



## Towards Healthy Asia 2030:

### Sustainable Environment for Child Growth and Development

#### Environmental Governance Sub-Forum 02

Session one 8:30 - 10:00, May 28th

<b>Chairs:</b>	<b>Xu Qian</b>	<b>School of Public Health, Department of Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health, Director&amp;Professor Fudan Global Health Institute, Director</b>
	<b>Haidong Kan</b>	<b>School of Public Health, Department of Environmental Health, Director&amp;Professor</b>
<b>Host:</b>	<b>Haidong Kan</b>	<b>School of Public Health, Department of Environmental Health, Director&amp;Professor</b>

**Peter Van Den**

**Hazel**

**International**

**Network on**

**Children's Health,**

**Environment, and**

**Safety, President**

#### **Clever Children in a Sustainable World**

1. Children's health depends on macro meso and micro factors. We cannot underestimate the influence of these factors, especially external factors, to the mental and physical health of children.
2. Children are born smart, but the brain and neurocognitive development is significantly affected by environmental risk factors. The intervention in early life period is more efficient, less costly and will benefit the whole lifespan.
3. Children deserve the right to live in a sustainable world. We need multi-disciplinary and international cooperation to ensure environmental, economic and sociopolitical sustainability and promote children's health.

**Kim Ho**

**School of Public**

**Health, Seoul**

**National**

**University, Dean**

#### **Air Pollution and Child Health**

1. Major outdoor air pollutants from various sources have adverse effects on multiple health outcomes in children.
2. Children have unique behaviors, immature metabolic pathways, smaller airways and are in the process of neurodevelopment, which make children especially vulnerable to air pollution.
3. Air pollution is associated with exacerbation in respiratory infection, increased risk of asthma, decrease in lung function, adverse birth outcomes, increased risk of infant mortality, affected neurodevelopment and obesity in children. Future studies should focus more on the precise exposure measurement, health impact assessment and policy making.



# Shanghai Forum 2017 Perspective Highlights

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**Xia Yankai**  
**School of Public**  
**Health, Nanjing**  
**Medical**  
**University, Deputy**  
**Dean**

## **National Birth Cohort: Environment and Reproductive Health**

1. Reproductive health and early life factors play an important role in the lifespan in humans. Large-scale birth cohorts can promote national biochemical innovation and the development of public health.
2. The use of exposome method in birth cohorts is helpful to identify the influence of environmental exposure in early life on children's development and reproductive health.
3. Representative data from national birth cohorts will be available in the future, which is important for policy making.

## **Panel Discussion**

### **Environmental Chemicals and Child Health**

1. The developing countries should learn from the experience of developed countries. We need multi-disciplinary efforts from medical, economic and sociological experts and government's contribution. Although the costs are high, we may expect higher benefits.
2. Education, knowledge and communication are extremely important in children environmental health research. China is expected to do better in this area.
3. China should learn from the experience of neighboring countries when dealing with public health problems. Researchers should communicate more with the public.
4. China has a huge amount of environmental and health data. Efforts should be made to share and integrate these data and government should try to transform these findings to policy making.

(Edited by Liu Cong, Zhu Qingyang, Yang Yufan)



# Shanghai Forum 2017 Perspective Highlights

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## Towards Healthy Asia 2030:

### Sustainable Environment for Child Growth and Development

#### Environmental Governance Sub-Forum 02

Session two 10:30 - 12:00, May 28th

**Chairs:**        **Xu Qian**        **School of Public Health, Department of Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health, Director&Professor Fudan Global Health Institute, Director**

**Haidong Kan**    **School of Public Health, Department of Environmental Health, Director&Professor**

**Moderator:**   **Xu Qian**        **School of Public Health, Department of Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health, Director&Professor Fudan Global Health Institute, Director**

**Robert Scherpbier**        **Transforming future through investments in the cognitive capital of children**  
**UNICEF China, Chief of Health, Nutrition & Water and Hygiene at UNICEF China**

1. Environment modifies the genetic blueprint during critical periods of development, such as the 1<sup>st</sup> 1000 days of life.
2. Maternal & child nutrition, early stimulation, child protection, hygiene, sanitation and health, family socio-economic status are five sets of determinants in early childhood. The more risk factors children face, the more delays will occur in their development.
3. Nurturing care - what the infant's brain expects and depends on for development healthily, is comprised by five elements of nutrition, health care, love and security, protection from danger, opportunities to learn and discover.
4. Early investment of cognitive capital is the most economic and effective way in promoting human's potential in future.



# Shanghai Forum 2017 Perspective Highlights

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**Xiaoying Zheng PKU-  
APEC Health Science  
Academy (HeSAY),  
Dean**

## **The Diversity of Environmental Challenges to Child Health**

1. The transition of China's population structure leads to the change of the population's health. With the decrease of infants' mortality rate, the proportion of infants' death from birth defects increased annually.
2. Reproductive health is closely related to the environment factors. Genes, nutrition, virus, behavior, pollution and complicated diseases are still the risk factors for reproductive health.
3. Neurodevelopment plays a key role in the early stage of life development. Thus, studies on early neurodevelopment can have impacts on the Whole Life Course. It is crucially needed to accumulate scientific evidence from long-term studies and the joint efforts from multi-disciplinary scholars.

**Marleen Temmerman  
Department of  
Obstetrics and  
Gynecology, Aga  
Khan University,  
Chair  
Women's Health in  
the Faculty of health  
Science, Director**

## **Impact of reproductive and maternal health on early child development**

1. Reproductive health is closely related to child health. Although brilliant achievements of World Health Organization Millennium Development Goals have been made, the goals related to global reproductive health are far from realization.
2. To survive, thrive and transform are the main strategies in realizing maternal and child health goals of the new Sustainable Development Goals. We need to not only focus on the mortality of women and children, but also to promote health and well-being, and to create a healthy social environment.
3. Political commitment of the governments is crucial for achieving the sustainable development goals worldwide. Meanwhile, there is a need for effective cooperation among the various stakeholders.
4. We should pay more attention to the disadvantaged groups in different countries and different societies, pay more attention to women, children and young adolescents.



## Shanghai Forum 2017 Perspective Highlights

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### Panel Discussion

#### **Sustainable Environment for Child Growth and Development: What are the most effective solutions to improve children health?**

1. Political commitment and policy development is the key to the problem solution. And a long-term implementation mechanism should also be formed.

2. As to the transformation from research outcomes to policy development, multidisciplinary cooperation is required, and social factors influencing program implementation should also be paid more attention. Multi-sectoral cooperation is important for effective policy implementation.

3. The most intimate factors related to children's healthy growth and development is family nurture and parenting practices. We should not only concern the healthy development of the general children, but also those with disabilities. China has attached great importance to child disability and rehabilitation. China's experience will provide a reference for the care and upbringing of disabled children worldwide.

4. As for how to attract more Asian countries to participate Shanghai forum, many experts suggested that the strategy of The Belt and Road can provide more opportunities and platforms for Asian countries to communicate and cooperate, and to share experience and lessons. The UNICEF is willing to strengthen liaison with Asian countries' governments, to establish a multi-party interactive platform.

(Edited by Chen Mengqi, Wang Yanning, Yang Yufan)