

South East Asia Drowning Prevention Forum & Workshop

29 - 31 May 2023
Penang, Malaysia



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Penang, Malaysia 29 to 31 May 2023

Proudly supported by Australia-ASEAN Council, Royal Life Saving Society - Australia and the Life Saving Society Malaysia Penang

> Background

Thank you for joining us for the South East Asia Drowning Prevention Forum and Workshop in Penang, Malaysia.

In 2021, the United Nations passed its first ever Resolution on Global Drowning Prevention committing to greater efforts to prevent drowning, a leading cause of injury-related death and disability.

Drowning has been described by the World Health Organization as a serious and neglected public health threat that claims 236,000 lives annually. It is the leading cause (after infancy) of child death and adolescent in many ASEAN nations.

The purpose of this forum and workshop is to facilitate information sharing, build awareness and capacity, and highlight strategies to reduce drowning across ASEAN nations.

Representatives from government and non-government organisations in ASEAN nations Malaysia, Brunei, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Singapore, Thailand, Philippines, and Viet Nam are joined by representatives from Australia, Bangladesh, Japan, Korea and the United Kingdom to learn from each other.

We are buoyed by the discussions taking place at the World Health Assembly, which is considering a new Resolution 'Accelerating Action on Global Drowning Prevention'. This draft resolution is sponsored by 72 member states.

One person drowns around the world every other minute.

Your leadership in this field and contribution to this event will help reduce the burden of drowning throughout the region.

We look forward to interesting discussions over the coming days, and hope you will join us again later in the year at the World Conference on Drowning Prevention in December 2023 in Perth.

World
Drowning
Prevention
Day 25 July

Anyone can drown,
no one should.



Summary of the solutions cited in the United Nations Resolution on Global Drowning Prevention A/RES/75/273

Voluntary member state actions outlining solutions

- Appoint a national focal point for drowning prevention
- Develop a national drowning prevention plan
- Develop drowning prevention programming in line with WHO recommended interventions
- Ensure the enactment and active enforcement of water safety laws across all relevant sectors
- Include drowning within civil registration and vital statistics registers
- Promote drowning prevention public awareness and behaviour change campaigns
- Encourage the integration of drowning prevention within existing disaster risk reduction programmes
- Support international cooperation by sharing lessons learned
- Promote research and development of innovative drowning prevention tools and technology
- Consider the introduction of water safety, swimming, and first-aid lessons as part of school curricula

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/drowning-prevention-day>

Acknowledgment

We thank the Australia-ASEAN Council for their generous support of the program.



Global report on drowning: preventing a leading killer.

© World Health Organization 2014

Drowning is an important public health issue with major impacts on children and youth.

Drowning is preventable. Proven strategies implemented at household, community and national level range from teaching basic swim skills and installing barriers that control exposure to water hazards, to providing safe spaces for children such as crèches and learning about safe rescue. Tailored to individual settings and risk groups, countries should take steps to improve data on drowning mortality and morbidity, and establish a national water safety plan.

Recommendations

- All countries should implement proven drowning prevention strategies, tailored to their own circumstances and risk groups.
- All countries should take steps to improve data about drowning.
- All countries should aim to develop a national water safety plan.
- A global partnership for drowning prevention should be established.

<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/global-report-on-drowning-preventing-a-leading-killer>

Key acronyms

GRD: Global report on drowning: preventing a leading killer (2014)

