



GLOBAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
HEALTH LAB  
LEARN | ACT | BUILD



ANNUAL REPORT

2021

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# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



## To our cherished supporters,

I would like to extend my deepest appreciation for your support of Global Environmental Health LAB (GEH LAB). 2021 has been a year fraught with difficulty, loss and change for all. Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, combined with political, social and economic upheaval in many of the places where we work, GEH LAB has remained fully committed to our mission and worked hard to promote global health and develop the next generation of public health professionals nationally and internationally. We have an incredible team working tirelessly to ensure that GEH LAB continues to increase its reach and scope of work.



We are so proud to work with students and educators from several institutions, professionals, and community leaders from around the world. Despite putting our traditional research programs on hold, we have still been able to reach students and communities with meaningful research-based content and training. Our greatest achievement in 2021 was our 6th International Symposium for Sustainable Development. This unique gathering utilized technology, creativity and passion to host an entirely virtual academic conference in support of higher education in Myanmar. Our 2021 successes exemplify the spirit and expertise of GEH LAB. We hope that you will help us carry on this work by contributing to our cause and or joining our team as a volunteer, intern, research scholar or board member.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "Tomoyuki Shibata". The signature is fluid and cursive.

DR. TOMOYUKI SHIBATA  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CO- FOUNDER

## RESEARCH AND PROGRAMS



"GEH LAB is helping me form a solid basis for what I need to be successful"

*Devin Metoyer, Research Scholar*

During a typical year Global Environmental Health LAB has a robust field research program for students and young professionals looking to expand their research skills. A select group of research scholars are chosen to participate in an intensive international program in Southeast Asia, where they immerse themselves in local institutions and gain exposure to new cultures, research approaches, and public health challenges. This immersive experience is designed to build capacity for our local partners while providing collaborative global health research experience to all participants. The program encompasses much more than the weeks we spend in the field as the projects and collaborations are ongoing, and the memories and friendships last a lifetime. Participants use the research training to propel their academic development as GEH LAB helps scholars submit work for presentation and publication, and build their CVs.

This year was anything but typical. Though we could not run the field program in 2021, we are already gearing up for our 2022 program in Indonesia! In 2020 and 2021, the research program was overhauled to ensure that we could safely engage in collaborative research and capacity building efforts. Efforts turned to creating productive fully virtual relationships with our partners, staff and interns. We were still able to provide meaningful opportunities including our first fully virtual International Symposium for Sustainable Development and virtual internships and research training to students from across the United States. The pandemic didn't stop the momentum of ongoing research projects, we were able to adjust methods or use data collected during prior field research programs to advance the following projects during 2021:

- Access to Services and Quality of Life for Children with Disabilities in Myanmar
- Prevalence, Policies, Practices and Norms Surrounding Antibiotic Resistant Diseases in Indonesia
- Occupational and Environmental Exposures to Volatile Organic Compounds in a Hand-dug Petroleum Extraction Site
- Impact of Natural Disasters on Mental Health Outcomes of First Responders in Central Myanmar
- Health Risk Perceptions Related to Mercury Use in Artisanal Mining Sites in Myanmar

We are also pleased to announce the publication of 2 GEH LAB papers in 2021:

### Knowledge of head and neck cancer and smoking behavior in a high-risk population in Indonesia

By: Adwight Risbud, Asmaryadi Amma, Ismi Sultan, Musyarrafah Hamdani, Meliana Handayani, Andi W. Padauleng, Achmad M. Shabir et al. in Southeast Asian Journal of Tropical Medicine and Public Health (2021)

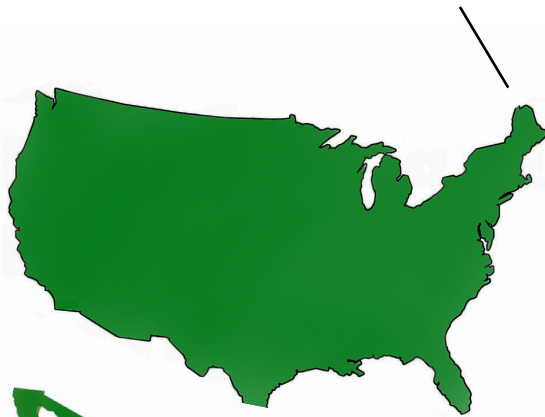
### Internal Migration as a Social Determinant of Occupational Health and WASH Access in Myanmar

