

Mekong-U.S. Partnership
Pathfinder Health
Participant and Panelist Bios 2021

Elizabeth Evans

Elizabeth Evans is a career Foreign Service Officer covering the Mekong-U.S. Partnership within the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs. She has previously served in Taipei, Seoul, and Auckland covering environment, science, technology, and health issues. Before becoming a diplomat, Elizabeth taught International Relations at the University of Washington where she earned master's degrees in South Asian Studies and Public Policy with a focus on International Development. After earning a bachelor's degree from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service in Washington, DC she served as a human rights lobbyist, an educator, a journalist, and an Army Civilian in Seattle, North Carolina, India, and Argentina.



Clara Davis

Dr. Clara Davis is a Foreign Affairs Officer in the State Department's Office of International Health and Biodefense, where she covers antimicrobial resistance and global health security issues. She joined the office in January 2020, after serving as the Science and Technology Advisor to USAID/Indonesia, managing programs in Indonesia to build capacity in science and health. Prior to her work at USAID, she worked at the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Davis entered the U.S. Government as a Science & Technology Policy Fellow with the American Association for the Advancement of Science, serving at the Department of State, Bureau of Democracy Human Rights and Labor. Prior to joining the U.S. Government, she worked in biomedical research at the intersection of ecology, evolution, microbiology and human health, and was a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology of the Stanford School of Medicine.

She received her PhD in Biological Sciences from Stanford University, conducting dissertation research focusing on the evolution of antimicrobial resistance, and received her Master's degree from University of California, San Diego.



Phouvong Phommachanh, Lao PDR

*Director of National Animal Health Laboratory, Department of Livestock and Fisheries,
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry*

I have been working in the field of Transboundary Animal Diseases, Zoonotic Diseases and AMR surveillance and Diagnosis since 2003. I received the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) from Khonkaen University in Thailand in 1999. After veterinary school, I started my job as laboratory technician in charge of Rabies Diagnosis at the National Animal Health Laboratory. In 2004, the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A H5N1 outbreak occurred in Lao PDR, I was assigned to be the head of Avian Influenza Diagnostic group and at the same time I had been nominated to work as National Consultant on Avian Influenza Surveillance and Diagnosis of the project “Immediate Technical Assistance to Strengthening the Capacity for Avian Influenza Prevention and Control” supported by Food and Agriculture Organization, the United Nations until 2013. In 2014, I was promoted to be Deputy Director of National Animal Health Laboratory.

During my career, I have been working with many collaborative projects, especially assisted in conducting researches with St. Jude Children Research Hospital, Avian Influenza Full Genome Sequencing of all the isolates in Lao PDR under the USCDC support, Integrated H5N1 and N7N9 and other Zoonotic Avian Influenza Surveillance under FAO support, H7N9 cross border surveillance in the most high risk areas in Lao PDR under the USCDC support and synchronized surveillance at the human-animal-environment interface area under FAO support. And under the Fleming Fund support through FAO, conducting the National AMR Surveillance across the high risk provinces of Lao PDR.



Lucas Chastand, Cambodia

Resource Mobilization and Donor Relations Manager for SEAOHUN (Southeast One Health University Network)

My experience is mostly in fundraising and I have been working for 3 years in Southeast Asia. before this, I was working in Africa. SEAOHUN area of expertise is One Health Capacity Building. The organization could be interested in training students and professionals on this area. SEAOHUN's area of expertise is One Health Capacity Building. The organization could be interested in training students and professionals on this area.

**Dr. Vipat Kuruchittham, Thailand**

Executive Director of Southeast Asia One Health University Network (SEAOHUN)

SEAOHUN is a regional One Health network of 92 universities in 8 Southeast Asian countries, working to develop a resilient and competent One Health workforce by leveraging education, research, and training. Before leading the network, Dr. Kuruchittham worked to improve population health and higher education at U.S. CDC, UNDP, Malaria Consortium, SEAMEO Regional Center for Higher Education, and Chulalongkorn University. He holds a Ph.D. in Health Systems Engineering with a minor in public health and MSIE in Decision Science and Operations Research from the University of Wisconsin – Madison.

