



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR
ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE
SOLUTIONS

PMAC 2025 SIDE-MEETING

Bridging Policy and Action – A Post-UNGA One Health Agenda for Antimicrobial Resistance

Summary Brief

Co-organized with:



AMR Multi-Stakeholder
Partnership Platform



Executive Summary

This **Prince Mahidol Award Conference (PMAC) 2025 side-meeting** was organized by the International Centre for Antimicrobial Resistance Solutions (ICARS), the AMR Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform (MSPP), and the International Health Policy Foundation (IHPP Foundation), and brought together experts from across the **Asia-Pacific region** to explore actionable strategies for **translating global AMR commitments into practical, on-the-ground interventions**.

This summary brief delves into the event's key discussions and takeaways, which focused on critical areas such as One Health implementation, multi-stakeholder engagement, financing, capacity strengthening, regional collaboration and equity in AMR mitigation. The insights shared underscored the need for **integrated approaches** and **locally driven solutions**, particularly in a region as diverse and interconnected as Asia and the Pacific.

Moderated by Dr. Benyamin Sihombing, World Health Organization (WHO) Southeast Asia Regional Office (SEARO) and Dr. Usman Zaheer, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP), the discussions were firmly rooted in real-world examples and offered a comprehensive roadmap for **moving from policy and the high-level declarations to tangible actions**.

Background

AMR is a growing threat that has far-reaching implications for global public health, agrifood systems, the environment, and economies, especially the most vulnerable. In 2024, two major high-level meetings—the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) High-Level Meeting on AMR and the 4th Global High-Level Ministerial Conference on AMR—reinforced global commitment to addressing AMR.

The UNGA meeting resulted in a political declaration emphasizing a One Health approach, setting targets such as reducing AMR-related deaths and antibiotic use in the agri-food sector, while the Ministerial Conference focused on implementation strategies and financial commitments.

During the PMAC 2025 side-meeting, speakers shared their experiences across different sectors and countries, reinforcing the urgent need for **coordinated and action-oriented responses to address AMR** and to implement the political declarations, with particular focus on the Asia-Pacific region.

Regional significance

The Asia-Pacific region faces a unique set of challenges when it comes to AMR. High population density, diverse healthcare infrastructures, and widespread antimicrobial use in agriculture, animal production, and human healthcare complicates efforts to mitigate drug resistance. South and Southeast Asia are global hotspots for AMR, where the interconnectedness of countries facilitates the rapid spread of resistant pathogens across borders. This underscores the need for a coordinated regional approach. The event reinforced the idea that addressing AMR requires a **multi-faceted strategy** that is **context-specific** and **responsive** to the challenges faced by the different countries in the region.





One Health Implementation

A central theme of the event was the **practical implementation of the One Health approach**, which brings together human, animal, and environmental health sectors to mitigate AMR.

Dr. Angkana Lekagul, researcher at IHPP Foundation, stressed that while AMR is a shared challenge, countries in the Asia-Pacific region must transition from policy declarations to real-world action. One of the key challenges in implementing One Health approaches is ensuring effective coordination across sectors.

She explained that AMR's complexity requires cross-sectoral collaborations and integrated responses, particularly when translating high-level commitments into actionable strategies at the national level. As she noted, *"AMR is no longer a distant threat but a present-day crisis. To address it, we must ensure that global declarations translate into concrete actions, supported by sustainable financing, robust partnerships, and enhanced national capacities."*

In Thailand, the integration of AMR surveillance across both human and animal health systems serves as an example of One Health implementation. **Prof. Rungtip Chuanchuen**, Academic Professor at Chulalongkorn University, shared how Thailand's national AMR surveillance system has been developed using the One Health approach, where data from human health, veterinary medicine, and environmental sectors are combined to monitor and control antimicrobial use and reduce drug resistance. **Dr. Julaporn Srinha**, Head of the Veterinary Drug and AMR Containment Section at the Thailand Department of Livestock Development, also highlighted Thailand's regulatory framework for controlling AMR in the food and agriculture sectors, underscoring the importance of integrated stewardship practices, such as the regulation of medicated feeds and reducing antimicrobial use in animal farming.



Multi-stakeholder engagement

The event underscored that addressing AMR requires the **engagement of a wide array of stakeholders**, including governments, civil society, academia, and the private sector.

AHM. Bazlur Rahman, Chief Executive Officer of the Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC), focused on the essential role that civil society and media play in advocating for AMR awareness, especially in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs). He explained how grassroots organizations can amplify messages about the importance of AMR prevention and mobilize local communities to take action. In his words, *"Grassroots movements and local media have the power to drive change at the community level—by amplifying the message of AMR prevention, we can foster behavioural change that leads to lasting impact, especially in low-resource settings."*

Dr. Scott Newman, representing the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), stressed that multi-sectoral collaboration is critical for addressing AMR within the food chain. He outlined FAO's five-pillar approach, which includes raising awareness, expanding surveillance, adopting good practices, promoting responsible antimicrobial use, and strengthening governance. His remarks illustrated that effective AMR control can only be achieved when these sectors work together—especially in the interconnected agricultural and health systems of the Asia-Pacific region.

