

**Advancing a Scientific Agenda for Pandemic Risk Assessment
Asia Regional Workshop**

July 15-16, 2026 | Singapore

*Co-convened by the United Nations Foundation and the U.S. National Academy of Medicine, in partnership with Duke-NUS Medical School, and PAX sapiens
Hosted by the Communicable Diseases Agency, Singapore, and Temasek Foundation*

Workshop Purpose

The Asia Regional Workshop will bring together scientific, policy, and institutional partners from across the region and globally to:

- Refine the draft PRA prototype components and methodological foundations emerging from earlier convenings.
- Refine and expand the preliminary research priorities to reflect regional insights and needs.
- Situate the PRA analytical components and potential outputs and reporting structures within regional scientific and policy contexts, identifying practical opportunities and challenges for implementation in Asia and other regions.
- Identify opportunities for sustained regional engagement in a future global PRA platform or scientific network.

Venue

Temasek Shophouse
28 Orchard Road
Singapore 238832

Agenda

Day 1 – July 15, 2026

Pandemic Risk Assessment: What is PRA and what is Feasible to Assess? How Could PRA Be Used to Inform Decisions?

8:30 – 9:00 am	Arrival and Breakfast
9:00 – 9:20 am	Opening Remarks from the Government of Singapore <i>Prof. Derrick Heng, Deputy Director-General of Health, Ministry of Health, Singapore</i> <i>Financing Perspective – TBD</i>
9:20 – 9:25 am	Opening Remarks from Temasek Foundation <i>Dr. Fook Kay Lee, Head, Pandemic Preparedness, Temasek Foundation</i>
9:25-9:35 am	Welcome from the Co-Conveners

	<i>Dr. Cecilia Mundaca Shah, Vice President, Global Health Strategy, United Nations Foundation</i> <i>Prof. Victor Dzau, President, National Academy of Medicine</i>
9:35 – 9:40 am	Remarks from Duke-NUS Medical School <i>Prof. Shee-mei Lok, Interim Vice Dean of Research, Duke-NUS Medical School</i>
9:40 – 10:30 am	Opening Session: Setting the Stage <i>Objective:</i> To provide an overview of the PRA initiative, its policy relevance, and the proposed prototype components that will guide discussions throughout the workshop. <i>Format:</i> Plenary with presentations followed by Q&A Policy Framing <i>Objective:</i> Frame the high-level rationale for policy relevance and geopolitical context, drawing on input from the WHA side event. <i>Speakers:</i> • <i>Dr. Ciro Ugarte, Director, Health Emergencies, PAHO</i> • <i>Ms. Serina Ng, Executive Head, G20 JFHTF</i> Scientific and Technical Framing <i>Objective:</i> Describe the progress-to-date of the PRA initiative. <i>Speakers:</i> • <i>Dr. Ben Oppenheim, Non-Resident Fellow, Berkeley Risk and Security Lab, Non-Resident Fellow, Center for Global Development</i> • <i>Prof. Vijay Dhanasekaran, Professor, School of Public Health & HKU-Pasteur Research Pole, LKS Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong</i>
10:30 – 10:45 am	Break
	Session 1: Exploring What Is Feasible in Pandemic Risk Assessment: Scientific Foundations <i>Overall Objective:</i> Build shared understanding about what is feasible based on the science, following the framing of the emergence cascade.

10:45 am – 12:15 pm	Session 1A: Early Stage Risk <i>Objective:</i> Examine what is feasible to assess in the early stages of pandemic risk — from spillover through early transmission. <i>Format:</i> Paired mini-sessions (global + Asia expert) followed by Q&A <i>Moderator:</i> Prof. Gavin Smith, Director of the Programme in Emerging Infectious Diseases, Duke-NUS Emergence and Spillover <i>Speakers:</i> • Prof. Eddie Holmes, Professor of Virology, University of Sydney • Dr. Cecilia Sanchez, Data Scientist, Yale University Detection, Transmission & Early Spread <i>Speakers:</i> • Prof. Stephanie Seifert, Assistant Professor, Paul G. Allen School for Global Health, Washington State University • Prof. Linfa Wang, Professor of Emerging Infectious Diseases, Duke-NUS Medical School; Executive Director, Programme for Research in Epidemic Preparedness and Response (PREPARE), Singapore
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 – 2:30 pm	Session 1B: Downstream Risk <i>Objective:</i> Examine what is feasible to assess in the downstream phases of pandemic risk (impact and severity) <i>Format:</i> Paired mini-sessions (global + Asia expert) followed by Q&A <i>Moderator:</i> Dr. Ben Oppenheim, Non-Resident Fellow, Berkeley Risk and Security Lab, Non-Resident Fellow, Center for Global Development Estimating Health Impacts and Severity <i>Speakers</i> • Ms. Nita Madhav, Senior Quantitative Epidemiologist & Modeling Expert, Verily