Sonskuln Thaomohr, Thailand

I am a policy maker working on integrating technological solution to tackling public issues. Since my training at USC and working at UC Davis, I have been involved with several projects such as the use of GIS data for creating farmer's alternative credit score and JAXA's satellite system/ AI utilization in optimization of BKK traffic. All experiences shape my focus to the scope of system operation flow design, multi-sectorial coordination design, technology adoption management plan and technology commercialization.

This time, I join Jitasa.care team on the task of operation flow design and system integration. By enhancing the team with an ability to scale-up the operation in helping COVID19 patients, I have seen opportunity of further extension in the usage of the platform as an operation map of disease control or natural disaster management. The Pathfinder program would help fulfill the need of expertise and resources in achieving our goal.



Dr. Punyapat Maprapho, Thailand

I am a doctor with a background in big data analysis during my research fellow year at Harvard Medical School. I am now working as a general physician at Banpaew General Hospital, Samut Sakorn (2nd red zone province of Thailand). I have been working in a field hospital, and emergency department crowded with COVID-patients since the 2nd surge of COVID-19 in Thailand. During the time of crisis, I got a chance to participate in "Jitasa.care" team as the team asked me about a user experience. I share a medical personnel perspective in developing a scale-up phase of Jitasa.care website. Pathfinder Program fascinated us for what we are trying to achieve and I can dedicate my expertise to help and sustain the project of our team in the long run.

**Wasanchai Vongsantivanich, Thailand**

Head of Strategic and Operations Aerospace Research Center (SOAR) under Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency (GISTDA), Thailand

He has initiated and currently in charge of several national and international space projects, mainly on space operations and space applications. He is also actively working in Thailand airspace policy committee as well as national SSA-STM policy committee. He had obtained IAF Emerging Space Leaders Award in 2018. Wasanchai graduated from Kasetsart University with a Bachelor of Engineering in Aerospace Engineering and obtained a Master's degree in Aerospace Mechanics and Avionics from French ISAE SUPAERO (Institut supérieur de l'aéronautique et de l'espace), Toulouse.

Currently Wasanchai is the head of the volunteer developers team for www.jitasa.care, a map-based platform to help coordinate and tackle with COVID-19 in Thailand. Since the platform was opened to public on 19th July 2021, there are already more than 10,000 requests for medical help for COVID pandemic coordinated through this platform and 80% of the cases had got supported by registered volunteers and public health service.

With Pathfinder program, our team aims to put forward our work and try to improve this platform to be ready as a tool to track any contagious disease or pandemic outbreak in the future.



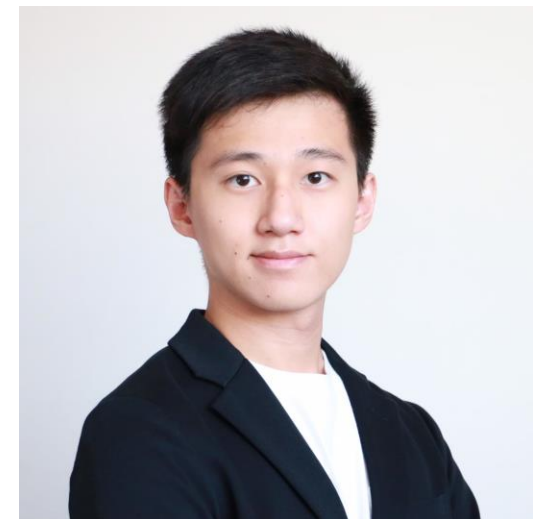
Prof. Dr. Siwatt Pongpiachan, Thailand

Director of NIDA Center for Research & Development of Disaster Prevention & Management

Prof. Dr. Siwatt Pongpiachan is an expert in Environment who has been admired in his excellence by the world class institutes, and has been honored to be an International Scientific Advisory Committee on Air Pollution Conference, Wessex Institute of Technology (WIT), United Kingdom altogether with an International Scientific Advisory Committee in Climate Change at OMICS Group, United States of America (USA). He also has been honored to be a Researcher at Institute of Earth Environment, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Xi'an, China. He is also a National Project Manager of Demonstration of BAT/BEP in Fossil Fuel Fired Utility and Industrial Boiler in Response to the Stockholm Convention on POPs in Thailand, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). In addition, he is a Director of NIDA Center for Research & Development of Disaster Prevention & Management. He has been graciously appointed to be a Professor of School of Social and Environmental Development (NIDA).