UNGA: United Nations Resolution on Global Drowning Prevention A/RES/75/273

WHO: World Health Organization

Morning Program

0730-0830	Registration & Breakfast
0830-0845	Welcome and Introductions by International Life Saving Federation Drowning Prevention Commissioner Justin Scarr
0845-0850	Welcome from International Life Saving Federation Asia-Pacific President Peter George AM
0850-0855	Welcome from Life Saving Society Malaysia Mr Geh Thuan Tek
0855-0905	Summary of the purpose, plans and activities for the Forum and Workshop Justin Scarr
0905-0930	Drowning in ASEAN Nations United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution on Global Drowning Prevention Drowning in ASEAN Nations with reference to the WHO South-East Asia and Western Pacific Regional Reports released in 2021, and Global Status Report on Drowning Prevention Dr David Meddings, World Health Organization
0930-0950	Assessment of actions against the UNGA Resolution Presentation and discussion on how to assess in-country actions against the UNGA Resolution Darren Williams, Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI)
0950-1050	Status of drowning problem and drowning prevention activities in each ASEAN nation Overview of drowning prevention activities and three significant challenges. Short presentations and panel discussion: Malaysia - Geh Thuan Tek Brunei - Rizan Latif Indonesia - Agus Dharma Thailand – Dr Sirirat Suwanrit
1050-1120	Break
1120-1220	Status of drowning problem and drowning prevention activities in each ASEAN nation Overview of drowning prevention activities and three significant challenges. Short presentations and panel discussion: Lao PDR – Assoc Prof Bouatthep Phoumindr Singapore - Tan Lii Chong Philippines - Dr Boss Sobremesana Viet Nam - Le Thi Anh Dao
1220-1245	Developing National Drowning Prevention Plans UNGA Develop a national drowning prevention plan. GDR All countries should aim to develop a national water safety plan. Presentation on developing national drowning prevention plans Darren Williams, Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI)

> Monday 29 May 2023

Rainbow Paradise Beach Resort, Penang

Official Opening

1300	Chief Minister of Penang arrives
1300-1305	Welcome to Chief Minister of Penang Justin Scarr, Royal Life Saving Society - Australia
1305-1330	Opening by Chief Minister of Penang The Right Hon. Chow Kon Yeow, Chief Minister of Penang
1330-1410	Lunch

Afternoon Program

1410-1430	Case Study on UNGA Resolution actions MERIT MAKER Drowning Prevention Strategy Dr Sirirat Suwanrit Ministry of Public Health, Thailand
1430-1455	Establishing a national focus for drowning prevention Case study on presentation on the formation and operation of the Malaysia Water Activities Safety Council PKPjB Nordin Bin Pauzi Fire and Rescue Department of Malaysia
1455-1510	WHO and Drowning Prevention Presentation will outline the drowning prevention related reports, guidelines and resolutions released by WHO since 2014 Dr David Meddings, World Health Organization
1510-1530	Panel Discussion & Q & A Moderator: Justin Scarr
1530-1600	Break
1600-1650	Actions in support of drowning prevention UNGA - Consider the introduction of water safety, swimming, and first-aid lessons as part of school curricula GRD Teach school-age children swimming and water safety skills GRD Train bystanders in safe rescue and resuscitation Overview of WHO Guidelines for Swimming Skills Dr David Meddings, World Health Organization Survival Swimming as a key drowning prevention intervention Darren Williams, Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) Survival Swimming in Malaysia Geh Cheow Chien, Life Saving Society – Malaysia Penang
1650-1715	Actions in support of drowning prevention UNGA Drowning takes place in rivers, lakes, domestic water storage, swimming pools, and coastal waters GRD All countries should implement proven drowning prevention strategies, tailored to their own circumstances and risk groups. Presentation on drowning prevention interventions on, in and around inland waterways. Dr Amy Peden, University of New South Wales Inland Waterway Safety in Malaysia Geh Cheow Mei - Life Saving Society – Malaysia Penang
1715-1730	Day 1 Summary Moderator: Justin Scarr
1900	Meet for dinner in the Foyer of the Rainbow Paradise Hotel

Morning Program

0730-0830	Arrivals & Breakfast
0830-0835	Welcome Justin Scarr, Royal Life Saving Society - Australia
0835-1020	Workshop on Drowning Data UNGA Include drowning within civil registration and vital statistics registers GRD Advance drowning prevention through data collection and well-designed studies What are the sources of drowning data, what information is vital to collect and what are the various ways we can use drowning data to inform prevention efforts? How do you find drowning data if it is not routinely collected? This interactive session will work through these questions and assist countries in collating and using drowning data including using data to inform development of, and track progress against, water safety strategies. Dr Amy Peden, University of New South Wales
1020-1050	Break
1050-1120	Actions in support of drowning prevention UNGA Promote research and development of innovative drowning prevention tools and technology GRD All countries should implement proven drowning prevention strategies, tailored to their own circumstances and risk groups. Total service plan and risk in the coastal environment Peter George AM, Surf Life Saving Australia
1120-1150	Collaboration Case Study – Government and Civil Society UNGA Support international cooperation by sharing lessons learned GRD Given the multisectoral nature of drowning, a global partnership for drowning prevention should be established Presentation on collaboration between Government and Civil Societies: Working Together; Features & Benefits. PKPjB Nordin Bin Pauzi, Fire and Rescue Department of Malaysia
1120-1150	Collaboration Case Study – Civil Society, Academia and Government UNGA Support international cooperation by sharing lessons learned GRD Given the multisectoral nature of drowning, a global partnership for drowning prevention should be established Presentation on collaboration between Civil Societies, Government and Academia: Working Together; Features & Benefits. Dr Amy Peden, University of New South Wales Dr Aminur Rahman, Centre for Injury Prevention and Research, Bangladesh Rizan Latif, Beach Bunch Association

