

## **Professor Sirirung Songsivilai, M.D., Ph.D.**

Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation  
Thailand.



Professor Sirirung Songsivilai, M.D., Ph.D. is Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation, Thailand.

Prof. Songsivilai was trained in clinical medicine with M.D. degree (First Class Honours with Gold Medal) from Mahidol University, and in molecular biology with Ph.D. degree from University of Cambridge, U.K. He was postdoctoral fellow at University of Colorado Health Science Center, U.S.A. In management, he received postgraduate certificates in law and public administration from King Prajadipok Institute, in science; technology and innovation policy from Harvard University; and in national policy from the National Defense College.

Prof. Songsivilai is an Anandhamahidol Foundation Scholar awarded by H.M. the King of Thailand. After training and working in Europe and U.S.A., he returned to Mahidol University and became full Professor at Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University in 2000. His main research interest is on molecular biology and genomics of infectious diseases, especially viral hepatitis and melioidosis; focusing on understanding clinical characteristics from the genomics variations. His laboratory works on cutting-edge technologies including manipulation of structure of antibody molecules, discovery of new biomolecular targets, and on nanobiosensor technology. He received several major international awards and honours, including Rockefeller Biotechnology Career Fellowship, Thailand Young Scientist Award, ASEAN Young Scientist and Technologist Award, and the National Outstanding Technologist Award.

Prior to becoming Permanent Secretary, Prof. Songsivilai served as Secretary-General of the National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT), the main national funding agency for research and innovation on natural sciences, technology, social sciences, arts and humanities. He previously served as Executive Director of National Nanotechnology Center (NANOTEC), Thailand's flagship S&T center to conduct and support development and application of national nanotechnology strategic programs from 2008-2016. He is also the Founding President of Thailand Nanotechnology Association, and President of Asia Nano Forum (ANF) in 2015-2016. Prof. Songsivilai plays active roles and represents Thailand in various international networks, such as ASEAN S&T communities and interactions with the United Nations bodies, OECD and the European Union. He also serves as international advisor in several international programs and institutes.