as Minister of the National Science Council in 2006, Dr. Chen reformed the Council to strengthen science and technology administration, promote Taiwan’s knowledge-based economy, and broaden international cooperation. He was awarded the Executive Yuan’s Achievement Medal (First Rank) in 2005; the Department of Health’s Health Medal (First Rank) in 2005; the Officer dans l’Ordre des Palmes Academiques from the Ministry of Education of France in 2009; and the Science Profession Medal (First Prize) from the National Science Council in 2012.

In 2011, Dr. Chen was appointed Vice President of Academia Sinica. During his tenure, he promoted the establishment of the Academia Sinica Research Fund, established Taiwan Biobank and the National Biotechnology Research Park at Nangang, and undertook the planning of Academia Sinica’s southern branch. For his efforts, he was awarded the Special Service Medal of Academia Sinica (2016).

Dr. Chen is a devout Catholic, embracing the spirit of humble service and dedicated to putting the Christian doctrine of “loving God and your neighbor” into practice. The Vatican has invited Dr. Chen and his wife Ms. Lo Fong-ping to visit several times, where they have been received by Pope John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, and Pope Francis. He has been invested as a Knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem (2010) and a Knight of the Pontifical Equestrian Order of St. Gregory the Great (2013).
Minister Tzi-Chin Chang
Taiwan EPA

Minister Chang received his BS and MS degree in environmental engineering from National Cheng Kung University and National Chiao Tung University, respectively. He began his career in environmental protection as an entry-level official and has held posts at various government agencies, such as director general of the former Taipei County Environmental Protection Bureau (now New Taipei EPB) and deputy commissioner of Taipei County (now New Taipei City). From 2006, Chang became deputy minister of the EPA, a post he went on to serve for the following 13 years. Regardless of the ruling party, Deputy Minister Chang was able to gain the trust of all the ministers who served in that time due to his professional knowledge and administrative skills. After the cabinet reshuffle in January 2019, he was appointed minister of the EPA.

During his time as director general of the Taipei County EPB, he was able to apply his environmental engineering knowledge and settled disputes, raised the efficiency of environmental facilities, and resolved issues involving pollution from solid waste, all to enhance the quality of life and environmental safety for citizens.

As deputy commissioner of Taipei County, he demonstrated his environmental management and governance abilities in cleaning up waste disposal sites along the Tamsui riverbanks, promoting artificial wetland, and establishing management guidelines for waste treatment and environmental licensing. Overall, he improved environmental quality and enhanced the image of environmental engineering in the society.

When he was deputy minister of the EPA, he showed exceptional managerial capabilities and utilized all available resources as he led the EPA staff to resolve issues involving the aftermath of natural disasters and recycling of waste cooking oil in a timely fashion.

Since he took office as minister of the EPA on January 14, 2019, he immediately began to implement measures to improve air pollution from old diesel automobiles, a move that has already gained the approval of the Executive Yuan.
Ms. Jane T. Nishida is the Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for EPA’s Office of International and Tribal Affairs (OITA), having previously served as the Director of the Office of Regional and Bilateral Affairs within OITA. In her current capacity, she leads EPA’s international and tribal portfolios, and is responsible for the full range of EPA’s environmental policy development and program implementation in tribal lands and in sovereign nations outside of the United States. Ms. Nishida represents EPA within the United States Government and works closely with tribal governments, foreign governments, international organizations, and other key stakeholders on matters relating to the environment.

Ms. Nishida has thirty years of environmental experience working in federal and state government, and international and nongovernmental organizations. Prior to joining EPA in 2011, Ms. Nishida served as the Senior Environmental Institutions Specialist at the World Bank. From 1995 to 2002, she was appointed as the Secretary of Maryland’s Department of the Environment. Additionally, she served as the Maryland Executive Director of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. She also held positions as Legislative Officer in the Maryland Governor’s Office and Committee Counsel in the Maryland General Assembly.