Napas Pasurapunya, Thailand

I am an aerospace engineer/researcher based in Thailand. During this special time of global COVID-19 pandemic, I am a part of jitasa.care development team. We decided to use our expertise to adapt and create a platform that may help others to fight the virus together. In short, the platform is developed to provide a channel for COVID patients to call for help and shows directly to any volunteer who registered on the platform.



N.M. Quang, Vietnam

Geopolitics lecturer at Can Tho University and co-founder of Mekong Environment Forum (MEF)

Nguyen Minh Quang's research interests include conflict management (South China Sea disputes), environmental security issues in the Lower Mekong Subregion, Vietnam politics and Education for Sustainability. He has (co-)authored a number of book chapters and articles published by Springer, Routledge, and ISI/Scopus-indexed journals. Quang is also contributing to The Diplomat and East Asia Forum. A scholar-practitioner of interdisciplinary studies, Quang is keen to combine his intellectual capacity with his desire to serve for his sustained goal of advancing environmental justice and security, grassroots climate action, and democracy in science in the Lower Mekong Delta.

As managing director of MEF, Quang has intensively with his multidisciplinary team and numerous foreign partner organizations and think tanks to develop and implement a number of projects in the Mekong Delta over the last four years. MEF's current priority areas of focus include grassroots circular climate-resilient action, water resource management, and environmental security (waterborne diseases).





Dr. Khamlub Senbounsou, Lao PDR

I am a Medical Doctor with a Master in Public Health, and I am the assistant of Prof. Mayfong Mayxay, Vice president of University of Health Sciences. He is specialist in infection disease, a teacher and also well-known researcher in Laos. We are interested in the Pathfinder Program to find some fund for research in Laos.

Sasiprapa Ninwattana, Thailand

Research Assistant, Emerging Infectious Diseases Clinic Centre (EID-CC), King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital

Sasiprapa is a research assistant at Emerging Infectious Diseases Clinic Centre (EID-CC) where she efficiently coordinates with international grant providers including EcoHealth Alliance (EHA) and World Health Organization (WHO) to ensure that projects run smoothly. Sasiprapa is also one of the key persons who are responsible for a five-year project titled “Understanding Risk of Zoonotic Virus Emergence in EID Hotspots of Southeast Asia”, funded by EHA, USA. This project aims to study the risk of spillover of high zoonotic potential viruses through conducting surveillances in wildlife, human communities, and hospital cohorts in anticipation of building an early warning system to safeguard against pandemic disease threats in Southeast Asia. Sasiprapa is always eager to participate in field research including bats sampling. Since her bachelor’s degree in Biological Sciences at Imperial College London, United Kingdom, she has become interested in emerging infectious diseases caused by zoonotic viruses and keen on understanding the interactions between the environment, wildlife, and humans to prevent viral spillover and future zoonotic disease outbreaks. By participating in the Pathfinder Program, she believes that this will be a great opportunity and a crucial step to pursue her goal.



Panelist Bios

Pawan Gupta, NASA (Air Quality Explorer Tool)

Dr. Gupta is currently a senior scientist – earth sciences in the Science and Technology Institute (STI), USRA at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center. His main research expertise is in the remote sensing of atmospheric aerosols including, algorithm development, validation and application to climate change and air quality monitoring, forecasting. He has also published more than fifty peer reviewed research studies focusing on air quality in growing mega cities, spatial and temporal trends in aerosols over urban regions, radiative effects of aerosols, development of statistical and machine learning models to estimate surface level PM air quality, aerosols and clouds data validation, aerosol retrievals and satellite aerosol data fusion for air quality and climate change research. He is currently a member of NASA's MODIS and VIIRS science team, NASA's citizen science team, Making Earth System Data Records for Use in Research Environments (MEaSUREs) team and HAQAST. More recently, he is also leading effort to apply dark target aerosol algorithm on Geostationary sensors includes GOES-R, S and Himawari-8 and GEO & LEO data fusion to achieve global diurnal cycle. Currently, he is leading an effort to bring satellite data into EPA's air quality monitoring system. Dr. Gupta is also lead of the NASA's ARSET air quality team and contribute to capacity building activities for the NASA Applied Sciences Program. In the past, he served as the portfolio manager for SERVIR's Applied Science Team (AST).



