

Global Health Education Program (G-HEP) 2024

Fostering multilateral collaboration among young
leaders to address **planetary health** challenges



Healthy Planet, Healthy People



HGPI Health and Global
Policy Institute



EMORY

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PUBLIC
HEALTH



Mahidol University
Faculty of Public Health

Contents

Global Health Education Program 2024

About the program

Phase 1: Knowledge Introduction

- Lecture Topics and Speakers
- Lecture Schedule

Phase 2: Case Study Formulation

- Case Study Topics and Groups

Phase 3: Fieldwork in Thailand

- Thailand Overview
- Fieldwork in Thailand Schedule
- Fieldwork in Thailand Activities
- Post-Fieldwork Lectures
- Guest Speakers

Phase 4: Fieldwork in Japan

- Japan Overview
- Fieldwork in Japan Schedule
- Fieldwork in Japan Activities
- International Career Symposium

Final Presentations & Policy Recommendations

- Group Case Study Findings and Policy Recommendations

Pre-and Post-Program Evaluation of Participants' Competencies

- About the Areas of Competency
- Pre-and Post-program Analysis of Participants
- Participant's Overall Feedback

Dissemination of Findings

Participants

- Participants

Secretariat & Supervisors

- About Health and Global Policy Institute (HGPI)
- About Mahidol University Faculty of Public Health
- About Emory University Rollins School of Public Health

■ Welcome

Starting in 2010, Health and Global Policy Institute (HGPI) hosted the Global Health Summer Program (GHSP), which gathered young professionals and university students in health-related fields. The program introduced global health issues from a new perspective, encouraging participants to think critically about their roles and responsibilities as future global health leaders. The Department of Global Health Policy (GHP) at the University of Tokyo also offered the Global Health Leadership Program (GHLP) in 2010, which was later renewed to the Global Health Entrepreneurship Program (GHE) in 2014, where workshops were conducted on leadership and innovation.

In 2018, the “Global Health Education Program (G-HEP)” was born with a vision to establish a global community of young leaders that can work together to push global health agendas forward and to conduct human resources training and development for the future. The partnership with Mahidol University Faculty of Public Health extended the program’s boundaries through interactions among young generations not only from Japan but from the ASEAN region as well.

The 2021-2022 G-HEP program focused on “Solving Health Issues for COVID-19 and Urban Migration.” Participants from Japan and Thailand worked together to deepen mutual understanding and cooperation through lectures, group work, fieldwork, research, and advocacy to find solutions for the health issues of urban migrants in Japan and Thailand impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 2024 G-HEP theme is “**Fostering multilateral collaboration among young leaders to address planetary health challenges,**” and is organized by HGPI, Mahidol University Faculty of Public Health, and Emory University Rollins School of Public Health.



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The year’s program is supported by the Japan Foundation
Grant Program: Japan-U.S. Global Partnership
Grant # 2024GP0104

■ Program Overview

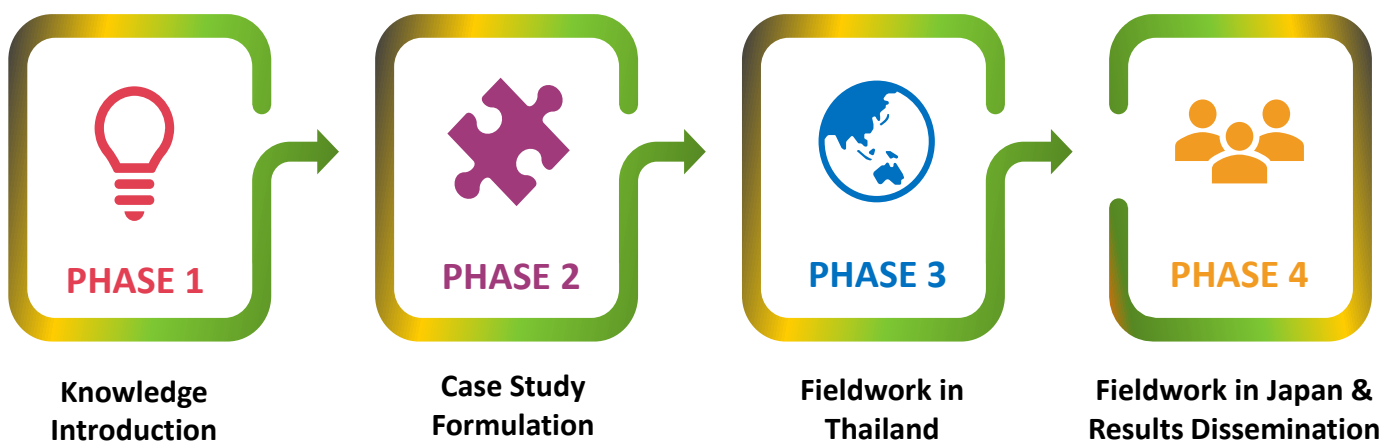
“Fostering multilateral collaboration among young leaders to address planetary health challenges.”

Climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental pollution are among the most pressing global threats of the 21st century. Human activities are driving unprecedented changes in natural systems—disrupting the climate, oceans, and biosphere—while also posing significant risks to human health. Addressing these challenges requires international and cross-sector collaboration, grounded in a planetary health approach that safeguards human well-being, the environment, and social systems as an interconnected whole. For this program, we selected Thailand as a case study, bringing together young participants from Japan, Thailand, and the United States, each representing diverse cultural backgrounds and academic disciplines. Working collaboratively, they explored a specific challenge relevant to Thailand, engaged in on-the-ground fieldwork, developed innovative solutions, and formulated policy recommendations. These findings and proposals were then presented as the final project, contributing to the broader dialogue on planetary health and sustainable development.

■ Purpose

Through this program, participants gain knowledge and problem-solving skills in public and global health while fostering the development of future leaders committed to addressing global health challenges. By building cross-disciplinary networks and relationships of trust, the program enhances collaboration across fields. Additionally, it aims to deepen mutual understanding among participants and provide meaningful experiences that inspire and shape their future careers.

■ Program Contents



Dates

June 19, 2024 – November 29, 2024

Locations

Japan: Online and fieldwork locations in Hiroshima and Tokyo

Thailand: Online and fieldwork locations around Bang Krachao

USA: Online

Organizers

Health and Global Policy Institute (HGPI)

Mahidol University Faculty of Public Health

Emory University Rollins School of Public Health

Supported by

The Japan Foundation

Phase 1: Knowledge Introduction

■ Lecture 1: Introduction to Case Study Topics and Supervisors

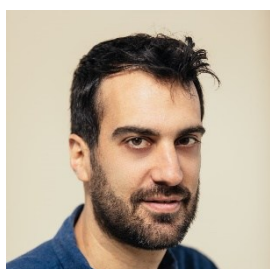


Arthit Phosri

Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Health Sciences, Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University

Dr. Phosri introduced the theme of the program with climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental pollution are global threats facing the world in the 21st century. Human activities are not only causing unprecedented global changes in natural systems such as the climate, oceans, and biosphere, but are also affecting human health. Thailand, is one of the more vulnerable countries impacted by the effects of climate change. For this program the situation in Thailand was used as a case study and introduced by the supervisors.

■ Lecture 2: Climate Change: Current Changes in Global Environmental Systems



Noah Scovronick

Assistant Professor, Gangarosa Department of Environmental Health, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University

Dr. Scovronick gave an overview of the current global climate change situation, including the important drivers and their impacts on health. The lecture will also cover the concept of climate change adaptation and mitigation as well as the existing measures and solutions that are currently applied to help fight against the effects of climate change.

■ Lecture 3: Addressing Planetary Health Issues via Multidisciplinary Approach



Parinya Panuwet

Research Assistant Professor, Gangarosa Department of Environmental Health, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University

In this interactive lecture, Dr. Panuwet provided an overview of various planetary health issues threatening the Earth's natural systems, human health, and all life on Earth. As the Earth's biophysical conditions are impacted mostly by anthropogenic activities, the lecture will focus on introducing various approaches that are necessary to build massive collaboration across disciplinary and national boundaries to safeguard our health. Participants will be assigned a role before attending the lecture, and they will prepare a 5-minute presentation to provide humans with solutions that will address each relevant planetary health issue.

■ Lecture 4: Insights from Collaborative Efforts: Practical Steps for Advancing Planetary Health Policy in Japan



Joji Sugawara

Vice President
Health and Global Policy Institute (HGPI)

Mr. Sugawara discussed collaborative efforts being carried out in Japan to advance planetary health policy. Almost all experts agree that governments play a critical role in the fight against climate change, and international cooperation is more important than ever because no country can address climate change by itself. Although the Paris Agreement was adopted by 196 Parties at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) in 2015, policies remain insufficient to meet the targets set out to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees to 2 degrees Celsius and reach net zero by 2050. Collectively, we are not cutting emissions fast enough to avoid the worst effects of climate change; major policy changes are necessary to achieve the ambitious targets and change our trajectory to leave a healthy, vibrant, and livable planet to the next generation.