Ms. Nishida received a Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs from Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon and a Juris Doctorate from Georgetown Law Center in Washington, D.C.
Dr. Michael Firestone is Senior Scientist in EPA’s Office of Children’s Health Protection. He co-chairs the Senior Steering Committee of the President’s Task Force (PTF) on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children on behalf of EPA, and served as the EPA (and managing) co-chair of the PTF Federal Lead Subcommittee.

Michael has served in OCHP since 2000. During that time, he has focused on research planning and on the development of risk assessment guidance and science policy related to children’s environmental health. Michael has also been responsible for ensuring the consideration of children’s health protection during the development of several important rules, including: pesticide worker protection rules, an endangerment finding for the use of lead in general aviation gasoline, and the development of safety limits for perchlorate in drinking water.

Michael served in EPA’s Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention from 1984 to 1999, including as Science Advisor to the Assistant Administrator and Acting Associate Director of the Office of Science Coordination and Policy. During that time, he served as the scientific expert for issues involving chemical fate and transport, exposure and risk assessment, and modeling.

Michael received a Bachelors of Science degree from the University of Maryland at College Park, and a Ph.D. from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.
Dr. Mark Miller is an Associate Clinical Professor in the Departments of Pediatrics and Internal Medicine (Division of Occupational and Environmental Health) at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF). He is also the Co-Director of the UCSF Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PEHSU) and the director of the Children’s Environmental Health Center at the California Environmental Protection Agency. He received his medical degree and completed a Pediatric residency at Michigan State University. He received his Masters in Public Health in Environmental Health Sciences from UC Berkeley and completed a residency with the California Department of Health Services in Preventive Medicine.

Dr. Miller has worked with the PEHSU Network and Physicians for Social Responsibility to develop the Pediatric Environmental Health Toolkit, an online app to assist clinicians to incorporate preventive environmental health messages into routine pediatric care. He is part of the development team and a primary author of the Story of Health, an award winning multimedia eBook on environment and health. He is a co-investigator and director of the Community Outreach and Translation Core at the Center for Integrative Research on Childhood Leukemia and the Environment, UC Berkeley, where a diverse team of scientists is investigating possible environmental causes of childhood leukemia. He is a current member of the US EPA Children’s Health Protection Advisory Committee and the US CDC Board of Scientific Counselors, Cancer Cluster Guidelines Workgroup.
Dr. Henry Falk served in multiple capacities at US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), including Assistant Administrator of Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), Director of the National Center for Environmental Health, member of the Executive Leadership Board, and Director of the Coordinating Center for Environmental Health and Injury Prevention. Dr. Falk is board certified in pediatrics, served on the American Academy of Pediatrics committee on Environmental Health and served on US EPA’s Office of Children’s Health Protection Advisory Committee. He also assisted in the development of Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit program at ATSDR.

He retired from the US Public Health Service Commissioned Corps after 30 years of service as Rear Admiral and Assistant Surgeon General, and from the CDC in December, 2010, although he continued there as a part-time consultant to the Deputy Director, ONDIEH/CDC on global aspects of Noncommunicable Diseases, Injury and Environmental Health until 2018. Currently, he is at Emory Rollins School of Public Health as an Adjunct Professor of Environmental Health, and also consults in global environmental health, particularly in India and Israel. At CDC, he helped start the environmental health, injury, disaster epidemiology, lead poisoning prevention, asthma, radiation studies, hazardous waste investigations, and a variety of other programs; he began his career at CDC as an EIS Officer and worked on the initial investigations of vinyl chloride induced hepatic angiosarcoma. He has approximately 150 publications, and is the recipient of several awards, including the CDC Lifetime Science Achievement Award, the Distinguished Service Award of the US Public Health Service and the William C Watson Medal of Excellence at CDC.
Dr. Yue-Liang Guo
Professor, National Taiwan University

Dr. Yue-Liang Leon Guo, M.D., M.P.H., Ph.D., obtained his medical degree from National Taiwan University, Master of Public Health from Harvard School of Public Health, and Ph.D. in Environmental Health and Occupational Medicine from Johns Hopkins University. He served residency in Internal Medicine in Texas Tech University Health Science Center, Lubbock, Texas, and residency in Occupational Medicine in University of California at San Francisco.

