



Mitigating the Health Impacts of Climate Change

Presented by Bayer

Wednesday, November 8, 1:15-2:15 pm | Breakout Room Sentosa 2

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I. Session Description & Framing

Mitigating the Health Impacts of Climate Change

Record-breaking temperatures are exacerbating health and humanitarian crises around the world, with a disproportionate impact on vulnerable groups in the Global South—home to over six billion people. Rising temperatures are translating to a rise in infectious diseases, while other extreme weather events disrupt pharmaceutical supply chains and strain already-stressed healthcare systems. How can the public and private sectors collaborate to ensure holistic health adaptation in the face of climate change? What novel approaches or cutting-edge technologies, including AI, can be harnessed to create proactive solutions? This roundtable—hosted by **Bayer’s Executive Vice President and Global Head of Public Affairs, Science & Sustainability, Matthias Berninger**, and featuring **Singapore’s Minister of Health, Ye Kung Ong**—will explore the mounting consequences and impact of climate change on global health security.

Relevant Statistics & Resources

- According to the [World Health Organization](#), 3.6 billion people already live in areas highly susceptible to climate change. Between 2030 and 2050, climate change is expected to cause approximately 250,000 additional deaths per year from undernutrition, malaria, diarrhoea, and heat stress alone.
- The direct damage cost to health is estimated to be [\\$2-4 billion per year](#) by 2030 — and this does not even include costs in health-determining sectors such as agriculture and WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene).
- Further, climate change is expected to push an additional [132 million people](#) into extreme poverty by 2030 — more than half of them in the Global South — with 44 million driven by health-related impacts, per World Bank estimates.
- The pace of emerging infectious disease (EID) outbreaks has increased [6.7% per year, on average, since 1980](#), and has grown to several hundred cases per year since 2000.



II. Details and Logistics

Time/Location:

Wednesday, November 8, 1:15-2:15 pm

Capella Singapore Hotel | 1 The Knolls, Sentosa Island, Singapore 098297

Floor 2 | Room Sentosa 2

Please plan to arrive 10 minutes prior to the session for registration and seating.

Session Format:

Intended to be highly participatory, this closed-door breakout session engages an intimate group of approximately 20 delegates for a 60-minute solutions-oriented discussion under Chatham House Rule. The featured speaker will help spark conversation by providing initial remarks, and by responding to some prompting questions that the facilitator will pose to individual speakers and the wider group.

Delegates will be able to pick up a boxed lunch just outside of the room before they get seated.

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III. Session Agenda

12:55 pm Arrival and registration.

1:15 pm Session begins.

Session framing and explanation of format: an open discussion where participants are invited to contribute openly, under Chatham House Rule.

Introduction of facilitator, host, and featured speaker.

Facilitator turns to **Health Minister Ye Kung Ong** for opening remarks.

1:20 pm **Minister Ye Kung Ong** shares his perspective on the most concerning health consequences of climate change, and how health systems should respond and shore up resilience.

1:25 pm Facilitator thanks the minister and turns to Bayer host for remarks.

Bayer's Executive Vice President and Global Head of Public Affairs, Science & Sustainability, Matthias Berninger, further elaborates on the mounting consequences and impact of climate change on health and healthcare in emerging markets, specifically as it relates to vulnerable groups in the Global South.

1:30 pm Roundtable discussion with prepared questions for the group, facilitated by **Mallika Kapur, Deputy Global Editor for Bloomberg Live Experiences**.

1:55 pm Participant Q&A.

2:05 pm Summary of key takeaways by facilitator.

2:10 pm Final remarks by host and minister.

2:15pm Session concludes.