By: Heidi West, Marlar Than, Thinzar Win, Khin Thein Oo, Kyi Khaing, Thin Thin Aye, San Myint Yi et al. in Annals of Global Health (2021)

# WHERE IN THE WORLD HAS GEH LAB BEEN IN 2021?

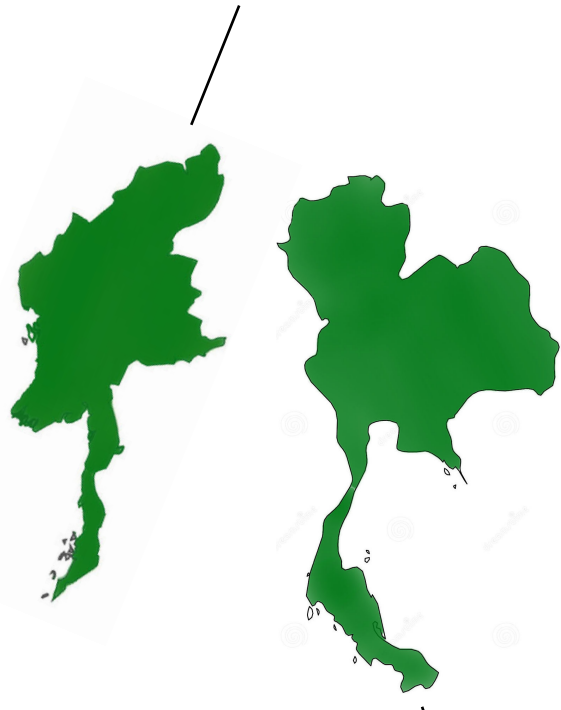
## USA

- Symposium for Sustainable Development Projects in SDGs 3, 6 and 12
- Homebase of GEH LAB
- GEH LAB Partner Institutions



## Myanmar

- Symposium for Sustainable Development Projects in SDGs 1- 17
- GEH LAB Partner Institutions
- GEH LAB Projects



## Mexico

- Symposium for Sustainable Development Projects in SDGs 3, 6, 8 and 9



## Thailand

- Symposium for Sustainable Development Projects in SDG 7
- GEH LAB Board Members



## Indonesia

- 2022 Research Program
- Symposium for Sustainable Development Projects in SDGs 1-17
- GEH LAB Partner Institutions
- GEH LAB Board Members
- GEH LAB Projects

# 6TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Much of GEH LAB's work involves sharing research and innovative ideas, connecting with others, and providing professional development opportunities for students and young professionals. Academic conferences and symposia bring all those factors together to create meaningful experiences for all involved. Our partners around the world, especially in Myanmar, were feeling the effects of COVID-19. They were suffering from deep personal loss and illness while also lacking the normal professional and academic opportunities for sharing their public health knowledge and advocacy. GEH LAB reached out to assess how we could fill a gap, and ultimately decided that we would bring an event to them.

That event became our fully virtual symposium: the *2021 6th International Symposium for Sustainable Development*. The theme - The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and International Youth Day. Taking place via free online technology, participants had the ability to stay safe in their homes while sharing their knowledge and learning from experts and peers alike.

Anyone anywhere could submit an abstract for consideration and registration fees went toward supporting Myanmar scholars through this difficult time. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are intertwined with the work and approach of GEH LAB promoting a healthier, safer and more livable world for us and future generations. All abstract submissions - whether they focused on research, programs and education, or creative content (photos/videos/essays/art) - were linked to one of the 17 SDGs and many presentations highlighted the interconnected nature of the goals.

Each of the SDGs focuses on a specific aspect of sustainable development such as clean water, better infrastructure, peace and justice etc. and has associated targets and indicators so we can measure our progress locally and globally. Symposium presentations covered topics such as sustainable tourism, the global burden of blindness, antibiotic resistance, climate change, access to improved sanitation during natural disasters, and so much more.