He became a faculty member in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, National Cheng Kung University College of Medicine in 1990. In 2006 he became a faculty member of National Taiwan University (NTU), until now. He served during 2016-2019 as a distinguished investigator and the director the National Institute of Environmental Health Science (NIEHS), National Health Research Institutes (NHRI), Taiwan.

His research interest has been on health effects caused by occupational and environmental agents such as air pollutants, climate change, and endocrine disrupting chemicals, as well as occupational exposures. Health effects of air pollution, climate change, and endocrine disrupting chemicals were investigated in Taiwan and internationally to provide policy recommendations to relevant governmental agencies. He headed a long-term study on health effects caused by direct or prenatal heavy exposure to polychlorinated biphenyls and related chemicals. The research works resulted in more than 270 international papers. He was the president of Asian Congress of Occupational Health (2000-2002). He became a fellow of the Collegium Ramazzini in 2004. In 2014, he received the most respected National Occupational Safety and Health Contribution Award from Ministry of Labor, for his contribution to occupational safety and health.
Ms. Nsedu Obot Witherspoon
Executive Director for the Children’s Environmental Health Network

Ms. Nsedu Obot Witherspoon, MPH, serves at the Executive Director for the Children’s Environmental Health Network (CEHN), where her responsibilities include successfully organizing, leading, and managing policy, education/training, and science-related programs. For the past 18 years, she has served as a key spokesperson for children’s vulnerabilities and the need for their protection, conducting presentations and lectures across the country.

She is a leader in the field of children’s environmental health, serving as a member of the NIH Council of Councils, on the Science Advisory Board for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the External Science Board for the Environmental Influences on Child Health Outcomes (ECHO) NIH Research work. She is a Co-Leader for Advancing the Science/Health initiative of the National Collaborative on a Cancer-Free Economy. Ms. Witherspoon is also a Board member for the Pesticide Action Network of North America, the Environmental Integrity Project, and serves on the Maryland Children’s Environmental Health Advisory Council. Ms. Witherspoon has held past appointments on the Children’s Health Protection Advisory Committee for the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Board for the American Public Health Association. Ms. Witherspoon has a B.S. in Biology Pre-Med from Siena College and a M.P.H. in Maternal and Child Health from The George Washington University, School of Public Health and Health Services. She is a proud mom to 4 children!
Dr. Chang-Chuan Chan
Dean, College of Public Health, National Taiwan University

Prof. Chang-Chuan Chan PhD, serves at College of Public Health, National Taiwan University as an Associate Dean and a Director of Global Health Center in Taiwan College of Public Health, National Taiwan University since 2011.

He is also a Chair Elect at International Society for Environmental Epidemiology–Asia Chapter (ISEE-AC) since 2015.

He obtained Bachelor of Public Health majoring in Chemistry and Biology at National Taiwan University, College of Medicine in 1982; Master of Science majoring in Industrial Hygiene and Air Pollution Control, Harvard School of Public Health in 1987; Doctor of Science majoring in Air Pollution Control, Harvard School of Public Health at 1990.