■ Online Lectures and Group Work

<u>Date and Time</u>	<u>Lecture</u>
June 18 (Tue) - Atlanta: 9:00pm – 11:00pm June 19 (Wed) - Bangkok: 8:00am – 10:00am - Tokyo: 10:00am – 12:00pm	Lecture 1: Introduction to the Case Study Topics Lecturer: Arthit Phosri, Assistant Professor Department of Environmental Health Sciences, Faculty of Public Health Mahidol University
June 25 (Tue) - Atlanta: 9:00pm – 11:00pm June 26 (Wed) - Bangkok: 8:00am – 10:00am - Tokyo: 10:00am – 12:00pm	Lecture 2: Climate Change: Current Changes in Global Environmental Systems Lecturer: Noah Scovronick, Assistant Professor Gangarosa Department of Environmental Health, Rollins School of Public Health Emory University
July 2 (Tue) - Atlanta: 9:00pm – 11:00pm July 3 (Wed) - Bangkok: 8:00am – 10:00am - Tokyo: 10:00am – 12:00pm	Lecture 3: Addressing Planetary Health Issues via Multidisciplinary Approach Lecturer: Parinya Panuwet, Research Assistant Professor Gangarosa Department of Environmental Health, Rollins School of Public Health Emory University
July 9 (Tue) - Atlanta: 9:00pm – 11:00pm July 10 (Wed) - Bangkok: 8:00am – 10:00am - Tokyo: 10:00am – 12:00pm	Lecture 4: Insights from Collaborative Efforts: Practical Steps for Advancing Planetary Health Policy in Japan Lecturer: Joji Sugawara, Vice President Health and Global Policy Institute (HGPI)
July 16 (Tue) - Atlanta: 9:00pm – 11:00pm July 17 (Wed) - Bangkok: 8:00am – 10:00am - Tokyo: 10:00am – 12:00pm	Lecture 5: Case Study Group Proposal Presentations G-HEP Participants Feedback from mentors and supervisors
July 23 (Tue) - Atlanta: 9:00pm – 11:00pm July 24 (Wed) - Bangkok: 8:00am – 10:00am - Tokyo: 10:00am – 12:00pm	Lecture 6: Thailand Fieldwork Pre-departure Orientation G-HEP Secretariat Group meetings with supervisors

Phase 2: Case Study Formulation

■ Case Study 1

Food security under a changing climate: Exploring the adaptation strategies for Thai older adults and caregivers in sub-urban communities

Climate change affects food security through food availability, accessibility, utilization and affordability. In the US, food insecurity increased from 5.5% to 12.4% among older adults over a period of 10 years, from 2007 to 2016. This rise was more noticeable among older adults with lower incomes. It has been shown that functional impairment in older adults can also contribute to their inability to secure and access sufficient, safe and nutritional food. Some older adults experience physical and cognitive impairments, they rely on caregivers for food preparation and other routine care. Affordability of food is one of the significant barriers to food access for many older adults, particularly those on fixed incomes, who may eventually compromise on food quality by purchasing low-cost and less nutritious meals. In a previous study, Thai older persons and caregivers preferred ready-to-eat items for economic reasons, time-saving and accessibility. These have the potential to have negative impacts on health, most notably an increase in malnutrition rate. Hence, it is significant to taking action to mitigate the impacts of climate change on health and food security. In order to accomplish this, we need adaptation strategies that take into account the interdisciplinary nature of the problem and establishing sustainable solutions.

Supervisor: Lalita Kaewwila, Lecturer, Department of Public Health Nursing, Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University

Group Members:

- Floret Maame Owusu
- Wanattaporn Pimpan
- Hannah Bowens

■ Case Study 2

Conserving biodiversity and healthy ecosystems to protect Thailand's natural habitat and animal species

Biodiversity and healthy ecosystems provide essential services that support human well-being, including clean air and water, climate regulation, pollination, soil fertility, and disease regulation. However, climate change poses significant threats to these services by altering ecosystems and disrupting ecological processes. Furthermore, climate change exacerbates existing detrimental effects to biodiversity, such as habitat loss and invasive species, by changes in temperature and precipitation patterns, shifting habitats, and disrupting ecological interactions. These changes can lead to species extinctions and loss of genetic diversity, with cascading effects on ecosystem stability and resilience. A previous study in Thailand indicated that the threatened animal and plant species are expected to increase from 11% now to 35% under RCP2.6 and to 54% under RCP8.5 by 2070 (Pomoim et al., 2022). Therefore, adaptive and mitigative strategies should be developed and implemented to conserve biodiversity and healthy ecosystems under a changing climate.

Supervisor: Nitchaphat Khansakorn, Lecturer, Department of Environmental Health Sciences, Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University

Group Members:

- Seiwa Honda
- Kamonrut Deeporum
- Adrienne Van Curen

■ Case Study 3

Water resource management and sustainable development for improving the water quality in Samut Prakan

Climate change is altering precipitation patterns, leading to more frequent and severe droughts in some locations and may increase precipitation in others. These changes exacerbate water scarcity, posing significant challenges for water resource management. Climate change is also associated with an increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, such as floods and storms. These events can disrupt water supply systems, damage infrastructure, and contaminate water sources, leading to water shortages and public health risks. In Bangkok Metropolitan Region (BMR), the total monthly heavy rainfall (daily rainfall intensity >35.1 mm) during October in 2070 - 2098 is expected to increase by 80 - 100% relative to that in 1980 - 2009 (Cooper, 2019). This change will pose significant risks to water resource scarcity, which we need to promote adaptation and mitigation action plans to ensure water security for present and future generations.

Supervisor: Arthit Phosri, Lecturer, Department of Environmental Health Sciences, Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University

Group Members:

- Nanako Julie Asakura
- Nuttapong Silawacharapol
- Shahreen Hussain

■ Case Study 4

Tackling Thailand's mismanaged solid and plastic waste problem

Climate change may exacerbate the environmental impacts of solid and plastic waste. For example, extreme weather events can result in the spread of waste, increased pollution of water bodies, and damage to biodiversity and ecosystem. Furthermore, plastic waste not only affects biodiversity through pollution but also threatens food security by contaminating food sources. Therefore, impact assessment is required to understand how climate change, such as increased in temperatures, altered precipitation patterns, and more frequent extreme weather events, affect the generation, composition, distribution, and management of solid and plastic waste.

Supervisor: Tawach Prechtha, Lecturer, Department of Environmental Health Sciences, Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University

Group Members:

- Noer Syafiiyah Tiarma
- Witita Weerawitaya
- Emmanuel Larweh-Lomotey

Phase 3: Fieldwork in Thailand

Thailand Overview

Thailand, officially the Kingdom of Thailand, is located in Southeast Asia. The country is composed of 76 provinces and covers an area of 513,120 square kilometers with a population of over 71.7 million people. Bangkok the capital, is the most populated city in Thailand with 11 million residents.

Economy: Thailand has made remarkable progress in social and economic development, moving from a low-income to an upper-income country in the last four decades. Poverty declined substantially over the last 30 years from 65.2% in 1988 to 9.85% in 2018. However, in recent years, economic growth slowed from 4.2% in 2018 to 2.4% in 2019. Due to COVID-19, the economic impact has been severe and has already led to widespread job losses, affecting middle-class households and the poor. The decline in external demand affecting trade and tourism, supply chain disruptions and weakening domestic consumption which threatens to reverse the economic growth progress that Thailand has experienced. (The World Bank – Thailand Overview)

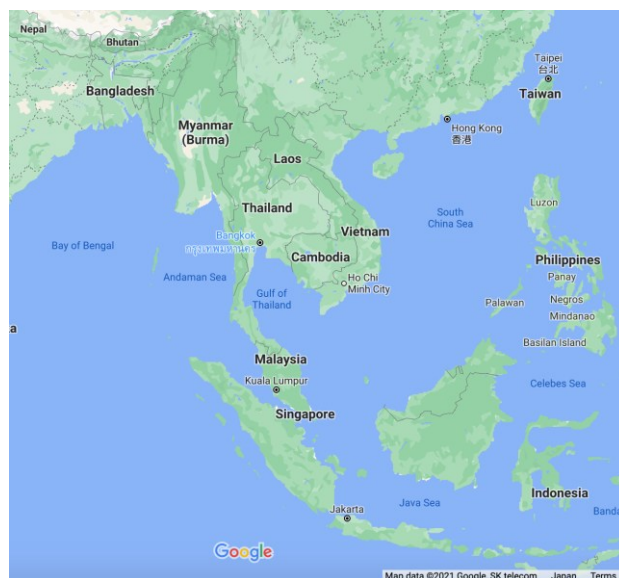
Health System: Thailand achieved Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in 2002. Every Thai citizen is now entitled to essential health services for all age groups. The benefits of the policy include essential services in preventive, curative, and palliative care. The national health care system is comprised of three different schemes: (1) the civil servants' medical benefits scheme under the finance ministry, covering 5.7 million people; (2) the social security scheme under the labor ministry, covering 12.3 million people; and (3) the universal coverage scheme under the public health ministry, covering 47.8 million people or 72% of the population. Like other healthcare systems, there are challenges to sustaining the tax-financed system. With a high proportion of people living in poverty, an aging population, and an increased non-communicable disease burden, the government is working to strive to contain the rising costs and sustain the UHC policy. (Sumriddetchkajorn et al., 2019)

Climate Change Impact: Thailand has seen a drastic increase in temperatures and changes in rainfall patterns over the past thirty years. Thailand's long coastlines, fragile agriculture system and susceptibility to extreme weather events make it vulnerable to the effects of climate change. The impacts of climate change on Thailand which have been prolonged droughts, decrease in agricultural and fishery production, violent flooding, sea level rising and health-related issues — are already serious and will likely create or exacerbate additional problems during the next few decades. Thailand has received support from various international partners to facilitate climate actions in mitigation, adaptation, and enabling environment, however, more support is needed, particularly for technology development and transfer, which is essential for mitigation and adaptation implementation. Thailand has integrated the climate change agenda into its national, sectoral, and municipal policies and plans to address the problem systematically and effectively. Thailand's commitment to climate policy has grown in recent years with the drafting of a range of important climate-relevant documents, including its Climate Change Act and National Energy Plan.

Thailand at a glance

- GDP per capita: 7,182 USD
- Life expectancy avg. at birth: 80 years
- Fertility rate: 1.46 births per woman
- Neonatal mortality rate: 4.45 deaths per 1,000 live births
- Under 5 mortality rate: 8.13 deaths per 1,000 live births
- Number of hospitals and physicians: 1,400 hospitals and 1 physician per 1,500 people
- Religion: Buddhism

Reference: The World Bank 2023
(<https://data.worldbank.org/country/thailand>)



■ Objective:

To gain a deeper understanding of the challenges posed by climate change on the livelihoods of people in Thailand, participants will engage in fieldwork to explore key issues affecting the community. This hands-on approach aims to help participants develop practical, real-world solutions that can be feasibly implemented.

■ Location:

The fieldwork location in Thailand was held in an area called Bang Krachao which sits along the Chao Phraya River in Samut Prakan Province, neighboring to Bangkok. Bang Krachao is called the “Green Lung” and is known for its nature and sustainable activities.

The province of Samut Prakan has been impacted by climate change, such as sea level rise and extreme weather events, which intersect with other ongoing changes, such as coastal erosion that connects to inland river basin planning and local coastline management. These events directly impact human lives and safety, including impacts of the onset of environmental change on displacement and mobility of the people living in those coastal communities.

