**The International Labour Organization (ILO) in collaboration with CONNECT for Social Health Protection is pleased to announce the launch of the 2022/2023 Fellowship programm to attend the international Master in Primary Health Care Management (MPHM) and Social Health Protection (SHP) at Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand.**

Launched in 2020, the MPHM and SHP is an innovative program that aims to develop critical analysis of issues related to social health protection to enable students to acquire the necessary skills to support relevant health policy reforms and devise appropriate social health protection schemes.

Unique in the Asia Pacific Region, the programme was developed by experts to address the essential long-term capacity building needs in social health protection and train decision makers and practitioners from across the region to strengthen the efficiency and sustainability of health protection systems.

**Why Social Health Protection?**

Social Health Protection - affordable public health insurance or government-funded health services -

provides adequate financial guarantees to protect individuals against the risk of ill health and catastrophic health expenditure. It plays a crucial role in poverty reduction and access to good health for all.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also drastically highlighted the essential role of social health protection to protect people’s heath and ensure income security in times of sickness. During the pandemic, countries with strong social health protection systems have allowed people to receive the life-saving care they need when sick without financial hardship, and to protect their income through sickness benefits, demonstrating the significance of social health protection in times of crisis.

 **Why Primary Health Care Management and Social Health Protection?**

Primary Health Care (PHC) is considered the most effective and suitable approach to address today’s health and health system challenges. As a strategy for achieving equity, accessibility, and quality of health services, it plays a fundamental role towards the achievement of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

 Offered since 1986, the original Master in Primary Health Care Management (MPHM) has a long standing international reputation and focuses on the development of managerial and leadership skills for health managers and health professionals from all over the world, and especially Asia and the Pacific. The special track in Social Health Protection, developed in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and CONNECT focuses particularly on strategic purchasing in health systems, providing quality health care, financing of health systems and social health protection, and health benefits package design.

**Who can apply?**

 The scholarship program is open to students from across the Asia Pacific region, who meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Applicants must be current Government officials from social protection or social health protection institutions, research institutions or other relevant public administrations, with current responsibilities in relation with social health protection

- Applicants must be officially supported by their host institution

- Applicants must have a reasonable level in spoken and written English, in line with the University’s minimum English language requirements. Please refer to the admission requirements

- Applicants must commit to return to their institution upon completion of the program and contribute to the development of strong and sustainable social healh protection systems

- Successful candidates will have to agree with the ILO’s terms and conditions in order to benefit from the fellowship. The terms and conditions will be sent to interested candidates via email.

 The ILO actively strives to promote gender balance, diversity and inclusion in all environments. Women, persons with disabilities and people from under-respresented minorities are particularly encouraged to apply.

 Applicants must be aware that the application consists of 2 steps:

1. Applications to the fellowship program

2. Applications to the MPHM program

Candidates shortlisted for the fellowship program will be contacted by Mahidol University to proceed with the additional university application steps.

Only successful candidated will be contacted and informed of their acceptance into the MPHM in SHP program with a fully-funded scholarship.

 **How to apply?**

 The process of selecting the ILO fellowship recipients takes a minimum of six months, from the launch of the application call to when applicants are conditionally selected for the award:

Interested candidates must submit the following documents:

- Curriculum Vitae

- Application Letter in English

- Letter of recommendation or nomination letter from employer (government)

- Short concept note/ thesis research pitch (please use attached template)

Application must be submitted via j**ovic@ilo.org**, **goursat@ilo.org**and **thao@ilo.org**

 All applications will be reviewed by a committee and short-listed candidates will be invited for an interview in English.

Successful candidates will be invited to a separate interview with Mahidol University, as part of the 2nd step of the application process to the Master.

Successful candidates will be informed via an official email from the ILO and Mahidol University.