**Background and Objective:** According to the World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General’s 2018 Report on Addressing of, and Access to, Medicines and Vaccines (A71/12 of 18 March 2018), access to safe, effective, quality and affordable medicines and vaccines is an essential element of universal health coverage (UHC), and is an integral part of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 concerning Good Health and Well Being. This report highlights, *inter alia*, that local production of medicines and vaccines has become one means by which some developing countries are attempting to achieve greater access and health security. One of the recommendations emanating from the report is that increasing local production to improve access to medicines requires the alignment of countries’ development agendas with health plans and an understanding of the conditions under which such local production could lead to improved access (para. 45).

While China and India have become large-scale global manufacturers of medicines, regionally, several countries in South and Southeast Asia have also established robust local pharmaceutical manufacturers that contribute to meeting domestic health needs (UNCTAD, 2011). Manufacturers in Indonesia, Viet Nam, Thailand, Bangladesh, and the Philippines, for example, supply many of the generic pharmaceuticals on their respective essential medicines lists to the local population. While some firms from these countries have been quite successful at manufacturing relatively simple generic medicaments, there is a clear need to upgrade their capacities to fully meet the goal of universal access, as envisaged under SDG 3 and the ADB Strategy 2030’s Priority on Addressing Remaining Poverty and Reducing Inequalities. The purpose of this workshop is to equip government decision-makers with an understanding of coherent policies that underpin investment and technology transfer to upgrade domestic pharmaceutical manufacturers in the sub-region, in line with both national and regional public health priorities.

**Target Audience:** Government officials from sub-region, especially Ministries of Health/Drug Regulatory Authorities, Investment Promotion Agencies, Science and Technology Ministries and, where appropriate, state-owned pharmaceutical manufacturers from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam.
DAY 1
Tuesday, 2 April 2019

0900-0930 Registration of Participants

0930-0945 Welcoming Remarks
Dr. Chutima Akaleephan, International Health Policy Programme (IHPP) Ministry of Public Health, Thailand
Ms. Pitchaya Sirivunnabood, Economist, Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI)
Mr. Kiyoshi Adachi, Legal Officer, Intellectual Property Unit, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

0945-0955 Group Photo

The initial sessions on Day 1 will be dedicated to underlining the link between access to medicines and universal health coverage (UHC).

0955-1030 Introduction to the Workshop and an Overview of the Pharmaceutical Sector in Southeast Asian Countries
Speaker: Mr. Kiyoshi Adachi, UNCTAD

1030-1100 Coffee Break

1100-1145 Financing Universal Health Coverage and Access to Medicines
Speaker: Dr. Eduardo P. Banzon, Principal Health Specialist, Asian Development Bank (ADB)

1145-1230 Universal Health Coverage and the Local Production of Medicines and Vaccines: The Case of Thailand
Speaker: Dr. Chutima Akaleephan, IHPP

1230-1300 Questions, Comments and Free Discussion

1300-1400 Lunch

The following sessions will be dedicated to ascertaining the level of pharmaceutical manufacturers in the sub-region, focusing on the major manufacturing countries, including the extent to which they in-license and their needs for investment and technology transfer, as well as the extent to which they export to other countries. This will be followed by lectures on the tools to encourage investment in the pharmaceutical sector, including incentives, infrastructure, laws/regulations and coherence of policies across sectors. Attention will also be paid to the unique role played by state-invested manufacturers in some of the sub-region’s countries.

1400-1530 The Role of Emerging Local Pharmaceutical Manufacturers in
Participating Countries (15 min. per country)
Facilitator: Ms. Pitchaya Sirivunnabood, ADBI
- Bangladesh
- Indonesia
- Philippines
- Thailand
- Viet Nam

1530-1600 Coffee Break

1600-1700 Policies and Incentives to Improve UHC through Investment in Local Pharmaceutical Manufacturing
Speaker: Mr. Kiyoshi Adachi, UNCTAD

DAY 2
Wednesday, 3 April 2019

0900-0915 Registration/Announcements

0915-1000 The Investor’s Perspective: Building Long Term Partnerships with Local Pharmaceutical Manufacturers in Southeast Asia
Speakers: Mr. Tomoyuki Otsuka, Takeda Pharmaceuticals (Tokyo, Japan)
  Mr. Kei Katsuno, Global Health Innovative Technology Fund (GHIT Fund) (Tokyo, Japan)

1000-1045 Strategies and Experiences of Asian Firms in Technology Upgrading
Speaker: Prof. Patarapong Intarakumnerd, Professor, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) (Tokyo, Japan)

1045-1115 Coffee Break

1115-1215 The Role of Technology Transfer in the Pharmaceutical Sector on Access to Medicines and the Improvement of UHC in Asia
Speaker: Mr. Rabbur Reza, Chief Operating Officer, Beximco (Dhaka, Bangladesh)

1215-1300 Floor Discussion on the Role of Non-Equity Investment in Asian Countries
Facilitator: Mr. Kiyoshi Adachi, UNCTAD

1300-1400 Lunch Break

The following sessions will examine key flanking policies to support increased investment and technology transfer for local production of medicines and vaccines, i.e., the potential role of
science, technology, and innovation policies on coordinating investment and technology transfer in the pharmaceutical sector to meet public health needs as well as to achieve the goals of UHC. In addition, the importance of quality standards to upgrade local manufacturing capacity will be examined. Additionally, the role of procurement policies that will enable non-manufacturing countries in the sub-region to reap benefit from upgraded local manufacturing capacities will be explored.

1400-1445 Science, Technology and Innovation Policy for Firm’s Upgrading: Lessons for Local Pharmaceutical Industry  
Speaker: Prof. Patarapong Intarakumnerd, GRIPS

1445-1530 The Relevance of Medicines Procurement Policies to Benefit from Scaling up of Regional Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Capacities and Improving Universal Health Coverage (UHC)  
Speaker: Ms. Cecilia Oh, UNDP Thailand

1530-1600 Coffee Break

1600-1645 The Role of Quality Standards and Drug Regulatory Authorities in Upgrading Local Manufacturing Capacities  
Speaker: Dr. Jicui Dong, Programme Manager (Local Production), Essential Medicines and Health Products (EMP), World Health Organization (WHO) -- via Skype (Geneva, Switzerland)  
Mr. Kriangkrai Kaewchaiyaphum, GMP Inspector, FDA Thailand  
Mr. Rachod Thakolsri, Managing Director, Biolab, Co.Ltd. (Bangkok, Thailand)

1645-1700 Policy Wrap-Up Session  
Facilitators: Mr. Kiyoshi Adachi and Ms. Pitchaya Sirivunnabood

1700-1730 Closing Remarks, Workshop Evaluation and Certificates of Completion