He was a councilor at International Society for Environmental Epidemiology (ISEE) from 2015-2017; a Steering Committee Member, Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) Global Health Program from 2014-2016.
Dr. Laura Anderko PhD RN, professor at Georgetown University’s School of Nursing & Health Studies holds the Robert and Kathleen Scanlon Endowed Chair in Values Based Health Care. She is the Director of the Region 3 Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit, The Mid-Atlantic Center for Children’s Health and the Environment serving PA, VA, WV, DE, MD, and DC. A scholar and educator in the fields of public health and environmental health, she has studied and published on the health impacts of climate change through epidemiological and community-based methods of inquiry. She has served on a wide range of boards and committees including several federal advisory committees: EPA’s Children’s Health Protection Advisory Committee, the Drinking Water Advisory Committee, and the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council. She co-chairs the American Public Health Association’s National Environmental Health Partnership Council. In 2013 she was recognized by the Obama White House as a Champion of Change for her advocacy efforts in Climate Change and Public Health.
Ms. Martha Berger, MPA, started working at the Environmental Protection Agency as a Presidential Management Intern in 1984. For the last twenty years she has worked in the EPA’s Office of Children’s Health Protection. Her portfolio has always included international work and she has collaborated with international institutions, NGOs and numerous countries to promote attention to the unique and special needs of children in a changing environment. Ms. Martha works on education and outreach programs to raise awareness about the environmentally-induced causes of poor health in children, works with partners in public health and in environment protection to promote understanding and research on the linkages between environment and health in the reproductive period through childhood. Ms. Martha is the EPA program manager for the Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units and has worked to promote the adoption of this program in other parts of the world.

Ms. Martha has a BA in Urban Studies from Vanderbilt University and a Master in Public Administration from the University of New Orleans, School of Urban and Regional Studies.
Dr. Luan-Yin Chang M.D., PH.D., is a professor in the Department of Pediatrics, Medical College, National Taiwan University. She received her M.D. from National Taiwan University, and PH.D. in Clinical Medicine from Chang Gung University. She also obtained Distinguished Research Award from National Science Council in 2010.

Her major research interest is enterovirus 71 including clinical features, seroepidemiology, household transmission, host genetics, long term neurological and psychiatry outcome, anti-enteroviral drug development, rapid diagnosis for enterovirus, vaccine or clinical trials as well as Kawasaki disease.
Dr. Leslie Rubin
Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics at Morehouse School of Medicine

Dr. Leslie Rubin MD is an Associate Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at Morehouse School of Medicine, Adjunct Associate Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at Emory University School of Medicine, Co-director of the Southeast Pediatric Environmental Health Unit at Emory University (PEHSU), and Founder or Break the Cycle of Health Disparities Inc. in Atlanta, Georgia. He is involved in the care of children with neurodevelopmental disabilities in multiple settings. His latest publication is: Health Care for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Across the Lifespan, Springer 2016.

As Co-director of the Southeast PEHSU with an interest in social, economic and environmental determinants of health, he started a student leadership education program called Break the Cycle of Children’s Environmental Health Disparities to raise awareness of children’s environmental health disparities and cultivate future leaders. Now in its 14th year, there have been over 130 students from 50 university departments in the USA as well as students from Latin America, Europe and Africa, resulting in more than 100 student papers and 10 Books in a Public Health Series.

He is actively involved in the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) as the Georgia Chapter Chair of the Environmental Health Committee and Community Access to Child Health (CATCH) District 10 Facilitator. He is on the Board of Scientific Counsellors at the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) focused on promoting Sustainable Healthy Communities. He is also involved with other local, national and international organizations.

He has a number of awards the most recent being the Robert E. Cooke Lifetime Achievement Award from the AADMD in 2015; the Children’s Environmental Health Excellence Award from the US EPA in 2016, the Autism Achievement Award from the Annual Conference and Exposition of Georgia in 2016, and the F. Edwards Rushton CATCH Award from the AAP in 2018.
Mr. Justin Harris is a Senior Program Manager with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Office of Regional & Bilateral Affairs. He is the U.S. coordinator for the International Environmental Partnership. He has direct responsibility for collaborative programs addressing children’s health, marine litter, toxics, e-waste management, climate change, enforcement/governance, and environmental education. Mr. Harris is the agency’s lead for the Global Environmental Education Partnership and a half dozen other regional programs. He serves as an EPA’s primary liaison to American Institute in Taiwan, Taipei Economic Cultural Representative Office, and more than a dozen other US-based and regional partners. Prior to joining the EPA in 2009, Mr. Harris worked in the private sector in Asia for ten years in the consulting and education sectors. He is fluent in Mandarin Chinese and graduated with an M.S. in Foreign Service from Georgetown University in 2002 and an undergraduate degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara.
Ms. Tanya Maslak
Battelle