IV. Guiding Discussion Questions

- How might companies be uniquely positioned to address the health consequences of climate change through innovations in medications and access to vulnerable regions?
- How can the public and private sectors collaborate to ensure holistic health adaptation in the face of climate change?
- What are the most significant capacity gaps within emerging market healthcare today?
- How do we incentivize human capital investment – particularly from corporates – and capacity building in the sector?
- Are there pharmaceutical innovations uniquely equipped to address the diseases that are becoming more prevalent as a result of climate change?
- How can the power and capabilities of AI and other technologies be applied to create proactive solutions, optimized for the Global South?
- What kinds of innovations in policy development play a major role in mitigating the health impacts of climate change?
- How can we get more startups involved in public-private partnerships?
- How do climate-related health impacts in the Global South create a domino effect impacting women and children, and how does it exacerbate gender inequality?
- How can pharma help make healthcare more accessible within the Global South region of Asia? What role does distribution play?
- How can agricultural solutions help mitigate climate-compounded health issues, such as malnutrition, in marginalized areas like the Global South?



Host Bio



Matthias Berninger

**EVP, Global Head of
Public Affairs,
Science &
Sustainability,
Bayer**

Matthias Berninger joined Bayer in January 2019 as senior vice president of public affairs, science, and sustainability, responsible for the company's global public affairs practice and for making Bayer's approach to sustainability a pillar of its business strategy. In his role, he has strengthened Bayer's global public affairs practice and leads the development of a coherent global sustainability strategy.

Prior to Bayer, Mr. Berninger was VP of public affairs at Mars Incorporated, leading the global public affairs organization and developing Mars's sustainability strategy, including leadership on climate change and establishing key sustainability performance indicators for Mars's leadership circle.

Before joining the private sector, Mr. Berninger was elected four times as a member of the German Federal Parliament Green Party, where he focused on agricultural reform in Germany and Europe – including trade policy, food safety, and renewable energy. Prior to that, he was appointed vice minister for the Federal Ministry of Consumer Protection, Nutrition, and Agriculture, serving, and also led the Green Party in Hessen, Germany.

Mr. Berninger studied chemistry and political science at the University of Kassel, Germany.



Featured Speaker Bio



Ye Kung Ong

Minister of Health, Singapore

Mr. Ong Ye Kung was elected Member of Parliament for Sembawang Group Representation Constituency (GRC) in September 2015, and was re-elected in July 2020 in Sembawang GRC.

He had held the positions of Minister for Transport, Minister for Education, Second Minister for Defence and board member of the Monetary Authority of Singapore. He is also the Chairman of the Chinese Development Assistance Council.

Prior to joining politics, he held various positions in Government, including Chief Executive Officer of the Singapore Workforce Development Agency, and Deputy Chief Negotiator for the US-Singapore Free Trade Agreement.

He served several years in the Labour Movement, as the Deputy Secretary-General of the National Trades Union Congress, and spent some time in the private sector, as the Director of Group Strategy at Keppel Corporation.

Mr Ong graduated from the London School of Economics and Political Science (UK) and the Institute of Management Development, Lausanne, Switzerland. He is married with two children.



Facilitator Bio



Mallika Kapur

**Deputy Global
Editor for
Bloomberg Live
Experiences**

Mallika Kapur is Deputy Global Editor for Bloomberg Live Experiences, where she is responsible for the editorial content of its marquee summits including 'Invest', 'Bloomberg Equality' and 'Sooner Than You Think'. Bloomberg Live uses the power of Bloomberg data and the reach and insight of its award-winning newsroom to create news making events and provide valuable insights to decision-makers around the world.

Previously, Ms. Kapur was CNN's Mumbai-based international correspondent responsible for coverage from India's financial capital. Since she joined CNN in 2001, she has reported extensively on key political, economic, social and environmental stories and anchored shows for the network in London, Mumbai and Hong Kong. Prior to that, she worked for CNBC in New York and Singapore.

Ms. Kapur is the co-author of *Changemakers: Twenty Women Transforming Bollywood Behind The Scenes*. She graduated from Brown University, and has a Masters in Broadcast Journalism from Columbia University. She is a member of the Hong Kong support board of the Asian University for Women.



Thank you