



# GLOBAL HEAT HEALTH INFORMATION NETWORK

## 1st Global Heat Health Forum

Hong Kong  
December 17-20, 2018

### Expected outcomes

- ▶ Improved awareness of the silent emergency that heat poses to health
- ▶ Strengthened opportunities and resources for the protection of populations which are vulnerable to extreme heat
- ▶ Participants are able to network and share across relevant government, academic, and civil society partners to exchange information on good practices, tools and technologies, and lessons to understand and manage heat risks.
- ▶ Participants are empowered to become more effective communicators about heat risks.
- ▶ GHHIN Agenda is informed by prioritization of the gaps and opportunities in research, operational information, and policy and practice, and able to inform other relevant policy agendas.
- ▶ GHHIN Network is officially launched

### Forum Aims

The heat health forum serves as an international platform to build capacity, promote sharing, and encourage evidence-based policy and actions to improve the management of extreme heat risks.

The forum will bring together the interdisciplinary community of experts and practitioners implementing various aspects required to understand and manage heat risks to health in order to share experience, inform a global common agenda, strengthen the network, and formally launch the Global Heat Health Information Network.

### Background

Leading health, weather, and climate experts convened in Chicago in 2015, along with regional experts<sup>1</sup> from South Asia in Colombo in 2016, to discuss current practices in addressing the growing global problem of extreme heat and its health impacts. The workshops identified the need to work together on an integrated approach to extreme heat, and begin to better harmonize practices, and accelerate sharing of knowledge and information. Participants agreed to reconvene within 2 years to discuss progress and the way forward in an international context, as well as to review national developments toward the international goals. The current proposed forum is a follow up to these workshops, with the expressed intent to inform and launch the Global Heat Health Information Network (GHHIN) as a new global initiative to accelerate heat-health priority actions.

**Location** The meeting is co-hosted by a consortium of interdisciplinary heat health partners: the Hong Kong Observatory, Hong Kong University School of Public Health and Faculty of Architecture, Chinese University of Hong Kong (School of Public Health, Environment, Energy, and Sustainability, and Institute of Future Cities).

### Agenda Overview

Day 1: Global Action for Heat Health  
Day 2: Technical Heat Health Agenda setting  
Day 3: Communicating and Taking Action  
Day 4: Hong Kong Heat Project Site Visits

### Opportunities for

Poster Session  
Networking Event  
Hands on Workshop  
Site Visits

For more information and registration:

[www.ghhin.org](http://www.ghhin.org)

## Provisional Agenda

### Day 1: Global Action for Heat Health (December 17)

Welcome

Keynote on the growing global threat of extreme heat and the emerging need to coordinate a response

#### Critical Scientific Advances on Heat Health and Emerging Research Needs

*A panel of invited speakers will provide overviews of the state of knowledge on the five major science themes of GHHIN, raising key issues and questions which GHHIN will set out to address. These are:*

- Institutional Capacity and Partnerships
- Data, Forecast Products and Information
- Research on Vulnerability, Heat Parameters and Health Outcomes
- Communication and Engagement
- Health Action

#### Emerging Regional Issues and Opportunities

*Feature presentations from around the world*

- Northern/Pacific Asia
- South / South East Asia
- Africa and Middle East
- Europe
- Latin America
- North America

Closing Summary

Evening Interactive cocktail - Structured Networking and sharing innovation session



#### ABOUT GHHIN

The Global Heat Health Information Network (GHHIN) is an independent, voluntary, member-driven forum of scientists, professionals, and policymakers focused on enhancing and multiplying the global & local learning, and resilience-building for heat health. The GHHIN vision is to improve the capacity of governments, organizations, and professionals to protect populations from the avoidable health risks of extreme ambient heat.

For more information about GHHIN and how to join the network please go to:

[www.ghhin.org](http://www.ghhin.org)



## Day 2: Technical Heat Health Agenda setting (December 18)

Facilitated working sessions will discuss and identify emerging issues, priorities, challenges, and innovations to identify suggestions for action in each of the GHHIN science themes. The five science themes serve as the backbone of the GHHIN. Each major topic will be explored and addressed throughout the forum, and is expected to include explicit treatment of, and reasonable coverage/diversity of, time scales, disciplines, problems/solutions, research/policy/practice, regional considerations and vulnerable populations.

### 1- Capacity and Partnerships

*Session 1 will focus on identifying ways to support capacity and collaboration at local to global levels. Discussions may consider ways to build capacity, training opportunities and approaches, partnership issues, noting needs and good practice across disciplines and organizational boundaries.*

### 2 - Observations, Data, Forecast Products and Information

*Session 2 will focus on observations, data, forecasts, and information required for operational heat risk monitoring and prediction, operational early warning systems, and for establishing syndromic surveillance in high risk populations. Discussion will help identify opportunities to improve the generation and use of data and information, for example, guidance for the collection, processing, and use of information, and monitoring and risk forecasting.*

### 3- Research on Vulnerability, Heat Parameters and Health Outcomes

*Session 3 will feature cutting edge research and operational systems for modelling heat-health risk at an urban spatial scale and at all timescales. Presentations and discussion will focus on identifying critical research and knowledge needs, and proposing ways and needs to improve the conduct and dissemination of research, particularly to policy and practice.*

### 4 - Engagement and Communications

*Session 4 will set the stage for the communications workshop, and discuss perspectives and good practices for communicating heat risk from the perspective of clinical medicine, public health, urban planning, academia, and meteorology.*

### 5 - Health Action – Interventions and effectiveness

*Session 5 will review what interventions are being implemented, how are they evaluated for effectiveness, what is working and what isn't. Outcomes will focus on identifying ways to improve preventive measures, across timescales.*

## DAY 3: (December 19)

### Communicating and taking action

#### Communicating Heat Risks Workshop

This 4-hour hands on workshop will help GHHIN take a deep dive on Theme 4: Engagement and Communication Strategies. This interactive workshop is aimed to empower participants to become more effective communicators - and enable reflection and take-home skills and ideas for better communicating heat risks.

#### Summary and GHHIN Launch

The final session of the meeting will bring discussions together to consider and plan for opportunities to take action collectively as a network.

- Review of Emerging Issues to define the GHHIN Agenda
- Shaping the Future and Getting things done
- Network Launch
- Closing Session

Press Conference

## Day 4: (December 20)

### Hong Kong

#### Heat Project Site Visits

Participants will have the opportunity to visit local heat-health project sites and learn about the approaches and successes in Hong Kong.

(more information coming soon):

- Trip 1: Hong Kong Public Housing Center & Senior Care Unit
- Trip 2: Microclimate Urban Heat Island Reduction Sites
- Trip 3: Hong Kong Observatory