

Call for Case Studies: Ethics of Climate-Smart Healthcare in Asia

The [Planetary Health Programme](#) of the SingHealth Duke-NUS Global Health Institute (SDGHI), in collaboration with the Office of Ethics in Healthcare (OEH) at SingHealth, invites submissions of case studies that explore ethical challenges and dilemmas faced by health institutions – healthcare institutions such as hospitals, clinics, and healthcare networks, as well as public health institutions such as health ministries, other health agencies, and public health programmes - in implementing climate-smart healthcare across Asia.

Around the world, health systems are increasingly recognizing the urgent need to become “climate-smart.” First introduced by the World Bank, “**climate-smart healthcare**” pertains to healthcare that is both “*low-carbon*,” thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions and environmental footprint, and “*climate-resilient*,” responding and adapting effectively to the rising health impacts of climate change. Transitioning to climate-smart healthcare poses not only technical but also complex ethical questions – such as balancing short-term patient care needs with long-term environmental sustainability, ensuring climate actions do not deepen health inequities, and prioritizing limited resources in already-overwhelmed and climate-vulnerable health systems, among others.

We are seeking real-world examples from hospitals, clinics, health ministries, or non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Asia that are dealing with these tensions in strategic planning, policy- and decision-making, financing and delivery, and everyday practice – at micro-, meso-, and macro-levels. Cases can explore ethical issues related (but not limited) to:

- Tensions between environmental sustainability goals and clinical priorities
- Ethical dilemmas in resource allocation or procurement and other decisions
- Challenges faced by frontline staff when implementing sustainability and resilience initiatives
- Governance and accountability concerns in health-climate policies and plans
- Ethical trade-offs between climate mitigation and climate adaptation strategies within healthcare systems

Selected case studies will be featured in a transdisciplinary regional workshop that will be held in April 2026 in Singapore. The case studies will be collaboratively analyzed by a transdisciplinary group of scholars and practitioners together with the authors. With the help of SDGHI and OEH, the case studies will be fully written together with the authors and will also be considered for inclusion in a joint academic publication, case study collection, and other potential knowledge products.

Contributions may come from hospital administrators, sustainability and resilience officers, policymakers and programme managers from health ministries, leaders of health NGOs, clinical practitioners, and researchers from various disciplines related to climate and healthcare (not only environmental ethics or bioethics) working in the Asia

region. We especially encourage submissions from low- and middle-income countries in the region.

Supported by the Southeast Asia Bioethics Network and funded by Wellcome, this initiative is co-led by Associate Professor [Dr. Renzo R. Guinto](#), Lead of the Planetary Health Programme of the SingHealth Duke-NUS Global Health Institute, and [Dr. Voo Teck Chuan](#), Head of Office of Ethics in Healthcare at SingHealth and bioethicist with the SingHealth Duke-NUS Medical Humanities Institute.

Submission Instructions

Please submit a **300-word abstract** about the case, along with your name, country, and affiliation, to Muskaan Khepla, Research Associate, SDGHI Planetary Health Programme, at m.khepla@nus.edu.sg. Deadline is on **January 15, 2026**.

The abstract must observe the following outline:

- 1) Background of the health institution
- 2) Climate-smart healthcare intervention, policy, or initiative being introduced or implemented (could be climate mitigation, adaptation, or both)
- 3) Main ethical dilemma/tension encountered
- 4) How the ethical issue was addressed, or what remains to be resolved
- 5) Key insights and lessons for healthcare institutions and health systems

Share with us your health institution's journey to climate-smart healthcare – and the ethical challenges that you are encountering along the way. This regional initiative is a unique opportunity to contribute to shaping an ethical framework for climate-smart healthcare in Asia.