

## **PS 2.5**

**UNLOCKING SYNERGIES: HEALTH TECH AND AI AT THE CLIMATE-HEALTH  
FRONTIER**

## | BACKGROUND

Artificial intelligence (AI) is revolutionizing health, education, and industry, and has the potential to accelerate humanity's response to climate change. AI technologies are increasingly used to predict, analyze, and respond to environmental pollution, extreme weather events, natural disasters, biodiversity impacts, and water scarcity. However, technological advancements often fail to reach the communities most in need, with algorithmic biases potentially exacerbating existing inequities. The Global Partnership on AI highlights that the least-resourced actors, particularly in the Global South, are most vulnerable to climate impacts and digital transformation power shifts, necessitating responsible AI development and deployment. AI applications in climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience, such as reducing emissions, improving hazard projections, and supporting climate research, are promising but require substantial support, including capital investments, informed decision-makers, and trained practitioners.

The relationship between climate and health is complex, with climate change aggravating over 200 diseases and impacting health outcomes through extreme weather events, heat stress, air and water quality issues, and more. AI can enhance societal resilience to climate change by improving public health models, disaster response, and infrastructure targeting. However, integrating AI with climate science and health expertise is challenging and requires comprehensive, integrated knowledge. Moreover, the energy consumption of AI technologies poses additional challenges. Reports indicate significant increases in greenhouse gas emissions from data centers, with AI-related queries consuming more electricity than traditional internet uses. Addressing these issues requires targeted interventions and better data to set priorities and implement effective solutions.

## | OBJECTIVES

- **Explore Synergies:** To explore the synergies between health technologies, AI, and climate resilience, focusing on how these intersections can address global health and climate challenges.
- **Highlight Applications:** To highlight practical applications of AI in mitigating, adapting to, and building resilience against climate-related health risks.
- **Identify Barriers and Solutions:** To identify the barriers and solutions to the equitable deployment of AI and health tech solutions, especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).
- **Promote Collaboration:** To promote interdisciplinary collaboration among stakeholders from the health, technology, and climate sectors.
- **Encourage Innovation:** To encourage innovative approaches and investment in AI and health tech that address both climate change and health inequities.



Panelist

## Eduardo Banzon

*Director, Health Sector Group*

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Dr. Eduardo P. Banzon is the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Director of the Health Practice Team under the Human and Social Development Sectors Group. Doc Dodo, as he is fondly called, champions on universal health coverage, as he leads on ADB's health sector and collaborates with other sectors and departments to develop and maintain health policies, strategies, and operational plans in alignment with ADB's goal of working across the developing member countries in the Asia and Pacific for an improved health care provision for poverty reduction and improved human capital.

Doc Dodo is also an honorary visiting Associate Professor, since November 2021 to present, of Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health from the National University of Singapore. He provides invaluable input on universal health coverage, health financing, global and regional health collaboration, comparative health systems and policies, and health policy development.

Doc Dodo has over 32 years of experience, showcasing his extensive experience in a range of organizations focused on health and public health management, including as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation, the country's national health insurer. Before joining ADB in 2014, he was the former regional adviser for health economics and health financing of the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office of the World Health Organization (WHO). He has also worked with the Business Mirror newspaper as a weekly columnist; as a Senior Health Specialist in the World Bank; as a Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Philippines' Department of Health (DOH) and the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD).

Doc Dodo was also a faculty member, to teach; conduct research; and scholarly activities to improve standards of the top prestigious universities in the Philippines, which includes the University of the Philippines' (UP) College of Medicine; Ateneo Graduate School of Business; and Asian Institute of Management (AIM).

Doc Dodo completed his degree of Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of the Philippines (UP), Diliman; his medical degree from the UP College of Medicine; and his graduate degree of MSc in Health Policy, Planning and Financing from the London School of Economics and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.