The two-day symposium consisted of both live and asynchronous content presented by guest lecturers, professors, students, artists, and young professionals. Following the live conference all materials were archived online for those who missed the live proceedings.

To celebrate the work of students and young professionals, we assembled a group of current and former GEH LAB interns to convene "The International Youth Day Panel" and honored contributions to sustainable development through the Outstanding Youth and Young Professional Awards. The Youth Day panelists were asked questions about what it's like to grow up while experiencing the devastating impacts of climate change, how they are contributing to achieving the SDGs in their communities, and what we can learn from youth to make progress toward a more sustainable tomorrow.

To learn more about the symposium and see some of the great presentations, we invite you to our online Symposium Directory. We hope to see you at our 2022 International Symposium!

# 6TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

## By the numbers

- 1 Outside Sponsor
- 2 Days
- 5 Guest Speakers
- 6 Planning Committee Members
- 7 Partner Universities Represented
- 10 Live Presentations
- 11 International Youth Day Awards
- 15 Recorded Presentations
- 88 Participants
- 2805 Dollars Raised

## Invited Speakers

[Herto Dwi Ariesyady](#), Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Engineering, Institute of Technology Bandung, Indonesia

[Kyoko Kusakabe](#), Ph.D., Chair, Department of Development and Sustainability and Professor, Department of Gender and Development Studies, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand

[Chit Wityi Oo](#), Ph.D., Lecturer, Department of Industrial Chemistry, West Yangon University, Myanmar and Research Fellow, Northern Illinois University, USA

[Peter Orris](#), MD., MPH, Chief, Occupational & Environmental Medicine, UI Health and Professor, Public Health, University of Illinois Chicago, USA

[Ryan Sinclair](#), Ph.D., Associate Professor, School of Public Health, Loma Linda University, USA

## Meet Some of our SDG Awardees



Alisha Salsabila Idrawan  
Outstanding Young Professional  
SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities



Noam Greene  
Outstanding Young Professional  
SDG 3: Good Health & Well-Being

"COVID restrictions couldn't get in the way of public health scholars sharing knowledge and experience. By offering a virtual conference GEH LAB helped keep the lines of communication and collaboration open even in trying times."

*Noam Greene, Outstanding Young Professional Awardee*



# Art Submission 6th International Symposium for Sustainable Development

there is no health  
without life and armed  
conflicts directly  
endanger human lives.  
all over the world, wars  
take lives, progress,  
human rights, and potential.  
in Myanmar, a country  
plagued with crises,  
domestic conflicts  
cause ethnic violence and  
internal migration.  
in 2015 alone, the refugee  
population in Myanmar  
was the fourth largest  
in the world, with one of  
the most complex refugee  
crises being the rohingya  
crisis. the national  
health system,  
already weakened by  
financial constraints  
and limited human  
resources, is weakened  
further by the loss of  
public health infrastructure  
when conflicts and crises,  
like the pandemic, strike.  
After conducting research in Mandalay  
in 2016, and meeting people who are  
unable to return home due to the  
current military crisis, these  
facts are no longer  
simply statistics.  
As public health  
professionals, we are in  
a unique position  
to understand the importance  
of peacebuilding and to  
contribute to it  
through providing  
humanitarian assistance,  
recognizing the devastation  
caused by war, and  
reinforcing social  
structures and  
ties.

Protecting healthcare in armed conflicts is, thus, of utmost importance.

