PMAC | PRINCE MAHIDOL AWARD CONFERENCE

PLENARY SESSION 3

UHC AND THE CHANGING GLOBAL LANDSCAPE

| BACKGROUND

The world needs to put the progress towards UHC on track to be able to achieve it by 2030. To this end, the global community must rise to the coming challenges that can affect UHC (including service needs, availability and use issues, quality of services, and financial protection). It is essential that we forecast important changes in global landscape over the next decade, and that we identify opportunities with the potential to accelerate progress towards UHC. Challenges and opportunities are context-dependent. For example, economy(industry), society(technology), politics and environment are all key aspects that can affect this progress.

| OBJECTIVES

- The plenary considers the global landscape affecting the achievement of UHC from a range of perspectives, which include: environmental, economic and industrial, social and technological, and political, and educational. It will set the stage for deep-dive discussion in the following parallel sessions on key challenges and potential key drivers. To identify them, it also explores the linkage of the landscape to UHC
- The plenary mainly focuses on identifying ‘what’ are the challenges and opportunities, and the parallel sessions discusses ‘how’ to address challenges and seize opportunities.

Panelist

Montira Pongsiri

Consultant on global environmental change and health cooperation projects

United States of America

Montira Pongsiri, PhD, MPH
Dr. Pongsiri was the first Science Advisor at the U.S. Mission to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) where she led the Mission's efforts to apply science and technology to support ASEAN's sustainability goals and to strengthen the capacity of science-based policy-making through programs such as the ASEAN-U.S. Science and Technology Fellows Program and the ASEAN-U.S. sustainable cities partnership.
She was an Environmental Health Scientist at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Research and Development. At the EPA, Dr. Pongsiri developed and led a research initiative on biodiversity and human health which studied the links between anthropogenic stressors, changes in biodiversity, and infectious disease transmission. She was the agency's lead on technical partnerships with the Smithsonian Institution and with Rockefeller's 100 Resilient Cities Global Challenge. As a member of The Rockefeller Foundation-Lancet Commission on Planetary Health, Dr. Pongsiri brought expertise on environmental change-human disease linkages.
Since departing Cornell University and University of Oxford, Dr. Pongsiri has been a consultant on global environmental change and health cooperation projects, including with ASEAN, which demonstrate the use of integrated environment and health data and tools to advance the Sustainable Development Goals.