Matthew Andersen, USGS (NexView Tool)

Since April 2015 Andersen has been the Senior Scientist for Biology in the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Director's Office of International Programs (OIP), the first person to hold this position. He supports USGS scientists interested in working overseas and identifies international needs for USGS technical assistance. He is an ichthyologist and aquatic ecologist by training, with biology degrees from California State University Sonoma (With Distinction) and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He is certified as a Fisheries Professional by the American Fisheries Society. He is the first or second author on a dozen peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters, most recently a book chapter reviewing the responses of desert fishes to legal protections, especially the U.S. Endangered Species Act. He assembled an early review of the response of coastal Louisiana habitats to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill of 2010. He served as the Program Coordinator for Native Aquatic Species for the State of Utah before joining USGS. With USGS he has served as the Biology Program Manager at the Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center in Arizona and as the Deputy Director of the National Wetlands Research Center in Louisiana. He has administered increasingly larger science programs for USGS, including the \$10 million Hurricane Sandy Ecosystems supplemental appropriation research program which reviewed the response of biota to the superstorm and the \$65 million USGS Environments program. He has developed and leads a multidisciplinary decision support program for natural resource management in the Lower Mekong River region of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam for fiscal years 2020-22 funded by the US State Department. He is coordinating the efforts of USGS and the geological ministries of Australia, France, and New Zealand to more closely coordinate applied research on Pacific Islands. He has led development of research projects in Peru, most recently facilitating a two-day workshop with the US State Department and the Peruvian Amazon Research Institute (IIAP) in 2018. He supports USGS scientists who participate in the Amazon Dams Network, a network of American and Brazilian scientists investigating impacts of water use on Brazilian communities. He is currently responding to requests for proposals from the US State Department in Central Asia and Southern Africa. His service to USGS includes facilitating leadership programs and serving as a volunteer mentor.



Charlene Jackson, USDA (MinION)

Dr. Jackson received her Ph.D. in Microbiology from the University of Georgia, Athens, GA in 1998. She joined the Bacterial Epidemiology and Antimicrobial Resistance Research Unit in the United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service in 2000 as a Research Microbiologist and has served as project Lead Scientist since 2005. Her primary studies focus on the role of Enterococcus and other commensal bacteria as resistance gene traffickers in poultry production. Her research has resulted in development of molecular methods for detecting mechanisms of antimicrobial resistance and molecular typing of foodborne pathogens and commensals. She has conducted national collaborative research with the animal arm of the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System program serving as lead for molecular analysis of Enterococcus and the USDA VetNet program as technical coordinator. She has led and participated in international collaborations on antimicrobial resistance and genomic analysis of Enterococcus from poultry sources with Canada and Escherichia coli from food animals and humans from Nigeria, Egypt, and Japan. Her collaborative studies on methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus from eggs and the poultry environment of Pakistan has led to her participation in a global partnership with researchers from Pakistan, Australia, and Germany applying whole-genome sequencing to map epidemic strains of methicillin-resistant S. aureus. She is presently serving as a USAID PEER grant partner with researchers from Tunisia focusing on resistance in foodborne pathogens. She has published 135 scientific articles including over 100 peer-reviewed papers, four book chapters, and served as editor of one book. She also serves as a Senior Editor with Letters in Applied Microbiology.



Please convey to the participants that I would love to have them visit my lab when the pandemic is over and J1 Visa participants are allowed into the facilities again. The USDA FSIP processes the Visas for ARS visitors. The participant pays for the trip and lodging, but ARS pays for the lab space, supplies, etc. Funding has been secured by participants in the past through Borlaug Fellowships and Fulbright scholarships. Participants learn lab skills/methods that they take back to their home country while also completing their projects. Past visitors have published at least several peer-reviewed papers from their visits. If participants would like feedback on project ideas in my area of expertise, I would be happy to review them.

Shubhayu Saha, CDC (Heat & Health Tracker)

Dr. Shubhayu Saha is a health scientist with the Climate and Health program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and currently on detail to the Office of Climate Change and Health Equity at the Office of Assistant Secretary for Health. Dr Saha works on translating health risk assessments related to a range of climate hazards (like extreme temperature, flooding, air quality, extreme events) to actions that promote health equity, reduce adverse health impacts and create climate resilience.