Date and Location	Activity
August 4 (Sun) Bang Krachao DAY 1	Arrival in Bangkok, Thailand Travel to Samut Prakan, Bang Krachao
August 5 (Mon) Bang Krachao DAY 2	Introduction and welcome to the program Opening remarks at Bang Nam Phueng Municipality Fieldwork introduction Field Visits: • Agricultural Learning Center of Integrated Bedded Orchards (water resources management facility) • Wat Chak Daeng Temple (plastic and solid waste management) • 80th Anniversary Celebration Garden (green space management) Group Welcome Meal at Pob Rak at Bang Nam Phueng
August 6 (Tue) Bang Krachao DAY 3	Introduction to community leaders and interpreters Identification and mapping of data collection sites
August 7 (Wed) Bang Krachao DAY 4	Data Collection: Meetings with local stakeholders and conducting interviews in the community Group work on compiling report on findings
August 8 (Thu) Bang Krachao DAY 5	Data Collection: Meetings with local stakeholders and conducting interviews in the community Group work on compiling report on findings
August 9 (Fri) Bang Krachao DAY 6	Group Presentations and feedback from Bang Nam Phueng Municipality Closing ceremony
August 10 (Sat) Bang Krachao DAY 7	Departure from Bangkok, Thailand

■ Day 1

The day began with an opening ceremony at the Bang Nam Phueng Subdistrict Administrative Office in Bang Krachao where local government officials welcomed everyone and presented on the various environmental initiatives and sustainability projects to be visited in the area.

First, visit was to the Agricultural Learning Center of Integrated Bedded Orchards a water management facility to learn about how the water in the area is managed for agriculture. Participants learned about the challenges that many farmers face in finding ways to desalinate the water that comes in from the river so that it does not affect the crops. Various techniques are used, such as mixing groundwater or fresh rainwater with water from the river.

Next, visit was to a plastics recycling center located on the grounds of the Wat Chak Daeng temple. At this center they partner with around 70% of residents to collect plastics for recycling and reusing. The center takes the plastics to create new products such as hangers, blankets, and robes worn by the temple monks. They also collect solid food waste for composting to turn into fertilizer.

Last visit was to the 80th Anniversary Celebration Garden, a protected park concentrating on conservation activities. They lead many educational activities to raise awareness about biodiversity loss and trash polluting the area from the river.

■ Day 2

Participants met with local community workers and interpreters to gain a deeper understanding of the location and to ask questions about their target population for the case studies. The participants collaborated within their groups to discuss and finalize their data collection plans with the guidance of the supervisors.

■ Day 3

Participants met in their groups and, together with local community workers and interpreters, visited various locations within the community to collect data. This process primarily involved conducting in-depth interviews with key stakeholders, including local government officials, business owners, and residents.



"I really enjoyed my experience in Thailand. I learned so much from the fieldwork that I would not have learned in a standard classroom or professional setting. The part I enjoyed most was interacting with the local community and learning about their lifestyle, as well as how they tackle environmental issues like waste and water management." (United States participant)

Fieldwork in Thailand Activities

■ Day 4

Participants continued to collect data in groups throughout the community, collaborating to reflect on and analyze their findings. Additionally, they prepared to present their preliminary results in a formal presentation to the local municipal office.

■ Day 5

On the final day, each group presented their experiences from the week. The presentations were attended by government officials from the municipal office and community workers.

The presentations highlighted who the key stakeholders that interviewed, the issues related to each research area, collected data with preliminary analysis, and initial recommendations for the community. The recommendations were well received by the government officials, who showed great interest and asked numerous questions.

The program concluded with a festive traditional Thai dance performance, which the participants enthusiastically joined.



The fieldwork in Thailand was very nice. I particularly enjoyed the data collection. Going into the community and hearing from the people was a whole new experience for me. (Japan participant)

■ Online Lectures and Group Work

<u>Date and Time</u>	<u>Lecture</u>
Sept 11 (Thu) - Atlanta: 9:00pm – 10:00pm Sept 12 (Fri) - Bangkok: 8:00am – 9:00am - Tokyo: 10:00am – 11:00am	Lecture 7: G-HEP Program Updates (Secretariat) Case Study Progress Updates (Participants)
Sept 19 (Thu) - Atlanta: 9:00pm – 11:00pm Sept 20 (Fri) - Bangkok: 8:00am – 10:00am - Tokyo: 10:00am – 12:00pm	Lecture 8: Japan's Environmental Administration against Triple Planetary Crisis Lecturer: Koki Takaki, Director of the Office of Mercury and International Chemicals Management Environmental Health Department Ministry of the Environment, Japan
Oct 9 (Wed) - Atlanta: 9:00pm – 11:00pm Oct 10 (Thu) - Bangkok: 8:00am – 10:00am - Tokyo: 10:00am – 12:00pm	Lecture 9: Solving Planetary Health Challenges in Japan and a Changing World Lecturer: Robin Takashi Lewis Co-Founder, mymizu Co-Founder / Director, Social Innovation Japan
Oct 23 (Wed) + Oct 24 (Thu) - Atlanta: 9:00pm – 10:00pm Oct 24 (Thu) + Oct 25 (Fri) - Bangkok: 8:00am – 9:00am - Tokyo: 10:00am – 11:00am	Lecture 10: Case Study Progress Group Updates (Participants) Day 1 (Oct. 23/24): 2 groups: Food security + Water Day 2 (Oct. 24/25): 2 groups: Biodiversity + Waste
Nov 13 (Wed) - Atlanta: 8:00pm – 09:00pm Nov 14 (Thu) - Bangkok: 8:00am – 9:00am - Tokyo: 10:00am – 11:00am	Lecture 11: Japan Pre-departure Orientation (Secretariat)

■ Lecture 8: Japan's Environmental Administration against Triple Planetary Crisis



Koki Takaki

Director of the Office of Mercury and International Chemicals Management in the Environmental Health Department
Ministry of the Environment, Japan

Dr. Koki Takaki is responsible for the international negotiations and cooperation on the sound management of chemicals, including the implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free from Harm of Chemicals and Waste (2022) and the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the negotiations for the development of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, and the new Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste, and Pollution. He had previously worked at the OECD as a policy analyst in charge of the OECD Environment, Health and Safety Programme. He obtained his PhD in Environmental Science from the University of Reading, the UK, where he focused on the exposure and risk assessment of chemicals.

■ Lecture 9: Solving Planetary Health Challenges in Japan and a Changing World



Robin Takashi Lewis

Co-CEO, Social Innovation Japan
Co-founder, mymizu

Robin is an award-winning social entrepreneur and educator based in Japan. He is Co-CEO of Social Innovation Japan, an organization empowering people to learn and take action on today's most pressing challenges, which is a two-time winner of Japan's 'Minister of Environment Prize'. He is also Co-founder of mymizu, a platform reducing plastic waste through the power of technology and community that has saved millions of plastic bottles from going to waste through its plastic-free hydration network. For 12+ years, Robin has worked with social enterprises, NGOs, and inter-governmental organizations (e.g. World Bank and UNDP), and has managed climate and disaster-related projects in Asia, Africa, and the Americas. He has also led workshops, trainings, and other empowerment programs for tens of thousands of people in schools, universities, and companies. Robin is a winner of M.I.T. Technology Review's 'Innovators Under-35' Japan Award and Business Insider Japan's 'Beyond Millennials' Award (Circular Economy category). He also serves as an advisor and mentor for a range of mission-driven organizations and is a guest lecturer at several universities in Japan. His work to tackle the environmental crisis has been featured by global media such as CNN, NHK, and Netflix.

Phase 4: Fieldwork in Japan

Japan is an island country located in East Asia. The population is 124.5 million, with a land area of 377,974.17 square kilometers. The country is divided into 47 prefectures with Tokyo as its capital and most populous city, where around 14 million people reside.

Economy: Japan's economy achieved remarkable growth post World War II, propelled by highly successful car and consumer electronics industries. Japan is the world's third-largest automobile manufacturing country and has the largest electronics goods industry. The period between roughly 1985 and 1990 was a time of prosperity in Japan known as the "Bubble Economy" characterized by a rapid rise in asset prices and the expansion of money supply and credit. However, by 1991, asset prices collapsed, and the bubble burst, leading Japan into a period of economic stagnation referred to as "The Lost Decade". From 1991 to 2003, the Japanese economy, as measured by GDP, grew only 1.14% annually, well below other industrialized nations. Later, the 2008 Great Recession and the 2011 Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami further negatively impacted the economy. Since 2012, supported by the "Abenomics" policy, an increase in international tourists, and winning the bid to host the 2020 Olympics, Japan's economic expansion has accelerated. However, the impact of COVID-19 on Japan's economic growth has been greatly affected.

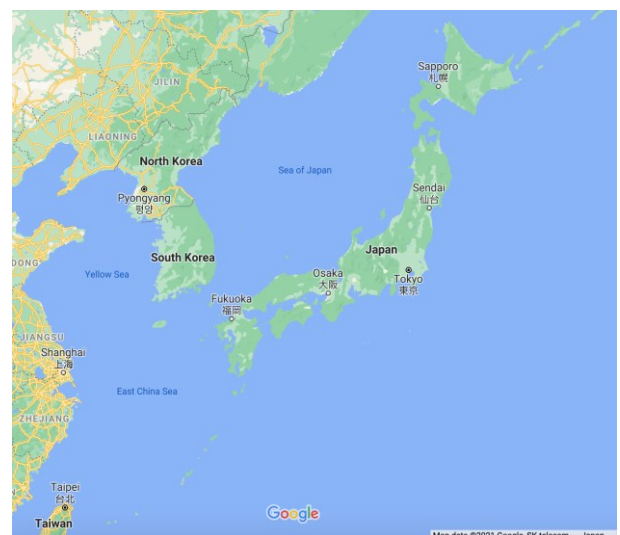
Health System: In Japan, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare is responsible for the social health care system at the national level, which was achieved in 1961. Japan's system is a universal health care insurance system that provides relative equality of access. All residents (staying more than 90 days) in Japan are required by the law to have health insurance coverage. People without insurance from employers can participate in a national health insurance program administered by local governments. Payment fees for personal medical services have been set by a government committee, the patient's responsibility is for 30% of the costs, while the government pays the remaining 70%. Patients are free to select physicians or facilities of their choice and cannot be denied coverage. The aging population in Japan and the expected increase in healthcare costs is an immediate concern and challenge for healthcare institutions and policymakers to tackle due to an already financially strained healthcare system. (Ikegami et al., 2011 Shimazaki, 2013)

Climate Change Impact: In recent decades, Japan has experienced more frequent extreme weather events, notably intensifying heatwaves, flooding, and landslides (Wang et al. 2019). According to Japan's Climate Change Impact Assessment Report for 2020, heat-related deaths, heat stroke, and vector-borne diseases were reported as a national high priority (Ministry of the Environment 2020). The Central Disaster Prevention Council within the Cabinet Office reported that the number of deaths from heat stroke was 5.5 times higher than the number of deaths from natural disasters, with the majority of those affected aged 65 years and older, the highest proportion of the country's population (Central Disaster Prevention Council 2021). Facing this new reality, there is a growing need to develop solutions to mitigate various health, social, and economic problems related to climate change and think about how to modify daily activities to minimize damage to the environment.

