



PANDASIA PRESS RELEASE

August 12, 2025

www.pandasia-project.com

EU Conference Highlights Importance of PANDASIA Research for Future Pandemic Preparedness

Bangkok, 12 August 2025 – The recent European Union-supported conference held at the Queen's Circuit National Convention Centre highlighted the pivotal role of the PANDASIA project in enhancing pandemic preparedness and response across Southeast Asia. PANDASIA stands for Pandemic literacy and viral zoonotic spillover risk at the frontline of disease emergence in Southeast Asia to improve pandemic preparedness. The event was jointly initiated by the Delegation of the European Union (EU) in Thailand and the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation (MHESI) as part of Science Fair 2025.

Opening the conference, His Excellency David Daly, Ambassador of the European Union to Thailand, underscored the importance of international cooperation, sustainable investment, and people-focused research in meeting global health challenges. "We need to show how research can improve our lives and help save our planet," Ambassador Daly stated. "Through the EU's Global Gateway strategy, we are investing not just in infrastructure, but in people – mobilizing €300 billion by 2027 to support education, innovation, and sustainable development in partnership with countries like Thailand."

Ambassador Daly also emphasized that research, education, and innovation are at the heart of the EU's Global Gateway initiative, alongside fostering talent mobility through Erasmus+, strengthening collaborative research under Horizon Europe, and promoting space-enabled technologies for climate action, environmental protection, and sustainable agriculture. He also reaffirmed the EU's strong partnership with ASEAN in science, technology, and innovation.

The conference gathered researchers, policymakers, community leaders, and private sector representatives to discuss strategies for preventing future pandemics. The PANDASIA project, supported by Horizon Europe with a budget of €3.5 million over five years, aims to improve the capacity of communities in Thailand and neighboring countries to detect, respond to, and prevent pandemic threats.

Through its transdisciplinary approach, PANDASIA unites universities, research institutions, and community organizations across Europe and Southeast Asia. Its nine work packages address community health, data collection, intervention methodologies, and public engagement.

Dr. Boripat Siriaroonrat, a key PANDASIA leader, outlined the project's integrated approach to equipping national decision-makers with tools and data for effective pandemic responses. **Dr. Kanokwan Suwannarong** and **Dr. Cecile Lantican**, who have led the project's communication and dissemination efforts, presented PANDASIA's key achievements and upcoming goals, highlighting the importance of community co-design in pandemic prevention strategies. Dr. Lantican also discussed the challenges of implementing the project across countries with varied institutional capacities, stressing the need for clear and consistent communication between diverse stakeholders.

In his presentation on the PANDASIA Project, Dr. Boripat Siriaroonrat from Mahidol University emphasized the importance of building human and community capacity in addressing global health threats. According to him, the PANDASIA project was designed as a response to lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic. "The PANDASIA project aims to improve preparedness and response capabilities for future pandemics, drawing lessons from events like COVID-19," explained Dr. Boripat.

Meanwhile, Dr. Kanokwan Suwannarong from SUPA71 reaffirmed PANDASIA's commitment not only to producing research but also to strengthening literacy and community capacity in facing pandemic risks. Going forward, PANDASIA is expected to align its research outcomes with national and regional policies so that the benefits can be widely felt across Southeast Asia. "PANDASIA's involvement in sessions focusing on health-related projects underscores the project's commitment to addressing pandemic risks through collaborative research efforts," said Dr. Kanokwan.

However, the PANDASIA project has not always run smoothly along the way. A number of technical, institutional, and even geopolitical obstacles have posed challenges for the multinational consortium focusing on strengthening prevention literacy and pandemic preparedness in Southeast Asia. Dr. Cecile M. Lantican from SUPA71 Co., Ltd stressed that adapting to field realities is crucial for the program's effectiveness and sustainability. Several challenges must be navigated, ranging from limited funding support, which could hinder implementation in its final stages, to regional geopolitical dynamics that also pose difficulties. "Payment modalities created implementation challenges. The current tension at the border of Chanthaburi and Cambodia has affected research activities in nearby villages," added Dr. Lantican.

As PANDASIA enters its third year, it continues to strengthen partnerships that enhance regional health security and resilience. Insights from the conference will help shape the EU's ongoing collaboration with Thailand and other ASEAN countries, ensuring that research, education, and innovation will benefit humanity.

For more information

Visit www.pandasia-project.com

or contact pandasia@supa71.com

Follow PANDASIA's social media accounts:



@pandasia-project



@PANDASIA_EU



[in/pandasia-project-b2510627a](https://in.pandasia-project-b2510627a)



www.pandasia-project.com



Norwegian University
of Life Sciences



UNIVERSITÄTS
KLINIKUM
HEIDELBERG



Veterinærinstituttet
Norwegian Veterinary Institute



มหาวิทยาลัยขอนแก่น
KHON KAEN UNIVERSITY



Mahidol University
Wisdom of the Land

