



PARALLEL SESSION 3.5

MAKING GLOBAL TRADE POLICIES WORK FOR UHC

| BACKGROUND

Global trends in trade policies is currently a hot political issue across the world and becoming an ever more important 'megatrend' of relevance to the achievement of Universal Health Coverage. The changing landscape of global, regional, and bilateral trade agreements and practices has important implications for achieving SDG3 in enabling, or limiting, governments' strategies to pursue policy coherence, financing and good governance of the health services, and ensuring access to affordable medicines.

Current global politics of looming trade wars and sanctions against some countries can have a profound impact on the supply of life saving health commodities. This is a sensitive topic indeed. But it must be openly and candidly discussed as a challenge to the achievement of UHC in countries around the world.

This session will provide an overview of key trade policy issues and experiences that are relevant for all countries in their efforts to achieve or maintain UHC. It will focus on case studies on risks and opportunities for health promotion - including regulating health-harming industries and practices - and trade in health commodities of direct relevance to UHC. It will then focus on strategies for promoting innovation and access to affordable and quality medicines and other health products and technologies for all countries and people, in the spirit of the 2030 Agenda of Leaving No One Behind.

| OBJECTIVES

The objective of this session is to spotlight the opportunities and challenges of recent trends in trade policies and practices on countries' efforts to achieve or maintain UHC; to increase visibility about the risk and benefits involved, share lessons learnt, and to discuss concrete actions that must be taken in the interest of the lives of people.



Panelist / Panelist

Chalermtrakul Kittittrakul

Coordinator for Access Campaign

AIDS Access Foundation
Thailand

Biography

Mr. Chalermtrakul Kittittrakul started his career related to intellectual property (IP) and access to medicines when he worked with an international NGO, Oxfam Great Britain, in 2003. It had an aim to overcome inaccessibility to affordable anti-retroviral medicines due to the IP barriers. He joined the Thai civil society's policy advocacy to oppose negotiations of the Free Trade Agreements proposed by the USA and the EU, which proposed IP provisions more stringent than the WTO's Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs). In addition, he worked with academics and civic groups to encourage the Thai government to implement the Government Use License to promote access to lifesaving drugs.

Since 2013 he has worked with AIDS Access Foundation, as Coordinator for Access to Medicines Campaign, and continues monitoring policies affecting access to medicines, including negotiations of on-going Free Trade Agreements (e.g. the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP), the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP), and the Free Trade Agreement between Thailand and the European Union). In last 5 years, he has been involved in the civil society's policy-advocacy movement to promote access to hepatitis C direct acting anti-retrovirals (HCV DAAs) by filing patent opposition against unmerited patent applications for those drugs and having policy dialogues with the relevant government health agencies to including HCV DAAs in the health benefit packages of the national health insurance schemes.