Ms. Tanya Maslak, MPH, brings over 15 years of experience in stakeholder engagement, capacity building, translation of science for risk communication and public outreach, and provision of technical assistance expertise on a diverse range of environmental health topics. She manages projects for and otherwise supports a variety of U.S. government agencies, including the U.S. EPA, NASA, USAID, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the U.S. Department of State, focusing on a range of topic such as climate change impacts and adaptation, vector-borne disease, lead poisoning prevention, community preparedness and resilience. Ms. Maslak brings an interdisciplinary approach to projects, often working at the intersection between science and policy. Working to improve broader understanding of relationships between the built and natural environment and public health, she plans and implements multi-directional information exchanges, community-engaged research, and develops and disseminates decision-support and public outreach tools. She manages communication and outreach efforts, including developing scientific and educational content for various audiences through mechanisms such as newsletters, brochures, social media campaigns, webinars, briefings, peer reviewed publications, and other similar mechanisms.
Ms. Natasha Sadoff
Battelle

Ms. Natasha Sadoff is a social scientist and project manager with eleven years of experience conducting research on human-environment interactions and facilitating environmental and public health governance capacity building for US. government agencies such as U.S. EPA, NASA, USAID, and the U.S. Department of State. She brings an interdisciplinary perspective to a diverse range of environmental and health topics including air quality; climate change adaptation and resilience; energy management; and improving environmental governance through stakeholder needs assessments, user engagement, and training and outreach. She regularly works across sectors to foster robust partnerships and stakeholder collaboration efforts in pursuit of sustainable capacity building programs or improved governance. She has contributed to the development of broad air quality programs, including communication and outreach elements in particular, for Central America and South/Southeast Asia. Ms. Sadoff also often translates complicated technical information and science into environmental indicators, policy-relevant summaries, training materials, literature reviews, or other forms for specific stakeholders such as targeted data end users, government officials, or the general public. Ms. Sadoff will be working with the Battelle team, U.S. EPA, and EPA Taiwan to create three training modules related to air pollution and children, developing a children’s health policy, and partnerships and collaboration. She will be conducting consultations with Symposium participants to learn about country-specific priorities and goals that can be incorporated into the three modules after the Symposium.
Mr. Thanongkham Venethongkham
Deputy Director, Air and Noise Pollution Control Division
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Laos

Mr. Venethongkham is the deputy director of Air and Noise Pollution Control Division in the Pollution Control Department of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. As the deputy director, his responsibilities include developing strategies and regulations on air and noise pollution control; collaborating with concerned organisations in national and international level to tackle environmental pollution issues; reviewing of the Environmental Impact Assessment report; assisting country program on ozone depleting substances phase-out program under Montreal Protocol on Substances that Depleting the Ozone Layer; and organize training program and promote public awareness materials concerning environmental pollution issues.

Mr. Bounphak Lobriayao
Department of Environmental Science
National University of Laos

Mr. Lobriayao is a researcher and a lecturer of Chemistry, Toxicology, and Water Quality Analysis. He has been a member of the pollution control and protected unit in the Department of Environmental Science, Faculty of Environmental Sciences, National University of Laos since 2013.

His research focuses on environmental health, and conducted his ascertainment on chemical exposure related to the development of cholangiocarcinoma; certain chemicals contaminated in food. Furthermore, he has had an opportunity to joined a research group of the Chulabhorn Research Institute on air pollution (such as PM2.5, PM10, VOCs) with the human being adverse health effects.
Mr. Adam Zahir
Senior Administrator
Health Services
Sh.komandoo Health Centre, Ministry of Health, Republic of Maldives

Mr. Zahir is currently working in sh.komandoo health centre as a senior administrator in upper north of Maldives. He has served Maldives police service for 9 years and later worked in island council for 6 years. He is married and have 3 children. He is also a devoted Muslim.