Japan at a glance

- GDP per capita: 33,766.5 USD
- Life expectancy avg at birth: 84 years
- Fertility rate: 1.26 births per woman
- Neonatal mortality rate: 0.79 deaths per 1,000 live births
- Under 5 mortality rate: 2.28 deaths per 1,000 live births
- Number of hospitals and physicians: 8,100 hospitals and 2.6 physicians per 1,000 people
- Religion: Shinto and Buddhism

Reference: The World Bank (2023)
(<https://data.worldbank.org/country/JP>)



Fieldwork in Japan Schedule

■ Objective:

Through firsthand experiences in nature and discussions with local doctors, participants explored the impact of climate change on biodiversity and learned about the effects of rapidly aging rural populations. In collaboration with academic, research, and policy institutions, we will examine strategies for protecting public health in an era of rapid environmental change.

■ Location:

The fieldwork in Hiroshima was centered around the Geihoku area of Kita-Hiroshima, a rural region known for its rich natural landscapes and deep historical ties to Japan's post-war peacebuilding efforts. Nestled in the Chūgoku Mountains, Geihoku is home to vibrant farming communities and forests that play a crucial role in local biodiversity and environmental sustainability.

While Hiroshima is globally recognized as a symbol of peace and resilience following the atomic bombing, the rural areas surrounding the city face unique challenges related to climate change, depopulation, and aging communities. Geihoku, in particular, is experiencing the impacts of shifting agricultural practices, biodiversity loss, and changing weather patterns, which affect both livelihoods and public health.

<u>Date and Location</u>	<u>Activity</u>
November 24 (Sun) Hiroshima DAY 1	Arrival in Hiroshima, Japan
November 25 (Mon) Hiroshima DAY 2	• Welcome Orientation : Center for the Planetary Health & Innovation Science (PHIS), The IDEC Institute at Hiroshima University • Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and Park • Miyajima Island
November 26 (Tue) Hiroshima DAY 3	Fieldtrip to Kita-Hiroshima (Geihoku) • Geihoku Sedoyama Revitalization Project • Yawata Marsh Nature Regeneration project site • Kitahiroshima-cho Ogahara Clinic
November 27 (Wed) Hiroshima DAY 4	• Field work reflection presentations • Radiation Effects Research Foundation • Travel to Tokyo
November 28 (Thu) Tokyo DAY 5	• Group work and preparation for final presentations
November 29 (Fri) Tokyo DAY 6	• Final Policy Paper Presentations • International Career Symposium • Networking Lunch
November 30 (Sat) DAY 7	Departure from Tokyo, Japan

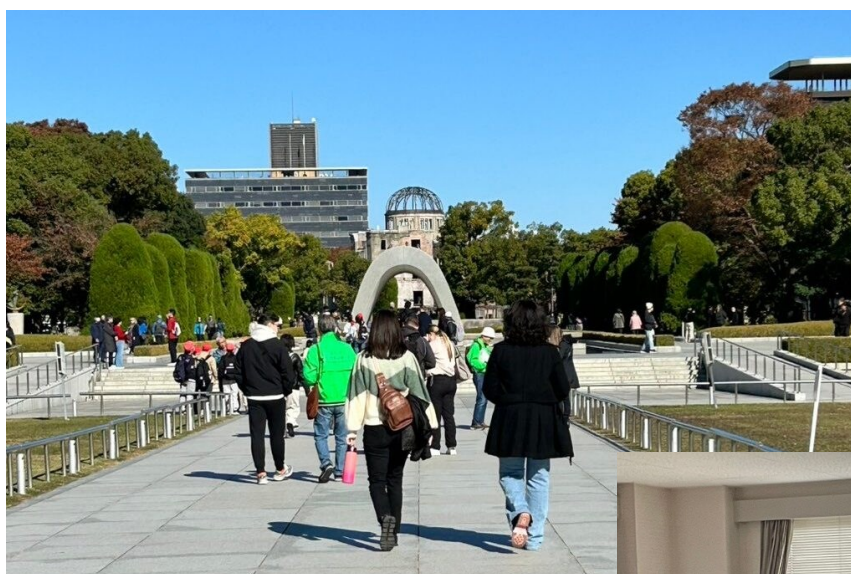
■ Day 1

The first day started off with an overview lecture on the fieldwork activities organized with the support of the Center for the Planetary Health & Innovation Science (PHIS), The IDEC Institute at Hiroshima University. Dr. Saori Kashima and Dr. Sonoko Watanabe, both associate professors at the center. The fieldwork focused on four key concepts: 1) peace, 2) circular economy, 3) rural health, and 4) nature positive. Following the lecture participants visited the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, a museum dedicated to documenting the atomic bombing of Hiroshima in World War II, and the Hiroshima Peace Memorial, a symbol representing the cost of war and the importance of peace. Participants later went to Miyajima Island, an ancestral place of worship and nature.

■ Day 2

Participants visited a rural part of Hiroshima where Dr. Katsunobu Shirakawa, Curator of the Nature Museum of Geihoku Highlands and Deputy Director of Noboribetsu City Tourism Exchange Center gave a lecture introducing participants to the “Geihoku Sedoyama Revitalization Project”. The project is a participatory forest resource management initiative for sustainable biological resources production, the revitalization of the town, and the generating of a circular economy in the Geihoku area. Dr. Shirakawa led the group to several sites and facilities, such as the Yawata Marsh Nature Regeneration project site and the Geihoku Oak Garden Hotel, to see how the project has been implemented by the local people and businesses.

Participants also visited a local health center, Kitahiroshima-cho Ogahara Clinic to hear a lecture from the clinic’s director, Dr. Tamaki Toujyou, on rural health and aging in the Geihoku region and the benefits of a “Community-based Integrated Care System”.



*“The developments taking place in Japan and new knowledge that I have learned, allows for me to look at ways for applying it in areas in Thailand.”
(Thailand participant)*



■ Day 3

On the third day participants visited the Radiation Effects Research Foundation, a US-Japan cooperative research institute established in 1975 to investigate the health effects of atomic bomb radiation. Mr. Jeffrey Hart, the Foundation's public relations office chief, provided a lecture on the foundation's history and some of its research to date, as well as a tour of the facility.

■ Day 4

Participants worked together in their groups to summarize the results of the case studies and policy recommendations and prepared for the presentation of the final results.

■ Day 5

The final day concluded in Tokyo with a hybrid event of the Final Presentations & International Career Symposium. Participants delivered their overall case study findings and recommended solutions and policies before an audience of stakeholders from academia, policy, and industry in Japan, the U.S., and Thailand. Each group delivered final presentations on their case study topics.



The program deepened my understanding of previously unfamiliar aspects of Japanese culture and initiatives. The Atomic Bomb Dome Memorial prompted reflection on crucial questions facing our contemporary world, particularly given current conflicts. The Sedoyama Regeneration Project demonstrated an ideal circular society model, which became clearer through firsthand observation. (Japan participant)



The International Career Symposium brought together experts in global health and environmental sustainability to share their insights on pursuing international career paths aimed at creating a healthier and more sustainable planet. Each speaker shared their personal journeys, detailing how they entered their respective fields and offering valuable advice for building a career in sustainability and global health.

Date & Time: Friday, November 29, 2024, 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM (Japan)

Format: Hybrid (In-person and Online via Zoom Webinar)

Venue: Asakusa Culture and Tourist Information Center (2-18-9 Kaminarimon, Taito-ku, Tokyo)

■ Symposium Speakers



Tove Kinooka

Director & Co-Founder, Enteleco

Tove is a bicultural (British/Danish) sustainability consultant who has worked in Japan since 1998. She founded Global Perspectives K.K. in 2015 in Japan with her business partner Gavin Dixon, and in 2022 launched boutique sustainability consultancy enteleco. She works across Asia with major global corporations, SMEs, NPOs, Embassies, Chambers of Commerce, and social venture organizations to amplify and accelerate actions for an inclusive and sustainable future. Her work focuses on transforming company culture to support sustainability strategy and ambitions and brings together her combination of scientific & agricultural background, business experience, and people development skills. She holds certifications in Business Sustainability Management (Cambridge University) and Organizational Change Consulting (Ashridge-Hult Business School), and a degree in Biological Science (University of Exeter).



Kei Ikegami

CEO, Planet Savers, Inc.

Serial entrepreneur driven by a desire to combat climate change and build a startup with significant impact. Mr. Ikegami started his career at the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) as a new graduate, working on infrastructure development and policy support in the Middle East. After earning an MBA from the University of Cambridge, joined SoftBank Robotics, where I was involved in the global expansion of AI robots. I later founded MIRAling Co., Ltd., providing leadership education to over 2,000 students and established Japan's first DAC (Direct Air Capture) Startup "Planet Savers" in 2023, currently serving as its CEO. Graduated from Kyoto University with a degree in law and holds a master's in public policy.



Masamitsu Takamatsu

Researcher, National Institute of Infectious Diseases (NIID)

After graduating from Saga University Faculty of Medicine in Japan, Dr. Masamitsu Takamatsu joined Health and Global Policy Institute (HGPI) in 2016. As an associate, he was engaged in delivering policy recommendations on global health agendas and had led the launch of Global Health Education Program (G-HEP). After HGPI, he completed his junior residency at Nitobe Memorial Nakano General Hospital in Tokyo. From 2019, he worked with WHO as an immunization consultant at Nigeria Country Office, Regional Office for the Western Pacific Region, and Papua New Guinea Country Office. Since October 2024, he joined Japan's National Institute of Infectious Diseases (NIID) as a researcher at Center for Surveillance, Immunization and Epidemiologic Research (CSIER). He completed his Master of Public Health at Imperial College London and is currently enrolled in PhD program at Nagasaki University School of Tropical Medicine and Global Health.

Final Presentations and Policy Recommendations

■ Case Study 1

Food security under a changing climate: Exploring the adaptation strategies for Thai older adults and caregivers in sub-urban communities



The study highlights critical challenges in food security for older adults in Thailand, driven by limited resources, climate change impacts such as saltwater intrusion, and systemic gaps in nutrition programs and sustainable agriculture policies. Despite strong community support, older adults remain vulnerable due to these deficiencies.

