

British Club Active Living Section

Lunch Presentation Ageing in Thailand Series: “1. The Future of Healthcare in an Ageing Thailand: A Practical View from Inside the System”

Chairperson's Introduction of the Speaker:

Good afternoon everyone and a very warm welcome to our first Ageing in Thailand Series presentation.

As many of us grow older in Thailand, questions about healthcare inevitably become more important. How will the healthcare system cope with a rapidly ageing population and a declining fertility rate? What changes are likely to occur over the next ten or twenty years? And what might those changes mean for those of us who have chosen to make Thailand our home?

To help us better understand these issues, we could hardly have chosen a better person to begin this series than our guest speaker today, British Club Member Dr Chousak Benjamin (Ben) Vongsuly, Medical Director of Bangkok Christian Hospital, one of Bangkok's leading not-for-profit hospitals, located just up Silom Road from where we are now.

Dr Ben graduated in medicine from Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University, in 1990 and qualified as a Diplomate of the Board of General Surgery of Thailand in 1995. After specialist surgical practice at Nakorn Srithamaraj Provincial Hospital, he joined Bangkok Christian Hospital in 1999. He subsequently held a number of senior leadership positions, including Assistant Hospital Director, before being appointed Medical Director in 2016.

His combination of clinical experience and executive leadership gives him a unique perspective on how healthcare in Thailand operates today, the pressures already emerging within the system, and the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead in an ageing Thailand.

Joining Dr Ben in conversation this afternoon is Barbara Meynert. A graduate of the University of Hong Kong and the London School of Economics, and an alumna of Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, Barbara has enjoyed an international career spanning banking, public policy, academia and corporate governance. She is currently an Adjunct Professor and a respected commentator on public policy and societal change.

Together this afternoon, Dr Ben and Barbara will explore *The Future of Healthcare in an Ageing Thailand – A Practical View from Inside the System*.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in giving a very warm Active Living Section welcome to Dr Chousak Benjamin Vongsuly and Barbara Meynert.