

# IMAGINARIES FOR A RESILIENT AND INCLUSIVE NEW WORLD



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A global web talk series to imagine new pathways for humanity in a post-COVID world

When: **5th June, Friday, 5 pm (IST)**

Where: Hosted on Zoom

Organised by:

[Environment Support Group](#)

## CHEE Yoke Ling - Speaker, Week 7



CHEE Yoke Ling is a lawyer with law degrees from the University of Malaya and the University of Cambridge. She is Director of Third World Network, an international non-profit policy research and advocacy organization with its secretariat in Malaysia. She was formerly a law lecturer at the University of Malaya and the executive secretary of Sahabat Alam Malaysia (Friends of the Earth, Malaysia). As a firm supporter of multilateralism Yoke Ling's work involves various processes in the United Nations. She was a Lead Author in the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, in Working Group III on Mitigation. Among her current research and advocacy work is public health and resilient public health systems, with a focus on access to affordable medicines, in particular the national implementation of flexibilities in the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects on Intellectual Property Rights administered by the World Trade Organization. The other focus is antimicrobial resistance and the One Health Approach that integrates human health, animal health and welfare as well as the environment.

Friday, 5th June 2020, on Zoom, 5 pm IST.

# WELCOME TO WEEK 7

## A One Health Approach to Build Resilient Public Health Systems in Realization of the Right to Health for All



By CHEE Yoke Ling

Countries around the world have been pushed to liberalise their economies and privatise key public services since the 1980s as part of an economic globalisation agenda promoted by undemocratic multilateral financial institutions such as the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, etc. These ‘reforms’ were pursued on the premise it would enhance quality of public administration and services, help attack corruption, and thus guarantee a better quality of life for all. What really resulted is increased control by private corporations over manufacturing and global supply chains, of technology development, and financial and data /information sectors. Hand in hand massive income inequalities and exploitative extraction of nature and natural resources, and labor, increased. The COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare all these systemic flaws in unprecedented and unimaginable ways.

Alongside, energetic and innovative civil society processes helped build the United Nations as a public multilateral space producing commitments to tackle climate change, protect biodiversity, advance biosafety. In addition, global action through World Health Organization got governments to agree on ambitious strategies and action plans aimed at inclusive development based, on the Right to Health for All. Unfortunately these significant gains were lost over the past decade and more due to systematic declines in public investment in strengthening national public health systems and towards encouraging innovation that produces public goods. Instead globalization of “intellectual property rights” under the World Trade Organization facilitated multinational corporate control, weakened domestic pharmaceutical industry in developing countries and increased dependency on imports. In addition, public health systems have largely been handed over to private hands, while public funds for research and development have become a subsidy for private industry.

In the backdrop of all these developments, Yoke Ling will discuss how COVID-19 underscores that Right to Health of All can only be realised with functioning and resilient public health systems, sustainable and adequate financing, as well as a “One Health Approach” that integrates human health, animal health/welfare and the environment.

# PAST SPEAKERS



**Prem Chandavarkar**

CnT Architects



**Nilufer Koc**

Kurdistan National Congress



**Prof. Andrew Stirling**

Sussex University



**Prof. Sheila Jasanoff**

Harvard Kennedy School



**Prof. Michael Goldman**

University of Minnesota



**Odenda Lumumba**

Kenya Land Alliance

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