

**ARE HEALTH SYSTEMS READY?  
PREPARING FOR HEALTHY AGING ACROSS APEC**

Luncheon hosted by the Global Coalition on Aging

August 3, 2023  
12:10 pm – 13:20 pm PDT

Seattle Convention Center, Summit Room 323-325

The world is aging. APEC economies are now home to an estimated 377 million people over the age of 65 – over half of the global population of this age group. This population, and the proportion living in APEC economies, is expected to only increase further over time. As this happens, success in health and development goals will become more and more dependent on meeting the needs of older adults and the effectiveness of health systems in keeping this population healthier for longer.

The APEC Health Working Group has a long history of engagement with aging issues, covering the topic of healthy aging most recently in a 2017 AMM Joint Ministerial Statement and a 2019 HWG and Life Science Innovation Forum call to action. These milestones led to the inclusion of healthy aging in the Health Working Group Strategic Plan 2021-2025, which calls for a coordinated regional approach toward a number of objectives, such as “supporting healthy populations across the life-course, including the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, including mental health, and promoting healthy aging.”

At this lunch, Global Coalition on Aging aims to help facilitate regional coordination and knowledge sharing by inviting representatives of APEC member economies to consider best practices to ensure health system readiness for aging. Specifically, this event will discuss ways that member economies are strengthening their health systems by advancing prevention, early detection, and diagnosis strategies, expanding the role of community health workers in primary health, and using new innovations to mitigate the impact of common health issues among older adults – issues such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, cancer, and Alzheimer’s disease, in addition to other prevention methods, like immunization. This lunch will be an opportunity for APEC economies to learn from each other and develop shared approaches to the promotion of healthy aging. Key questions for participants to consider include:

- How have APEC economies overcome policy barriers to unlock the potential of older adults and protect their health?
- What are the key drivers of healthy aging within APEC? What are the economic implications/benefits?
- How can APEC economies support caregivers?
- What is the role of the private sector and public-private partnerships to support healthy aging?
- What is the role of community health workers in alleviating pressures on healthcare systems?

## AGENDA

- I. **Welcome and Introductions (5 mins)**  
**Melissa Gong Mitchell**, Executive Director, Global Coalition on Aging

- II. **Moderated Discussion (60 mins)**

GCOA will lead a discussion featuring emerging practices to address healthy aging and as a result, reduce burdens on health systems. In doing so, we aim to highlight creative partnerships, policy advancements, and new approaches to health and healthcare. We will explore three areas in which preparations for healthy aging are happening and will be led in the discussions by “thought starters” from across APEC member economies and private-sector leaders. Each thought starter will offer 2~3 minutes of remarks, followed by moderated discussion.

**a. Utilizing early detection and diagnosis to keep populations healthy**

*What lessons can be learned from multistakeholder alliances and partnerships that target early detection, diagnosis and prevention?*

**Greg Daniel**, Vice President & Head of Global Public Policy, Eli Lilly and Company (collaborative efforts in Alzheimer’s)

**Ryan MacFarlane**, Director, C&M International (lessons in prevention from adult vaccination strategies)

**Dr Daping Song**, Researcher, China National Health Development Research Center (perspectives from China on chronic disease prevention and treatment)

**b. The role of communities in enhancing healthy aging**

*Increasingly communities are becoming central sources of information and services for healthy aging. From Age-friendly Cities and Communities to programs focused on specific disease states, how is community health helping to alleviate pressures on healthcare systems?*

**Dr Derrick Heng**, Deputy Director General of Health (Public Health Group), Ministry of Health, Singapore (the role of communities in Singapore’s approach to aging)

**David Dickinson**, Regional Director, Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Department of Health and Human Services, United States (connecting rural aging populations through community health and digital interventions)

**Dr Narong Aphikulvanich**, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Health of Thailand (addressing health in communities for healthy aging in Thailand)

**c. Innovation for key health challenges**

*Innovation can be defined by new therapeutics, new technologies or new processes/ systems, enabled by policy changes and creative collaborations. What are the enablers of these various types of innovation and how can they be scaled?*

**Tetsuya Itani**, Director, Office of Global Health Cooperation, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Japan (medical innovations for healthy aging)

**Jasper MacSparrow**, International Government Affairs, Amgen (policy change for better, more coordinated and integrated care – case studies in bone health and CVD)

**Erika Elvander**, Health Attaché, Department of Health and Human Services, United States (integrated approaches to health and caregiving for aging populations)

- III. **Concluding Remarks (5 mins)**  
**Melissa Gong Mitchell**