Ms. Mariyam Samha
Waste Management and Pollution Control Department
Ministry of Environment, Republic of Maldives

Ms. Mariyam is a 25-year-old from the southern most atoll of the Maldives. She has completed her bachelor’s degree in Environmental Management and currently works as an Environmental Analyst at the Ministry of Environment. She is passionate about bringing change to the society and creating a difference among issues that threatens the environment.
Dr. Inoka Suraweera

Consultant Community Physician, Environmental and Occupational Health Directorate, Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka

Dr. Suraweera is a Board Certified Specialist in Community Medicine. She graduated from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka with second class honors and holds Master’s and Doctoral degrees in Community Medicine from the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. She had her post doctoral training at the Monash Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health at Monash University in Melbourne Australia. She currently works at the Directorate of Environmental and Occupational Health at the Ministry of Health as a Consultant Community Physician.

Mr. Rupasinghe Arachchige Rohana Ratnasiri Rupasinghe

Additional Secretary, Ministry of Mahaweli Development & Environment, Sri Lanka

Mr. Rupasinghe is a senior government official belonging to the Sri Lanka Administrative Service and currently serving as the Additional Secretary (Administration) of the Ministry of Mahaweli Development & Environment. As the Additional Secretary, he is responsible in assisting the Secretary and also representing him in overseeing all the activities conducted by the Ministry.

The Ministry of Mahaweli Development & Environment is the responsible ministry for all the national level environmental conservation related aspects in Sri Lanka. The ministry is mandated to develop policies strategies and action plans and guiding the implementation of different projects and programs in the field of environment conservation. Developing adaptation and mitigation measures for climate change, biodiversity conservation, environmental pollution control and chemical management, sustainable natural resource management are major priorities areas of the ministry. In addition, national level environmental education and awareness is also a key activity implemented by the ministry.
Ms. Tran Thi Thu Anh
Researcher, Institute of Environmental Science
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Vietnam

Ms. Tran is a researcher of Vietnam Environment Administration, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Vietnam. She has 15 years of research experience in the field of environment. Recently, she has participated in several research projects related to chemical management such as reducing uses and releases of chemicals of concern, including POPs in the textiles sector. Project Objective: Significant and documented reductions in use, releases and exposure to chemicals of concern (CoCs) including POPs in the textiles sector in countries (Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan, Viet Nam). In addition, she is experienced in sound management of chemicals toward to reduce emissions of hazardous chemicals in the environment which supports reducing the risk and impacts from occupational exposure to hazardous chemicals in the textile and garment industry in Vietnam.

Dr. Do Manh Cuong
Vice Head, Division of Environmental and Community Health
Health Environment Management Agency, Ministry of Health, Vietnam

Dr. Do graduated medical doctor from the Hanoi Medical University (Vietnam) in 1999, and received a degree in Master of Public Health from Griffith University (Australia) in 2008, then obtained degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Environment Technology at Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology (Republic of Korea) in 2013.

His professional background includes technical expertise and managerial assignment over his 19 years of work experience. He worked as health expert of the Vietnam General Department of Preventive Medicines and Environment from 2000 to 2010, then worked as environmental health expert in Vietnam Health Environment Management Agency under Ministry of Health. Over these periods, Dr. Cuong’s expertise focuses on areas of environmental health such as water, sanitation and hygiene, climate change, air pollution and human health, health impact assessment, etc.
Ms. Narangerel Oidov
Officer, Climate Change and International Cooperation Department
Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia

Ms. Oidov joined the Climate Change and International Cooperation Department at the Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia in 2014 to serve as an officer. From 2012 to 2014, she worked as an officer for the Department of Public Administration and Management at the Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia. She received her bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from Mongol Business Institute. She also holds a master’s degree in Public Administration from California State University, Northridge.