Please check out these links for more data:

CDC Heat and Health Tracker - [Heat & Health Tracker \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/heatandhealthtracker/)

CDC Climate and Health Program - [Climate and Health Program | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/climateandhealth/)

CDC Environmental Public Health Tracking Network -

[National Environmental Public Health Tracking | Tracking | NCEH | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/epht/)



Cara Chrisman, USAID (Consensus PCR)

Dr. Cara Chrisman is currently serving as the Deputy Division Chief for USAID's Emerging Threats Division, the home of USAID's Global Health Security Program. Dr. Chrisman first joined USAID when she was selected as a AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellow and served as a Biomedical Research Advisor within the Office of Population & Reproductive Health. In that role, she advised on projects that support the development of new and improved family planning, HIV prevention, and reproductive health technologies designed for provision and use in low-resource settings. It was in this position that she also began her current role leading the GH Research Group and as a member of the Editorial Board for the USAID-supported GHSP Journal. Dr. Chrisman transitioned to her current team in the Office of Infectious Diseases following extensive work on the Agency's efforts to fight the W. Africa Ebola epidemic. As a member of the ETD, Dr. Chrisman has had the opportunity to work on the response to additional outbreaks as well as our ongoing work to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease threats.

Wassila Thiaw, NOAA (Heat Early Warning System)

Dr. Wassila Mamadou Thiaw is a meteorologist with NOAA's National Weather Service and the Team Leader of the International Desks at the Climate Prediction Center (CPC), National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP). He oversees the provision of weather, climate, and water information in support of the U.S. Government humanitarian mission overseas. More recently, Dr. Thiaw has expanded the portfolio of the International Desks to include impact based decision support in health. In particular, he has been working with meteorological and health services in Africa to provide heat wave forecasts that are inputs to heat – health early warnings. In addition, he has been working with domestic and international agencies on the predictions of infectious diseases such as malaria, chikungunya, and dengue. Dr. Thiaw is a member of the American Geophysical Union (AGU) GEOHealth Committee. He also is a member of the American Geophysical Union and the American Meteorological Society. He is a fellow of the AMS and a recipient of the AMS Special Award. He received a doctorate degree in meteorology, University of Clermont-Ferrand-II, France and a BS in meteorology, University of Dakar, Senegal. Prior to joining NOAA/CPC, he was a National Academy of Sciences, National Research Council postdoctoral fellow at NOAA/NESDIS.



Jonathan Sleeman, USGS (National Wildlife Health Needs Assessment)

Jonathan Sleeman is the Center Director for the U.S. Geological Survey's National Wildlife Health Center where he leads a team to advance wildlife health science for the benefit of animals, humans, and the environment through multidisciplinary research and technical assistance to federal, state, and tribal agencies as well as internationally as a World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Collaborating Centre. He is also an Adjunct Professor at the University of Wisconsin, School of Veterinary Medicine. He has authored over 60 peer-reviewed publications and several book chapters all on the topics of wildlife and ecosystem health. He is active in various scientific organizations, including the Wildlife Disease Association and Ecohealth International, and serves on the OIE's Working Group on Wildlife. He is board certified by the American College of Zoological Medicine and received his veterinary degree and master's degree in zoology from the University of Cambridge, England. Previous positions include Director of the Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Center in Rwanda and Wildlife Veterinarian for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.



Katey Pelican, University of Minnesota (OH- SMART)

Dr. Pelican's work focuses on strengthening the multisectoral systems needed to address challenges at the interface of animals, humans and the environment (One Health). She was Deputy Director and Principal Investigator for the USAID One Health Workforce Project (\$64M, 2014-2020) that worked with more than 97 Universities in 17 countries in Africa and Asia to strengthen the multi-sectoral workforce responsible for addressing pandemic threats. She also leads a partnership with USDA, CDC, FAO and WHO to implement new One Health tools, most notably the One Health Systems Mapping and Analysis Resource Toolkit (OH-SMART) in the US and 18 countries globally to improve multi-sectoral cooperation around infectious disease, antimicrobial resistance, natural disasters and other complex challenges. She is the founding Co-Director of the Strategic Partnerships and Research Collaborative (SPARC) at UMN charged with establishing large-scale, multidisciplinary programs and projects to address global grand challenges. She is also co-leading the University system-wide Sustainable Development Goal Initiative to promote high impact programs to meet these 17 UN goals.



Emails for Panelists willing to be contacted with follow up questions:

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