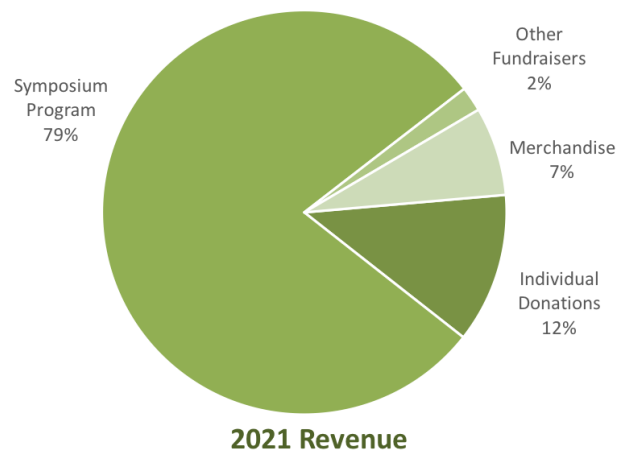


# FINANCIAL REPORT

## Global Environmental Health LAB 2021 Budget Summary

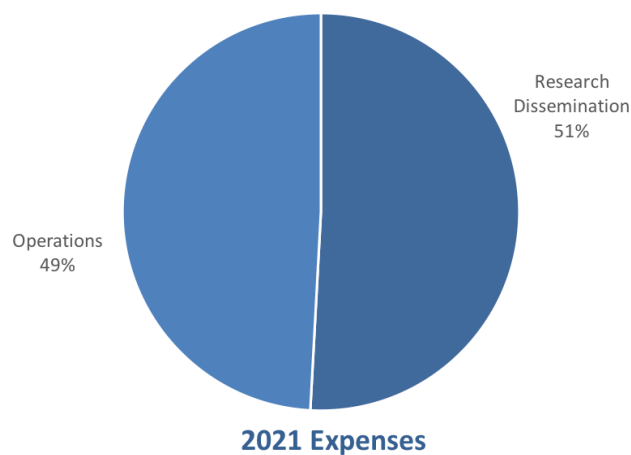
### Revenue 2021 Amount

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| Individual Donations                           | \$430          |
| Symposium Program (registration and donations) | \$2,805        |
| Other Fundraisers (AmazonSmile, PayPal Giving) | \$81           |
| Merchandise                                    | \$251          |
| Total Incoming Revenue                         | \$3,567        |
| 2020 Reserves                                  | \$4,285        |
| <b>Total</b>                                   | <b>\$7,852</b> |



### Expenses 2021 Amount

|                        |                |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Field Programs*        | \$0            |
| Research Dissemination | \$2,342        |
| Operations             | \$2,265        |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>\$4,606</b> |



\*No field programs held in 2021 due to COVID-19 Pandemic



Thank you to everyone who supported us this year through donations, purchasing GEH LAB merchandise, and registering for our virtual International Symposium

Alisha Salsabila Indrawan

Alyssa Zlatkin

Alyse Plattos

Asha Coutrier

Ashley Lopez

Briteney Mercer

Can Meng

Chit Wityi Oo

Christopher Weatherly

Dayani Davilla

Devin Metoyer

Denise Davis

Dianne Ortega

Erick Zendejas

Estephano Munoz

Emely Hernandez

Gabriella Wagoner

Harry Hicks

Heidi West

Hilary Sosne

Ingrid Vitols

Jack Wagoner

Jack Saddemi

Jennifer Gray

Julie Hollenbeck

Karl Seifert

Katrina Jacoby

Lauren Rushton

Lydia Wagoner

Lynda Jackson

Linda Erway

Maja Milkoswka - Shibata

Matthew Werstler

Mariah Cheyney

Marcia Seifert

Mary Piowaty

Molly West

Nico Davis

Noam Greene

Omar Bin Ali Bujubir

Pamela Nahir Collazo Soto

Pranaya Venkatapuram

Pheleep Sidhom

Phyllis Bonfield

Purnima Bharath

Rachael Skog

Ryan Sutherland

Sabrina Hennecke

Stuart Greene

Stellamaris Jacoby

Tomoyuki Shibata

United Nations Association,  
Brooklyn Chapter

Vanessa Vasquez



Thank you

# Want to get involved?

## Donate

We invite to continue to support our work as a sustaining donor.

You can make a tax deductible donation at [www.gehlab.org/donate](http://www.gehlab.org/donate)

## Join Our Team

We have rolling applications for the Research Program and Internships.

Contact us at [admin@gehlab.org](mailto:admin@gehlab.org)

## Let's Work Together

If you are interested in utilizing our environmental services, wish to partner with us on a project related to the SDGs, or would like to join the GEH LAB Board of Directors, contact us at [admin@gehlab.org](mailto:admin@gehlab.org) or [tshibata@gehlab.org](mailto:tshibata@gehlab.org)

## Follow us on Social Media



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YouTube: [GEH LAB](#)



LinkedIn: [Global Environmental Health Lab](#)



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

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