	• <i>Prof. Hannah Clapham, Associate Professor; Director of the Centre for Epidemic Research and Modelling, Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, NUS</i> Estimating Broader Societal Impacts Speakers: • <i>Prof. Dean Jamison, Chair, Lancet Commission on Investing in Health and Professor of Economics, Emeritus, University of California, San Francisco</i> • <i>Prof. Azra Ghani, Professor in Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Imperial College London</i> • <i>Prof. Chansoo Kim, Professor, University of Science and Technology</i>
2:30 – 2:45 pm	Break
2:45 – 3:45 pm	Session 1C: Integration <i>Objective:</i> Explore how different components could be combined into a coherent and comprehensive pandemic risk assessment <i>Format:</i> Lead speaker followed by short respondent reactions and discussion. <i>Moderator:</i> Dr. Louise Gresham, Senior Fellow, Global Health Security, PAX sapiens Speaker: • <i>Prof. Charlie Whittaker, Assistant Professor of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, University of California, Berkeley; Director, Pandemic & Epidemic Threat Analysis Lab (PETAL)</i> Respondents: • <i>Dr. Supaporn Wacharapluesadee, Emerging Infectious Diseases Clinical Center, King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital, Chulalongkorn University</i> • <i>Prof. Jodie McVernon, Professor and Director of Doherty Epidemiology, University of Melbourne</i> • <i>Prof. Hitoshi Oshitani, Professor, Department of Virology of Tohoku University Graduate School of Medicine</i>

3:45 – 4:45 pm	Session 2: Exploring Decision Use and Policy Relevance of Pandemic Risk Assessment <i>Objective:</i> Build shared understanding about what would be useful for policy. <i>Format:</i> Plenary panel: informal remarks followed by ‘interview’ style panel discussion followed by facilitated Q&A <i>Moderator:</i> Dr. Bridget Kelly, Burke-Kelly Consulting <i>Panelists:</i> • Ms. Glaudina Loots, Director for Health Innovation, South Africa Medical Research Council • Dr. Lei Zhou, Senior Researcher, Epidemiologist, Deputy Director, Public Health Emergency Center, Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention • Dr. Sun Kim, Economist, Health, World Bank
4:45-5:00 pm	Day 1 Wrap Up <i>Speakers:</i> • Dr. Ben Oppenheim, Non-Resident Fellow, Berkeley Risk and Security Lab, Non-Resident Fellow, Center for Global Development • Prof. Charlie Whittaker, Assistant Professor of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, University of California, Berkeley; Director, Pandemic & Epidemic Threat Analysis Lab (PETAL)
5:00 – 6:15 pm	Reception
6:30 – 8:30 pm	Dinner Duomo Ristorante (30 Victoria St, #01-32 CHIJMES, Singapore 187996)

Day 2 – July 16, 2026

Pandemic Risk Assessment: How can we move forward?

8:35 – 9:05 am	Arrival and Breakfast	
9:05 – 9:15 am	Opening Reflections Prof. Vernon Lee, CEO, Communicable Diseases Agency, Singapore	
9:15 – 9:30 am	Framing for Day 2 <i>Speaker: Dr. Bridget Kelly, Burke-Kelly Consulting</i>	
9:30 – 10:45 am	Session 3: Reflections and Alignment <i>Objective:</i> Reflect on the shared understanding that is emerging across technical and policy expertise and highlight needs and opportunities for alignment of science and use in pandemic risk assessment. <i>Format:</i> Plenary panel: informal remarks followed by facilitated input from participants <i>Moderator:</i> Dr. Bridget Kelly, Burke-Kelly Consulting <i>Speakers:</i> • <i>Dr. Russ Li, Assistant Director, National Center for Infectious Diseases, Singapore</i> • <i>Dr. Gina Samaan, Regional Emergencies Director, WHO Western Pacific Region</i> • <i>Dr. Bruce Aylward, Head of Secretariat, Global Preparedness Monitoring Board, WHO</i>	
10:45 – 11:00 am	Break	
11:00 – 12:30 pm	Session 4: Regional Workshopping of Opportunities and Challenges <i>Objective:</i> Use Asia regional context to explore in more depth what proposed components of pandemic risk assessment are feasible and how they could inform real-world decision-making by policymakers, funders, and institutions. <i>Format:</i> Structured activities in smaller group breakouts	
	Technical Track	Policy Track Explore in more depth how proposed components of

	Examine in more depth the key components of pandemic risk assessment.	pandemic risk assessment could be used to inform decisions.
12:30– 1:30 pm	Lunch	
1:30 – 2:45 pm	Session 4: Exchange Objective: To share insights from the technical and policy tracks <i>Format:</i> Discussion in plenary. <i>Facilitator:</i> Dr. Bridget Kelly, Burke-Kelly Consulting	
2:45 – 3:00 pm	Break	
3:00 – 3:30	Session 5: Reflecting Back on the PRA Prototype Objective: Refine the PRA prototype based on workshop insights <i>Format:</i> Informal remarks followed by time to collect additional insights and suggestions from participants <i>Speaker:</i> Dr. Ben Oppenheim, Non-Resident Fellow, Center for Global Development	
3:30 – 4:45 pm	Session 6: Pathways for Continued Engagement Objective: Identify next steps for advancing PRA and opportunities for continued regional engagement <i>Format:</i> Plenary panel: informal remarks followed by discussion <i>Moderator:</i> Prof. Paul Pronyk, Director, Duke-NUS Centre for Outbreak Preparedness <i>Speakers:</i> • Prof. Helena Legido-Quigley, Chair in Health Systems Science, Imperial College and Chair of the NUS-Lancet PRIME Commission • Prof. Bach Tran, Professor and Dean, Faculty of Public Health, Vietnam National University • Prof. Li Yang Hsu, Director, Asia Center for Health Security	
4:45 – 5:00 pm	Closing Session: Reflections and Next Steps	

	<i>Prof. Victor Dzau, President, National Academy of Medicine</i> <i>Dr. Cecilia Mundaca Shah, Vice President, Global Health Strategy,</i> <i>United Nations Foundation</i>
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