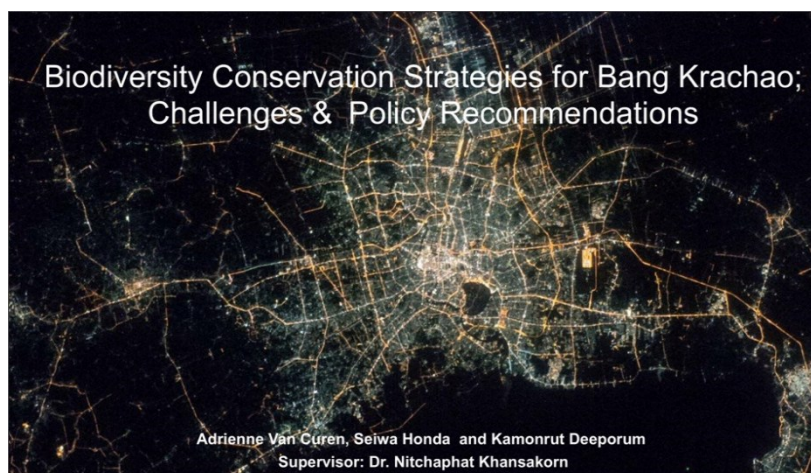
Key recommendations:

- Promote sustainable agriculture to enhance food availability and resilience against environmental challenges.
- Empower communities and individuals through education and localized support systems.
- Implement targeted health initiatives that link non-communicable disease management with improved nutrition access.

■ Case Study 2

Conserving biodiversity and healthy ecosystems to protect Thailand's natural habitat and animal species

The study identifies gaps in cohesive strategies for long-term biodiversity preservation in Bang Krachao despite promising efforts like the Our Khung Bang Krachao project and firefly conservation initiatives. Challenges include unintended consequences of the Land and Buildings Tax Act (2019), a lack of coordination in waste and water management systems, and governance inefficiencies.

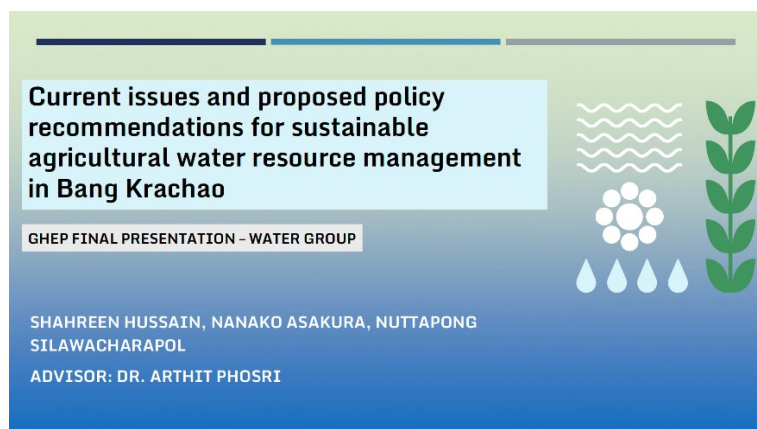


Key recommendations:

- Launch a public awareness campaign to address biodiversity and conservation following tax modifications.
- Develop ecological corridors to mitigate habitat fragmentation.
- Strengthen community-based conservation with targeted outreach, particularly to the caregiver generation.
- Establish a unified oversight committee comprising local leaders and conservation experts to monitor progress and adapt policies.
- Leverage international partnerships for technical and financial support.
- Integrate technological tools, such as remote sensing, for biodiversity monitoring while engaging grassroots communities.
- Ecological corridors connect wildlife habitats and creates space for wildlife to move and disperse.

■ Case Study 3

Water resource management and sustainable development for improving the water quality in Samut Prakan



The study highlights critical challenges faced by local farmers in managing water resources and sustaining agricultural practices in the face of rising salinity levels, inadequate groundwater access, and fragmented water management. Farmers currently rely on informal methods to assess water quality due to the lack of affordable tools and institutional support. Rising sea levels and damaged water gates further exacerbate these issues, negatively affecting crop yields and soil fertility.

Key Recommendations:

- Establish a centralized water management organization to improve coordination, provide real-time water quality data, and facilitate collaboration among stakeholders.
- Support sustainable farming practices by distributing resources such as HDPE geomembrane sheets and salinity testing kits at reduced costs to assist farmers.
- Enhance data collection and sharing through partnerships between farmers, local governments, and universities to create a shared database for informed policymaking and water quality monitoring.
- Integrate Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices by promoting salt-tolerant crops and building resilience to climate impacts.
- HDPE geomembrane sheets are a type of waterproof material that prevents water from seeping in and evaporating as a mitigation method from being polluted.
- Climate-smart agriculture (CSA) is an integrated approach to managing landscapes—cropland, livestock, forests and fisheries—that address the interlinked challenges of food security and climate change (World Bank).

■ Case Study 4

Tackling Thailand's mismanaged solid and plastic waste problem

The study underscores the significant environmental challenge of plastic waste in Thailand, which ranks sixth globally for plastic waste release. Kung Bang Krachao, a vital green space and popular tourist destination, is heavily impacted by visitor-generated waste. Despite its ecological importance, current waste management systems lack tourist involvement and effective initiatives to address the issue.



Key Recommendations:

- Implement the polluter-pays principle (PPP) to hold waste generators accountable.
- Promote refillable systems to reduce single-use plastics.
- Engage stakeholders through corporate social responsibility (CSR) programs to support waste reduction.

Pre-and Post-Program Evaluation of Participants' Competencies

About the Areas of Competency

Participants were evaluated both before and after the program on their global and intercultural competencies, specifically in terms of knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviors across nine key areas. Changes in their responses were assessed over the course of the program. The nine competency areas and the corresponding questions are outlined in this section.

1. Appreciation and Diversity

Q.1: I am aware and can recognize the value of each person in the global community.

Q.2: I consider multiple perspectives and opinions.

Q.3: I have a positive attitude towards my own culture and am respectful to others.

Q.4: I keep an open mind and am tolerant to different behaviors.

2. Cultural Understanding

Q.5: I have the ability to build relationships and mutual trust with people from other countries.

Q.6: I have the ability to understand and appreciate diverse perspectives.

Q.7: I can communicate with professionals from different countries.

Q.8: I can adapt to the working atmosphere in different countries.

3. Global Knowledge

Q.9: I know the geography, culture, politics, economics, and health system of my colleagues.

Q.10: I can understand how global issues are interconnected and can have an impact locally.

Q.11: I have the ability to examine and understand contemporary issues of global significance.

Q.12: I can discuss social determinants of health problems in different parts of the world.

4. Global Engagement

Q.13: I am interested in learning and understanding global issues.

Q.14: I have the ability to engage in intercultural interactions.

Q.15: I am interested in seeking opportunities to develop a global mindset.

Q.16: I seek opportunities to communicate and share perspectives from around the world.

5. Digital Literacy

Q.17: I have the ability to use digital platforms effectively as a means of communication.

Q.18: I have the ability to use different tools for learning and working online.

Q.19: I use digital platforms as a means to network and connect with others around the world.

Q.20: I can work with international colleagues using video conferences without difficulty (e.g. Zoom).

6. Language Communication

Q.21: I am a competent user of basic English language proficiency.

Q.22: I have a good ability to use English to share ideas with diverse audiences.

Q.23: I am willing to learn and appreciate other languages.

Q.24: I can use English for technical communication in four skills (speaking, writing, reading, listening).

7. Self-Efficacy

Q.25: I have the ability to learn and work in challenging situations.

Q.26: I have the ability to empower myself and others.

Q.27: I have the ability to engage in self-directed work and find solutions to problems on my own.

Q.28: I have the ability to listen, reflect, and approach problems critically.

8. Academic Engagement

Q.29: I understand how to apply what I learn to real-world scenarios.

Q.30: I seek out and engage in first-hand experiences to learn about the world.

Q.31: I have an interest in presenting my work to peer audiences.

Q.32: I am open-minded and adaptable to new thoughts and ideas.

9. Critical Thinking

Q.33: I ask clarifying questions.

Q.34: I know how to put forward an argument and organize information and opinion.

Q.35: I have the ability to analyze cause and effect, pros and cons, and synthesize multiple perspectives.

Q.36: I engage in inclusive problem solving in collaborative settings.

1. Appreciation and Diversity

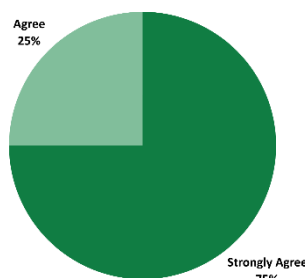
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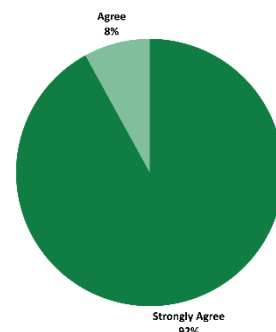
PRE-PROGRAM



"Strongly agree"

17% increase

POST-PROGRAM



2. Cultural Understanding

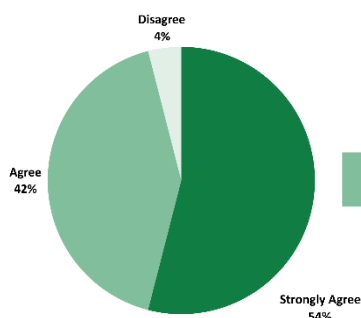
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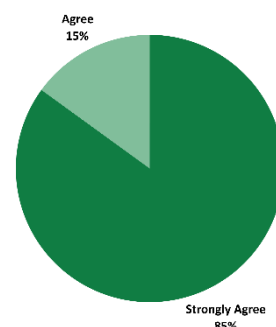
PRE-PROGRAM



"Strongly agree"

31% increase

POST-PROGRAM



3. Global Knowledge

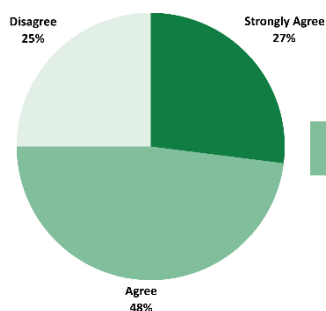
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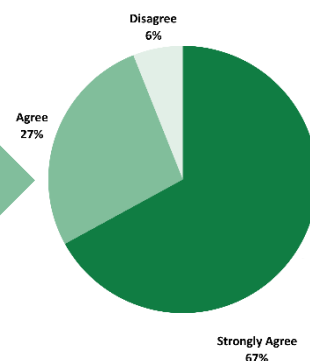
PRE-PROGRAM