Ms. Oyun-Erdene Otgonbyamba
National Center for Public Health, Mongolia

Ms. Otgonbyamba is a researcher of environmental health at the National Center of Public Health in Mongolia. Her research areas include studying the correlation between respiratory diseases morbidity and air pollution, surveys on climate change and health, and surveys on the waste management.
Dr. Suparerk Suerungruang
Medical Physician, Health Promotion Center 1 Chiang Mai, Department of Health
Ministry of Public Health, Thailand

Dr. Suerungruang is currently working as a family doctor in the Health Promotion Center 1 Chiang Mai under Department of Health (DoH), Ministry of Public Health, Thailand.

70% of his responsibilities is daily checkup for prevention and other 30% is treatment of non-communicable diseases in working-age and elderly group.

Recently, he was appointed to be one of High-Performance Team of DoH (called “DoH Dream Team”) which aims to develop strategies, innovations or technologies that support DoH special mission. And he was assigned to focus on environmental health area such as HIA, Activity Model Healthy Meeting (Framework of Health in ALL policy e.g. healthy break, Waste segregation, no foam, plastic useless, zero waste meeting).

Ms. Naboon Riddhiraksa
Environmentalist Professional Level in Pollution Control Department (PCD)
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

PCD’s responsibility is in drafting the national laws and regulations on air pollution controls. The department reviews the scientific evidence on health impacts in determining the safety level of air pollution in the ambient (NAAQS). We manage the air-pollution monitoring network and inform the public and policy makers on the pollution levels and the potential health impacts. Public disagreement with the Ministry regarding the national policies on PM2.5, which stems from the discrepancies of the perceptions of the pollutant’s impacts on both sides, is a current challenge we are facing. We are developing international cooperation in epidemiology and social sciences researches to better understand the public perception and increase the public participation in air pollution policies.
Dr. Rozita Bt Ab Rahman

Sector Head, Child Health Sector,
Public Health Division, Ministry of Health, Malaysia

Dr. Rahman is a public health physician and the sector head for Child Health Sector in the Public Health Division of the Ministry of Health in Malaysia. She is in charge of the Child Health Program including the monitoring of under 5 mortality, monitoring of child growth and development as well as immunization Program. In addition, she functions as an EPI Manager (Extended Program of Immunization) in National Immunization Program (NIP) in Malaysia.

Ms. Dewi Marlina

Directorate of Environmental Health
General of Society Directorate in Ministry of Health, Indonesia

Ms. Marlina is an official at the Directorate of Environmental Health, General of Public Health Directorate in Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia.
Dr. Mazhar Iqbal
Assistant Professor, Quaid-i-Azam University, Pakistan

Dr. Iqbal received his PhD from Vrije University Amsterdam, the Netherlands in 2013. Since then he has involved in research and teaching at University in Pakistan. His research group is working to develop bioremediation strategies for cleanup of contaminated environments. He is trying to identify local species of plants and microbes which are metal tolerant and accumulators. He published several remarkable articles in worldwide renowned journals like Scientific Reports, New Phytologist, Science of the Total Environment, Journal of Environmental Management, Chemosphere, Environmental and Experimental Botany, etc.

Dr. Mohammad Noman Hekmat
Chief of Staff National Environmental Protection Agency

Dr. Mohammad Noman Hekmat has received his MD from Kabul Medical University in 1989, MS from Wazir Akbar Khan Hospital in Kabul on 2003, and finally MPH from India on 2007.

Beside working as medical doctor, Dr. Noman has had senior level positions with the government of Afghanistan. Some of these positions are Director of Blood Bank, Central Blood Bank Ministry of Public Health of Afghanistan from 1998 to 2005; Director of Foreign Relations, Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation of Afghanistan, 2008 to 2010; Chief of Staff, Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation of Afghanistan, 2010 go 2018. Presently, Dr. Noman is working as the Chief of Staff and the Health issues Focal Point for the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) of the Government of Afghanistan.
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