Dr. Tongkorn Meeyam, Executive Director of the Southeast Asia One Health University Network (SEAOHUN), highlighted the importance of academic partnerships in building long-term AMR capacity across Southeast Asia. By fostering collaboration between universities, government agencies, and international organizations, SEAOHUN is playing a pivotal role in strengthening regional AMR responses.

"By empowering the university network, and providing the resources to educate, research, and advocate under the One Health approach, we establish a solid foundation for a sustainable and impactful AMR response," Dr. Meeyam stated, emphasizing the power of education in addressing this complex global challenge.

Sustainable financing

Sustainable financing for AMR responses was another central topic of the event, with speakers highlighting the **need for coordinated, long-term investments to ensure successful outcomes**. H.E. Ambassador Danny Annan, Ambassador of Denmark to Thailand & Cambodia, emphasized that *"sustainable financing is essential to turning AMR commitments into action, particularly in high-burden countries. Denmark is committed to supporting global efforts and partnerships to address AMR. We do this through the establishment and continued funding of ICARS, to help develop practical, context-specific solutions in LMICs."*

On this theme, **Dr. Angkana Lekagul** pointed out the fragmentation of funding for AMR and the lack of coordination among international funders. As she discussed, *"To effectively tackle AMR, we must align funding with national priorities and ensure that resources are not fragmented, but instead directed toward coordinated and sustained efforts."* This fragmentation is a significant barrier for many countries, particularly in Southeast Asia, where AMR is often not a priority in national budgets.

Prof. Rungtip Chuanchuen also highlighted the need for governments to integrate AMR financing into national health budgets and to engage ministries of finance early in the process. She argued that without a strong financial commitment, AMR policies cannot be sustained.

On this subject, **Dr. Soawapak Hinjoy**, Veterinary Officer at the Thailand Department of Disease Control, underscored how aligning funding and resource allocation with national AMR priorities is crucial for effective interventions, especially when it comes to fostering long-term sustainability.

Capacity strengthening and innovation

The event also spotlighted the critical role of **capacity strengthening and innovation** in addressing AMR.

Dr. Phoutsathaphone Sibounheuang, Deputy Head of the Clinical Pharmacy Department at the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Health Science, Lao People's Democratic Republic (LAO PDR), shared insights from LAO PDR's initiative to improve antimicrobial stewardship in private pharmacies. This project highlights the need to strengthen local health systems, especially in countries where private pharmacies are often the first point of contact for patients seeking treatment. She discussed how training pharmacy staff and promoting the certification of Good Pharmacy Practices (GPP) could significantly improve antimicrobial use in community settings. This capacity-strengthening initiative, she noted, is essential for both addressing AMR at the local level and scaling up effective practices nationally.

Dr. Julaporn Srinha also discussed Thailand's efforts to improve AMR management through capacity-strengthening initiatives targeting veterinarians and agricultural professionals. She shared how Thailand's national regulatory systems are supported by training and capacity building, helping to ensure the responsible use of antimicrobials in agriculture. This emphasis on human capital and knowledge transfer is crucial for sustaining AMR control efforts.

Equity

As **H.E. Ambassador Danny Annan** highlighted in his opening remarks, "AMR hits the most where it hurts the most". Speakers emphasized the need to ensure equity in AMR responses, particularly in how interventions are designed and implemented in LMICs.

Dr. Phoutsathaphone Sibounheuang spoke about how integrating gender and equity considerations into AMR interventions is vital for reaching marginalized populations effectively. By understanding the diverse needs of different groups, interventions can be tailored to maximize their impact.

She noted that "*The success of AMR implementation hinges on ensuring that vulnerable communities—often the most affected by resistance—receive targeted, equitable interventions.*"

AHM. Bazlur Rahman also highlighted the importance of inclusivity in AMR policy processes. He pointed out that strengthening collaborations between Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and media will help ensure that local perspectives are considered in the development of global AMR strategies. This inclusivity ensures that solutions are more contextually appropriate and equitable for all regions.

Conclusion

The PMAC 2025 side meeting highlighted the urgent need for tangible actions to address AMR in the Asia-Pacific region. Policy and concrete interventions must go hand in hand. Speakers emphasized the importance of integrating One Health strategies, strengthening multi-stakeholder engagement, securing sustainable financing, strengthening capacity, and ensuring equity in AMR responses. The event reinforced the idea that AMR is a shared global challenge that requires **collective action, innovative solutions, and context-specific strategies** to be successful. By building on these discussions, stakeholders can work together to ensure that the growing threat of AMR is addressed in a sustainable, equitable, and effective manner.