"Strongly agree"

40% increase

POST-PROGRAM



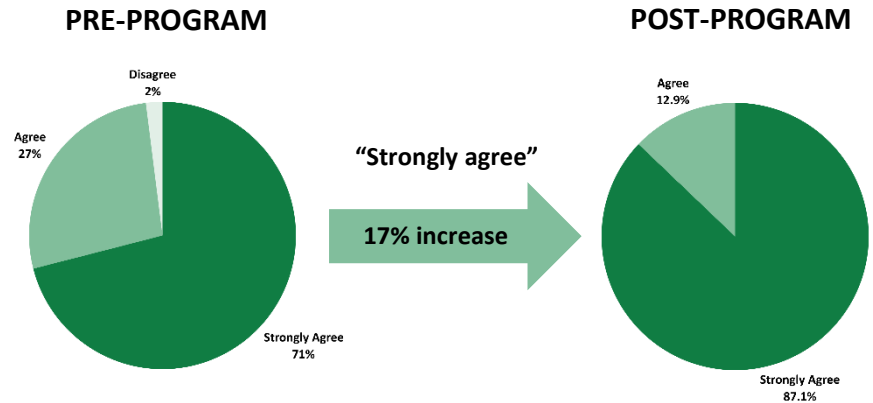
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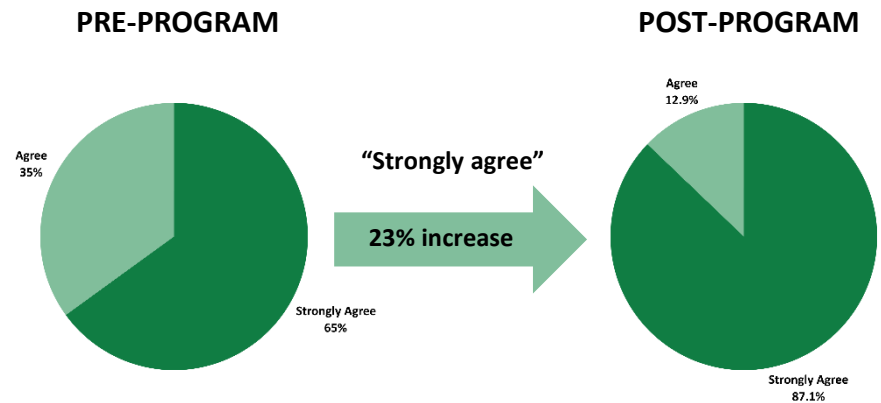
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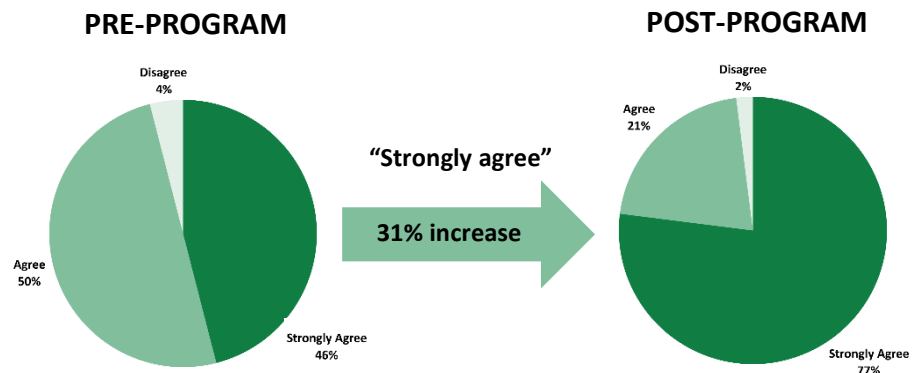
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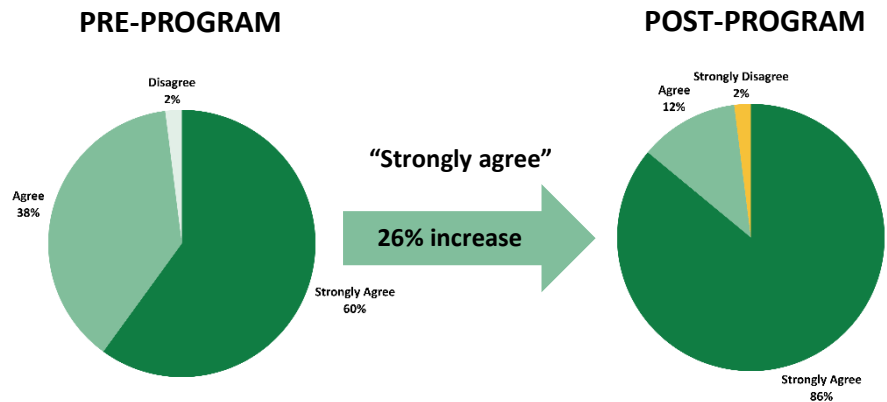
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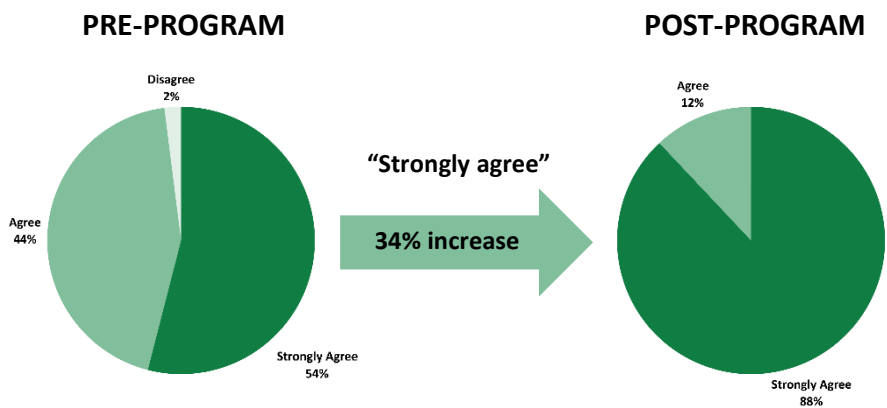
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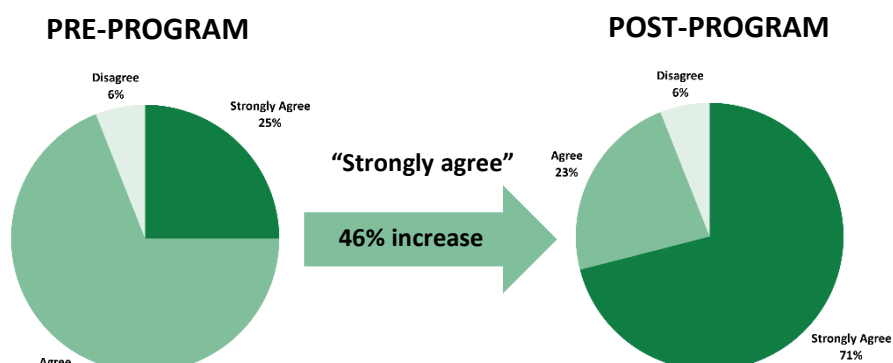
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Q.36: I engage in inclusive problem solving in collaborative settings.



This program has been a transformative career milestone. While practical global health learning opportunities are limited in Japan, typically requiring study abroad, this program's focus on Bang Krachao, diverse participant makeup, and expert mentorship provided insights comparable to international practicum experiences. Collaborating with team members from different cultural backgrounds significantly boosted my confidence. (*Japan participant*)

This program has exceeded my expectations. I have gained valuable experience in conducting policy research and creating policy recommendations, learning step by step. Everything is new to me, and it requires more effort than I initially expected, but it is worth it. (*Thailand participant*)

This program exceeded my expectations and was truly the experience of a lifetime. I particularly enjoyed working with people from all over the world, which gave me the opportunity to collaborate across cultures and learn from diverse perspectives. Meeting directly with changemakers who are driving innovative solutions to global challenges was both inspiring and motivating. Additionally, experiencing new places and immersing myself in different cultures added a unique dimension to my understanding of the interconnectedness of global issues. This program not only enriched my knowledge but also deepened my appreciation for the power of collaboration and community-driven solutions. (*United States participant*)

Dissemination of Findings

■ In the Media

- FNN Prime Online
- Livedoor News
- Toremaga News
- Nico Nico News
- Nifty News (@nifty News)
- SEOTOOLS
- Current Affairs Medical
- Excite News
- Infoseek News
- Toyo Keizai Online
- Jiji.com
- PRESIDENT Online
- BtoB Platform Industry Channels
- Jbpress
- iza!
- Sankei News
- Zaikei Shimbun
- @nifty Business
- Otakuma Keizai Shimbun
- BIGLOBE News
- Jordan News!
- TBS NEWS DIG



■ Engaging Key Stakeholders: Government, Academia, and Civil Society

In addition to disseminating the findings from the G-HEP case studies to the media in Japan to raise public awareness, they were also disseminated to maximize their impact across key sectors. Government officials in both Japan and Thailand, including the local government in Bang Krachao, received the findings to inform policy discussions and potential action at both municipal and national levels.

Beyond government outreach, the findings were distributed to stakeholders from academia, private industry, and civil society organizations, ensuring engagement with diverse audiences capable of influencing policy and practice. This cross-sectoral dissemination aimed to foster collaboration and encourage further dialogue on the implementation of the proposed recommendations.

Participants were also encouraged to take an active role in disseminating their findings. Many are currently working on publishing their research in academic journals and presenting at relevant academic conferences to further contribute to the global health discourse.