> Tuesday 30 May 2023

Rainbow Paradise Beach Resort, Penang

1150-1220	Collaboration Case Study – Media & Drowning Prevention UNGA Promote drowning prevention public awareness and behaviour change campaigns GRD Given the multisectoral nature of drowning, a global partnership for drowning prevention should be established Working with media and social media to impact drowning prevention efforts. Belinda Lawton, Royal Life Saving Society - Australia
1220-1300	Life Saving Organisations How Life Saving Organisations can work to prevent drowning Yasuko Nakagawa, Japan Lifesaving Association Jose Arne Aguila Navarra, Philippine Life Saving Society Adisak Suvanprakorn, Thai Life Saving Association
1300-1345	Lunch
Afternoon Program	
This session is guided by the UNGA principle of supporting international cooperation by sharing lessons learned.	
1345-1400	Sharing drowning prevention actions Session introduction Justin Scarr, Royal Life Saving Society- Australia
1400-1500	Sharing drowning prevention actions in small groups 1. Understanding the problem (drowning in ASEAN/your country) 2. Understanding potential solutions (UNGA Resolution, WHO Report and Implementation Guide) 3. Consider opportunities to share between nations 4. Collaboration between Governments and Civil Societies
1500-1530	Group presentations Group learnings and outcomes; includes Q & A Moderator – Justin Scarr
1530-1600	Break
1600-1645	Workshop Communique Developing a Communique on Drowning Prevention Moderators – Justin Scarr and Belinda Lawton, Royal Life Saving Society - Australia
1645-1715	Next steps for each ASEAN nation Each country to briefly present on what they see as the next steps
1715-1730	Summary and closing Justin Scarr, Royal Life Saving Society -Australia
1900	Meet for dinner in the Foyer of the Rainbow Paradise Hotel

Morning Program

0700 sharp	Buses depart the Hotel to Forum Venue. Breakfast will be packed. All those departing on Wednesday 31st May will need to check out and bring luggage with them.
0830-0840	Conference Opening Remarks Welcome and opening remarks Justin Scarr, International Life Saving Federation Drowning Prevention Commissioner
0840-0900	Key Note Address United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution on Global Drowning Prevention, the World Health Organisation (WHO) Resolution: Accelerating action on global drowning prevention, and the WHO Global Status Report on Drowning Dr David Meddings, World Health Organization
0900-0930	Key Note Address Drowning burden in Malaysia and current plans and activities of Malaysia WASC PKPjB Nordin Bin Pauzi, Safety Regulations Safety Chief, Fire and Rescue Department of Malaysia
0930-1100	Majlis Permasian Persidangan
0945	Official Guests enter Welcoming ceremony, including brief remarks by the Australian High Commissioner, Dr Justin Lee
1100-1130	Case Study – Child Drowning Prevention in Bangladesh Recent history of Child Drowning Prevention Programs in Bangladesh Dr Aminur Rahman, Centre for Injury Prevention and Research, Bangladesh
1130-1200	Survival Swimming and Water Safety Education in Schools Malaysia perspective Ms. Nur Arifah binti Ahmad, Malaysian Ministry of Education
1200-1230	Survival Swimming and Water Safety Education International perspective Darren Williams, Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI)
1230-1300	Key Issues Q & A Panel Discussion with Malaysian and International Presenters
1300-1400	Lunch
1400-1430	High Risks and Water Safety Signs Malaysia perspective PPjB Murugiah A/L Muthusamy, Head of Rescue Management Branch, Operations Division, Fire and Rescue Department of Malaysia
1430-1500	High Risks and Water Safety Signs International perspective RJ Houston, Royal Life Saving Society - Australia
1500-1530	Safety and Health Risk Assessment for Recreational Activity Delphine Fong, Sport Safety, Sport Singapore and Mohamed Yazid bin Kuman Director, Ministry of Local Government Development
1530-1600	Conference Summary and Appreciations



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