

Key Take-aways from ISPE Malaysia's Vaccines Conference

(24, 25 & 27 May)

Attended by: Nicholas Tan, co-Editor, ISPE Singapore newsletter

- Conference theme: VACCINES
- Geopolitics resulting in current vaccine inequality status
- Possibility of COVID-19 becoming endemic, meaning that vaccination programs could be annual and repeated.
- Currently only 3 ASEAN countries (Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia) have vaccine manufacturing capabilities. This means there's potential opportunity for future vaccines producers in the region.
- Malaysia has no local vaccine manufacturers. All vaccines are imported from MNCs. Malaysia to address all shortfalls and aims to become a vaccine producing country.
- Virtual plant tours were conducted for Thailand's latest vaccine facility Government Pharmaceutical Organization and Malaysia's local pharmaceutical companies Pharmaniaga and Duopharma.
- Pharmaniaga and Duopharma will obtain 18.4 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines from China (Sinovac) and Russia (Sputnik V) respectively for distribution in Malaysia.
- mRNA-based vaccines from Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna are currently being promoted as efficacious COVID-19 vaccines globally due to significant advantages in having higher safety levels, reducing production time and cost, and flexibility in preparing personalized treatment for each individual patient.