Participants

Participants

■ Japan

Name	Affiliation	Nationality
Nanako Julie Asakura	Institute of Science Tokyo, Faculty of Public Health	Japan
Noer Syafiih Tiarma	The University of Tokyo, Department of Global Health Policy	Indonesia
Floret Maame Owusu	Institute of Science Tokyo, Faculty of Medical and Dental Sciences	Ghana
Seiwa Honda	M3 Inc.	Japan

■ Thailand

Name	Affiliation	Nationality
Wanattaporn Pimpan	Mahidol University, Faculty of Public Health	Thailand
Kamonrut Deeporum	Mahidol University, Faculty of Public Health	Thailand
Nuttapong Silawacharapol	Mahidol University, Faculty of Public Health	Thailand
Witita Weerawitaya	Mahidol University, Faculty of Public Health	Thailand

■ United States of America

Name	Affiliation	Nationality
Adrienne Van Curen	Emory University, Rollins School of Public Health	USA
Emmanuel Larweh-Lomotey	Emory University, Rollins School of Public Health	Ghana
Shahreen Hussain	Emory University, Rollins School of Public Health	USA
Hannah Bowens	Emory University, Rollins School of Public Health	USA

* Titles omitted; in no particular order

■ Japan



Nanako Asakura “Julie”
Institute of Science Tokyo

Hi, my name is Nanako Asakura from the Institute of Science Tokyo. I am currently in the faculty of public health and am interested in studying about water related issues. I was born and partially raised in the U.S., so please either call me by my name Nanako or my middle name Julie! Though I love Thai food, I've never been to the country, so I am very excited to visit there for the first time! Also very excited to meet everyone and have fruitful discussions and create something solid!



Noer Syafiih Tiarma “Tiarma”
The University of Tokyo

Noer Syafiih Tiarma is a motivated student pursuing a master’s degree in the Department of Global Health Policy at the University of Tokyo. Her research focuses on environmental epidemiology, precisely ambient temperature, or “Hot night,” a phenomenon frequently associated with climate change. She aims to see the association with emergency ambulance dispatch as a proxy for measuring morbidity in Japan. Before coming to Tokyo, she graduated from the University of Indonesia, majoring in Epidemiology. Following her graduation, she worked at the Public Health Emergency Operation Center at the Ministry of Health, Republic of Indonesia. In her work, she actively engaged in handling outbreaks and unusual events in Indonesia, including vaccine-preventable diseases, zoonoses, emerging infectious diseases, and COVID-19. Throughout her work, she collaborated with the community, public health centers (Puskesmas), hospitals, laboratories, and port health offices to carry out disease prevention and control programs.



Floret Maame Owusu “Flo”
Institute of Science Tokyo

Floret is currently a doctoral student Institute of Science Tokyo, studying Public Health. She graduated from the University of Ghana Medical School in 2017, where she studied Medicine. As a medical doctor, she had the valuable experience of working both in urban and rural settings. In 2020, she enrolled in the Master of Public Health program at the Institute of Science Tokyo (formally known as Tokyo Medical and Dental University) and continued to pursue a PhD at the same university. Her research interests focus on non-communicable diseases, child and adolescent health, and migrant health. Floret’s love for global health and her passion to improving the quality of life for people worldwide drive her work in research and medicine. In her free time, she loves to spend time with children, read books and watch Korean dramas. She is from Ghana but now lives in Japan.



Seiwa Honda “Renny”
M3 Inc.

A digital health professional with extensive experience in business development and project management. After earning a law degree from the University of Tokyo, I spent eight years working at M3, Japan's largest healthcare platform company. During my tenure at M3, I co-founded a startup with an orthopedic surgeon to develop and distribute AI software that estimates bone density from conventional chest X-rays. I served as the Operating Officer until May 2024. Currently, I focus on supporting the launch of new ventures in the healthcare and planetary health domains as a freelancer, allowing me to balance work with raising my six-month-old son. During my university years, I was a bassist in a jazz band and organized medical hackathons. Now, my moments of bliss come from savoring coffee or non-alcoholic beer during childcare breaks.

■ Thailand



Wanattaporn Pimpan “O-por”
Mahidol University

My name is Wanattaporn Pimpan, I was born on November 8, 1994, in Thailand. Currently 29 years old, I graduated with a bachelor's degree in nursing science program from Mae Fah Luang University, Thailand in 2017. After graduation, I worked as a nurse in the internal medicine ward for 1 year and worked as an emergency room department for 3 years. Currently, I am continuing my studies at the Master's degree level in the Faculty of Public Health, Nursing Science (community nurse practitioner program).



Kamonrut Deeporum “Bai-Fern”
Mahidol University

My name is Kamonrut Deeporum, also known as Bai-Fern. I am 28 years old. I graduated with a bachelor's degree at The Royal Thai Army Nursing College. Currently, I am pursuing a Master's degree in Occupational Health Nursing Practice at the Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University. I have participated in global citizen and environment projects with the ECGO group, the Thai Forest Conservation Foundation, and the British Council. Now, I am a nurse at Fort Kawila Hospital in Chiang Mai, Thailand.



Nuttapong Silawacharapol “Pao”
Mahidol University

My name is Nuttapong Silawacharapol. My nickname is Pao. I am 19 years old. I study in the Occupational Health and Safety Faculty of Public Health at Mahidol University. I am learning about how to work with safety by many tools for example, risk assessment, job safety analysis, etc. My first-year GPA was 3.00. I usually workout doing calisthenics, and my hobbies are animation watching and drawing.



Witita Weerawitaya “Cherry”
Mahidol University

Everyone calls me Cherry. I was born and raised in Thailand. I love to challenge myself by trying new things. I believe my experiences will help develop my career in the future.

■ United States of America



Adrienne Van Curen
Emory University

Adrienne Van Curen is a dedicated public health professional and emergency medicine physician with an extensive background in clinical care, medical education, and community health. She holds an M.D. and is currently pursuing an MPH at Emory University. Adrienne has served as an attending and assistant professor of emergency medicine at Emory University Hospital since 2015. Her expertise includes data analysis, emergency medical procedures, and interdisciplinary collaboration. Adrienne has also been involved in community initiatives, including teaching basic medical education and leading Girl Scout troops. She is committed to leveraging her medical and public health expertise to address community health needs and influence health policies.



Emmanuel Larweh-Lomotey
Emory University

My name is Emmanuel Larweh-Lomotey. I am a 2nd-year MPH student in Global Environmental Health at Emory and a research assistant at the Winship Cancer Institute, Atlanta. I am Ghanaian physician who spent most of my life in Ghana before coming to Emory University. I worked extensively with the Obstetrics and Gynecology department in a regional hospital in Ghana for 4 years before Emory. My public health interests lie with the interrelationships that exist between climate change, environmental health exposures, health disparities and maternal and child health.



Shahreen Hussain
Emory University

Shahreen Hussain (she/her) is an MPH Global Epidemiology student at Emory University pursuing dual certificates in WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) and Climate and Health. She was born and raised in the Washington D.C. area, where she obtained her Bachelor's degree in Community Health with a concentration in Global Health from George Mason University. Shahreen's research interests include sustainability, water quality, climate change related health impacts, epidemiology, humanitarian relief, international development, and environmental justice. She has over four years of combined experience supporting environmental health research for the U.S. government and academia. In her spare time, Shahreen likes to travel, try new foods/activities, advocate for social justice causes, and spend time with family and friends. She hopes to pursue a career or further research in international development to strengthen global health projects and programs throughout Asia and the Middle East region, with a focus on advancing climate resilience and sustainability.



Hannah Bowens
Emory University

Hannah Bowens is in her second year of Emory University's Master of Public Health program, studying Global Environmental Health. Topics of interest include climate change, environmental and human health, and environmental justice. Prior work experience includes time with the American Cancer Society (ACS) and United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Hannah was born in Greenville, South Carolina, U.S., and will be joining G-HEP to study food security in Thai communities.

Secretariat & Supervisors



Joji Sugawara
Vice President, Health and Global Policy Institute (HGPI)

Mr. Sugawara was born in Sendai City, Miyagi Prefecture, Japan, and completed a Bachelor of Policy Studies at Chuo University, Japan, in 2014. Through his experience working in a non-profit organization and the Global Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (GCPPD2016) for the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit convened by the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA), he has seen the importance of policy dialogue and discussions among members of the legislature at the domestic and global levels and policy decision-making process. He joined HGPI in October 2016 after completing the Global Health Entrepreneurship Program (GHE Program) at the University of Tokyo, Department of Global Health Policy, in 2015. He has planned and executed global expert meetings on access to medicines, health technology assessment (HTA), and antimicrobial resistance (AMR). He was also responsible for health policy human resource development programs such as the Global Health Education Program (G-HEP) and the Health Policy Academy. Currently, he is involved in the Planetary Health Project, an interdisciplinary and social movement about how the expansion of human activities has begun to have a significant impact on the Earth's climate and ecosystems, which in turn, directly and indirectly, affects human health, as well as management planning, organizational operations, public relations projects using websites and social networking services, and fundraising through corporate and individual supporting members.



Honoka Hiraka
Associate, Health and Global Policy Institute (HGPI)

Honoka Hiraka graduated from Hokkaido University School of Nursing, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, and completed her Master's degree in Public Health at the university's Graduate School of Medicine. After completing her graduate studies, she worked as a public health officer in the Republic of Zambia, Africa and as a nurse in a psychiatric hospital in Japan. Her experiences in Japan and abroad have led her to join the Health and Global Policy Institute, where she has been interested in systems and policies. Currently, she is engaged in projects related to Global Health and patient party support.



Hiroaki Yamato
Program Specialist, Health and Global Policy Institute (HGPI)

Mr. Yamato is a member of the Planetary Health team and the Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) team at HGPI. He is mainly in charge of public affairs, such as opinions on the Basic Environment Plan, the Fundamental Plan for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society, the National Action Plan for Pandemic Influenza and New Infectious Diseases, and the Basic Policy on Economic and Fiscal Management and Reform. Before joining HGPI, Mr. Yamato served as an official in the International Bureau, Ministry of Finance, Japan for ten years. His experience covers international cooperation, particularly having dealt with ODA loans for Sub-Saharan Africa, Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Turkey, and Pacific Islands, private sector finance provided by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), as well as issues related to the World Bank Group and African Development Bank including capital increases and replenishments. He was also in charge of climate change policy in 2021 and global health issues in 2022. Hiroaki has a master's degree in social sciences from Waseda University, Japan.



Niaya Harper Igarashi
Program Specialist, Health and Global Policy Institute (HGPI)

Niaya Harper Igarashi was born and grew up in the U.S. Her work experience in both the U.S. and the U.K. intersects government and non-profit sectors in the roles of business development and communications. She moved to Japan in 2009, where she worked for almost a decade in international education for the U.S. educational travel company, WorldStrides, opening and overseeing its first Japan operations in 2015. In 2022, Ms. Igarashi obtained an MHSc in Health Science from the Department of Community and Global Health at the University of Tokyo Graduate School of Medicine, where she is currently a 3rd year PhD student. Her research focus is on migrant health, climate change and health, and mental health. At HGPI, she is involved in the planetary health, global health, and AMR projects. When she can find free time away from her two preschoolers, Ms. Igarashi enjoys hiking, design, and Japanese traditional art & architecture.



