



**“Comparing Health Systems in Southeast Asia with
a Special Focus on Healthcare Inequities”**

by

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Date : 13 January 2020 (Monday)
Time : 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Venue : Room S1A/1B, HK Jockey Club Building for Interdisciplinary Research, 5
Sassoon Road

Abstract:

In South-East Asia, some countries face extreme poverty as well as carry a significant proportion of the global disease burden. Currently, remarkable economic transformations and equally rapid epidemiological transitions are seen across the region. These rapid changes bring enormous policy challenges on how to distribute available healthcare resources effectively and equitably based on specific needs. According to the WHO, health inequities can be defined as systematic differences in the health status of different population groups. The words inequality and inequity differ significantly. Inequity can be defined as the avoidable unfairness of resource distribution due to poor policies, corruption or mismanagement while inequality simply refers to the uneven distribution of health resources. This study will briefly compare health outcomes and health systems focusing on healthcare inequity across the region using qualitative and quantitative data retrieved from global databases (such as World Bank) as well as from the scientific literature to give a better understanding of complex health systems in the region. Myanmar will be presented as a case where health and healthcare disparities are prevalent along with its strategies towards reducing health inequities.

Bio-sketch:

Dr. Phyu Phyu Thin Zaw is currently a Visiting Professor at the Chiang Mai University's School of Public Policy (CMU-SPP), Thailand. She is a physician Epidemiologist who is academically trained and operationally grounded in sexual and reproductive health, infectious diseases, healthcare financing, Asia health policy, public policy, Epidemiology and Medicine. She got her MBBS degree from University of Medicine, Mandalay, Myanmar, her MPP from Blavatnik School of Government, Oxford University, UK and her PhD in Epidemiology from Prince of Songkla University, Thailand. She was also a WHO/HRP Career Development Fellow at the Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center (Shorenstein APARC), Stanford, USA where she conducted a research focusing on health system transformation in Myanmar in comparison with other health systems in Southeast Asia.