Sarawut Thepanondh
Dean of Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sarawut Thepanondh is an Associate Professor and the Faculty Dean at the Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University, Thailand. He received a Ph.D. in Atmospheric Science from Monash University, Australia. His current research focuses on emission inventory and air pollution modeling. He has conducted numerous research related to air pollution management, as well as supervised postgraduate students at his university. He has been published in many international scientific journals. At present, he also serves as a technical advisor on various air pollution issues for the House of Representatives of Thailand and for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment as well as international organization such as UNEP and the World Bank.



Orawan Kaewboonchoo
Deputy Dean for International Relations & Networking
Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Orawan Kaewboonchoo is currently the Deputy Dean for International Relations and Networking, at the Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University. She has been working at the Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University since 1989. She received her PhD from Wakayama Medical University Japan. She is the chair of the master of nursing science in occupational health nurse practitioner. Her research areas include occupational and environment health, workplace health promotion, job stress, and psychosocial factors. She was the chair of the international conference organizing committee on Psychosocial Factors at Work: Job Stress Prevention and Work Ability Promotion in 2009.



Chenchira Nathathong
Head, International Relations Office
Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University

Ms. Nathathong is the head of the International Relations Office at the Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University. She has over 13 years of experience managing the international relations office. During her tenure she has coordinated, managed and facilitated international conferences. She has excellent management skills and believes in teamwork, honesty, empathy and facilitating creativity among her team. Ms. Chenchira Nathathong also possesses good leadership skills and holds accountable for the best outcome of any work allotted.



Arthit Phosri
Lecturer, Department of Environmental Health Sciences
Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University

Asst. Prof. Dr. Phosri currently works as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Environmental Health Sciences, Faculty of Public Health at Mahidol University, Thailand. His research expertise mainly focuses on exposure assessment and environmental epidemiology, which is investigating health effects of environmental factors using epidemiological and statistical modeling. He received his Ph.D. in Engineering from the Graduate School of Engineering at Kyoto University, Japan in 2018.



Lalita Kaewwilai
Lecturer, Department of Public Health Nursing
Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University

Dr. Lalita Kaewwilai currently works as a lecturer at Department of Public Health Nursing, Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University, Thailand. She graduated Ph.D. (Nursing) from Faculty of Nursing, University of Alberta, Canada in 2021. She studies the coping strategies of family caregivers of people living with dementia to develop coping intervention as well as improve quality of life. Her research focused on cognitive impairment and neurological diseases in aging, public health policies and nursing leadership, and information and communication technologies to improve health and wellness.



Nitchaphat Khansakorn
Lecturer, Department of Environmental Health Sciences
Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University

Asst. Prof. Dr. Khansakorn currently works as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Environmental Health Sciences, Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University, Thailand. Her research areas include environmental biology, community environmental health assessment, and environmental health behavior. She received her Ph.D. in Tropical Medicine from the Faculty of Graduate Studies, Mahidol University, Thailand in 2010.



Tawach Prechthai
Lecturer, Department of Environmental Health Sciences
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Asst. Prof. Dr. Tawach currently works as an Assistant Professor at Department of Environmental Health Sciences, Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University. He graduated Ph.D. (Environmental engineering and management) from Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Thailand in 2008. His research mainly focuses on municipal solid waste and wastewater management.



Julius Foo
Foreign Expert, International Relations Office,
Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University

Mr. Julius Foo is a foreign expert in the International Relations Unit at Mahidol University, Faculty of Public Health. He is originally from Canada, studying Sociology in his undergrad and receiving his Bachelor of Arts from the University of British Columbia in 2016. Shortly after graduation, he relocated to Thailand and based himself in the rural Northeast region, travelling intermittently to the surrounding Southeast Asian nations. By exposing himself to a variety of cultures, Julius' observations of everyday life in those contexts have broadened his perspective on social interaction, allowing him to bridge gaps in communication as the liaison between institutions.



Parinya Panuwet
Research Assistant Professor, Gangarosa Department of Environmental Health
Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University

Dr. Panuwet's research focuses on implementing a paradigm shift in exposure assessment strategies using the available metabolomic tools and mass spectrometry to enable an accurate measurement of multiple environmentally relevant toxic compounds in humans and the environment. His research also covers biomonitoring, risk assessment, and environmental policy analysis. For the past years, he has contributed to the development and improvement of the analytical capacity for the accurate assessment of human exposures to multiple toxic chemicals in the environments such as phthalates, phenols, pesticides, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon, tobacco-related toxicants, flame retardants (PBDEs, OPFR), per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, and heavy metals.



Noah Scovronick
Assistant Professor, Gangarosa Department of Environmental Health,
Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University

Dr. Scovronick is a public health scientist working on topics related to understanding the links between human health, climate change, and climate policy. He is affiliated with the Climate Futures Initiative and the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs. During his postdoctoral appointment, Noah focused on quantifying and valuing the health benefits of climate change mitigation as part of a broader interdisciplinary research program that uses integrated assessment modeling to explore the economic and climate trajectories of different climate policy approaches. He was educated at Emory University, the University of Cape Town, and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.



Eri Saikawa
Professor, Department of Environmental Sciences, Gangarosa Department of Environmental Health, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University

Dr. Saikawa conducts interdisciplinary research on the environment and has worked on diverse projects that cover: 1) atmospheric chemistry (modeling aerosols and tropospheric ozone); 2) environmental health (assessing the adverse health impacts of air pollution); 3) biogeochemistry (modeling global soil nitrous oxide emissions and quantifying soil GHG/ammonia fluxes); 4) climate science (estimating emissions of non-CO2 greenhouse gases), and 5) environmental policy/politics (analyzing the impacts of environmental standards and trade as well as analyzing policymaking processes). Her main research relates to the source and the magnitude of emissions linked to air pollution, ozone depletion and climate change, as well as the impacts of these emissions on humans and on society. She is also interested in policy measures that are available to reduce these emissions, and how politics play a role in the policymaking process.



Jeremy Sarnat
Associate Professor, Gangarosa Department of Environmental Health,
Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University

Dr. Sarnat's research focuses on characterizing human exposure to urban air pollution. His interest in environmental exposure science is motivated by the many epidemiologic and toxicologic findings linking air pollution to a range of adverse health endpoints. This body of research has established air pollution as a major contributor to the global burden of disease, although substantial questions remain concerning the specific pollutant sources and chemical components of the urban air mixture most responsible for the observed effects. Public health interventions will be of limited effectiveness without an improved understanding of the true causal agents of effect as well as the most significant routes of exposure to these agents. More specifically, his research addresses these issues through investigations of factors affecting exposure to urban air pollution, the impact of measurement error in air pollution exposure studies, confounding in epidemiologic analyses with respect to co-pollutant exposures, and the associations between specific pollutant components and sources and corresponding health responses.

Health and Global Policy Institute (HGPI) is a Tokyo-based independent and non-profit health policy think tank established in 2004. This year HGPI celebrates its 20th anniversary. Since its establishment, HGPI has pursued its mission of “Achieving citizen-centered health policies by bringing broad stakeholders together in its capacity as an independent think-tank to generate policy options for the public.”

HGPI has been working to help citizens shape health policies by generating policy options with the mission to improve the civic mind and individuals’ well-being and to foster a sustainable, healthy community by shaping ideas and values, reaching out to global needs, and catalyzing society for impact. HGPI commits to activities that bring together relevant players in different fields in order to provide innovative and practical solutions and to help interested citizens understand choices and benefits in a global, broader, and long-term perspective.

HGPI was ranked third among global health policy think tanks worldwide



2020 Global GoTo Think Tank Index Report

HGPI composes and publishes reports and policy proposals for each of its projects, making efforts to encourage the implementation of the recommendations contained in those publications through advocacy activities targeting the government and Diet. In addition to cooperating closely with parties relevant to each project from the local and national government, HGPI also functions as a hub that creates links within the community of experts in each field when creating content for Diet member study sessions or when drafting bills.

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Mahidol University is the number one university in Thailand for medical education and the first public health academic institution in Thailand.

Mission:

1. To offer an outcome based public health education through being a health literate faculty.
2. To be visible as a leader in public health education, integrative and innovative research, and professional academic services on the basis of good governance to promote health and longevity and the betterment of mankind.



The Faculty of Public Health at Mahidol University, established in 1948 is the first public health academic institution in Thailand. At present, the Faculty of Public Health produces approximately 1,400 graduates in several majors from the Bachelor, Masters, and Doctoral levels. The Faculty plays an integral role as an academic leader in the Asia-Pacific region, contributing to the development of the country on academic management, training, as well as academic service to Asia-Pacific countries. Since 1976, the Faculty has been running the Master of Public Health - International Program, with over 1250 graduates from 42 different countries.

At present, the Faculty of Public Health has 13 departments: (1) Department of Public Health Nursing, (2) Department of Microbiology, (3) Department of Biostatistics, (4) Department of Public Health Administration, (5) Department of Parasitology and Entomology, (6) Department of Nutrition, (7) Department of Epidemiology, (8) Department of Environmental Health Sciences, (9) Department of Sanitary Engineering, (10) Department of Health Education and Behavioral Sciences, (11) Department of Community Health, (12) Department of Family Health, (13) Department of Occupational Health and Safety.

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About Emory University Rollins School of Public Health

Emory University was founded by the Methodist Episcopal Church in the 1830s in the state of Georgia, with its first classes beginning in 1838. Emory University's mission lies in two essential, interwoven purposes: 1) through teaching to help men and women fully develop their intellectual, aesthetic, and moral capacities, and 2) through the quest for new knowledge and public service to improve human well-being. These purposes rest upon the premise that education is the most powerful social force of our time for enabling and ennobling the individual and that the privilege of education entails an obligation to use knowledge for the common good.



The Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University began in 1990 and today is ranked 3rd among all accredited schools and programs of public health in the United States. There are six academic departments: 1) behavioral, social, and health education sciences; 2) biostatistics and bioinformatics; 3) environmental health; 4) epidemiology; 5) health policy and management; and 6) global health; and hosts over two dozen interdisciplinary centers.

Located in Atlanta, known as the "Public Health Capital of the World," the school draws strength from several unique local resources. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides many of the school's nearly 200 adjunct faculty. The Carter Center is involved in international health intervention programs that provide student practicum opportunities. Students can learn from both in the classroom and as interns in the field. Students join the Rollins community from all 50 states and from more than 40 foreign countries to contribute to the school and apply knowledge to promote health and prevent disease in human populations.

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