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THE DOH files

TOWARDS QUALITY HEALTHCARE FOR ALL

VOL. 1 ISSUE 8
DECEMBER 2014

DOH wins grand slam in 2014 Good Practice Award

We did it again!

THE DEPARTMENT of Health was conferred four awards for the 2014 Good Practice Award (GPA) during the 52nd Project Implementation Officers Meeting (PIO) of the the National Economic Development Authority on December 11, 2014 at the NEDA Board Room, NEDA Pasig.

The PIO confers the Good Practice Award (GPA) every two years to implementing agencies whose foreign assisted project's (FAPs) strategies has led to successful achievement of desired outcome or effective resolution of a recurrent implementation issue.

For the past years, the DOH has consistently won previous GPA. In 2010, the Department received two awards for the strategy on the Integrated Approach to Reducing Maternal and Child Mortality in the Province of Biliran supported by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the DOH strategy on Performance-Based



GOOD PRACTICE AWARDEES FOR 2014 Deputy Director-General Rolando G. Tungpalan of the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) confers the 2014 Good Practice Award to DOH Assistant Secretary Gerardo V. Bayugo and to Development Partner representatives from JICA and USAID on December 11, 2014 at the NEDA Board Room, NEDA Pasig"

Grants to LGUs thru Service Level Agreements Towards High-Performing Local Health Systems.

In 2012, the DOH again won four awards for the following strategies: 1) Kanami Health Insurance; 2) Lakbay Buhay Kalusugan; 3) The Family Health Book; and, 4) Increasing Access to TB Diagnostics Services through the Establishment of Remote Smearing Stations. The first award was supported by

World Bank while the last three awards were all supported by United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

However, this year's GPA was particularly significant to DOH because of the distinction it holds as the only agency recipient of the GPA.

Among twenty-three entries that vied for the 2014 GPA, only five entries were shortlisted for final screening. Eventually, four

entries of the DOH were chosen by the GPA Selection Board as deserving of the award.

Interestingly, one of the four Good Practice Awards was initiated by the DOH since 2007, the Development Partner Scorecard (DPS). The DPS serves as a means of aligning all development partner assistance to the principles espoused by the Paris Aid declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

The Good Practice Awards

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from page 1 DOH wins...

were given to the following strategies:

DOH Strategy in Implementing the Development Partner Scorecard initiated by the Department of Health (DOH)

DOH Strategy on Enhancing Inter-LGU Collaboration to Improve Maternal and Child Health Services in the Cordilleras under the project entitled Cordillera-wide Strengthening of the Local Health System for Effective and Efficient Delivery of Maternal and Child Health Services supported by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

DOH Strategy on Improving Data Quality Check on Maternal and Child Health and Family Planning under the project entitled Improving Quality Data on Maternal and Child Health and Family Planning Indicators supported by United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

DOH Strategy on improving Postpartum Family Planning Services under the project entitled Center of Excellence for Postpartum Family Planning Services: Responding to Women's Unmet Needs supported by United States Agency for International Development (USAID).



Dr. Ivanhoe C. Escartin, Director IV of the Health Promotion and Communication Service- DOH, together with Ms. Marilyn Villapando, Chief of Party of CHANGE- USAID, receives the ARAW Awards on November 20, 2014

'The Doctor is In' receives AnakTV Seal

Show cited 3rd time in a row for providing health awareness, information



THE DOCTOR IS IN Dr. Enrique Tayag, host of the Department of Health's "The Doctor is In" TV program and Ms. Rowena M. Bunoan, program coordinator, poses with the trophy for the AnakTV Seal Award, which the program has received for the 3rd time in a row last December 4.

THE DEPARTMENT of Health's "The Doctor is In (Season 3)" television program aired at PTV4 every Saturdays was given an Anak TV Seal award for the 3rd time in a row last Dec 4, 2014 at Quezon City.

The Anak TV Seal is given by thousands of Filipinos to television programs that kids can watch even with little or no adult supervision. These are shows regardless of target audience, genre, and language and country origin. As long as they are broadcast on free TV and are easily available to any person at home, young or adult.

The Anak TV Seal is the symbol of child-sensitive, family-friendly television in the Philippines. It is the Filipino People's choice for TV programs that are appropriate for the entire family.

"The Doctor Is In" is a television program that centers on the health concerns of the nation. The show's objective is to provide health awareness and information to the viewers. It features different segments like studio discussions on different health topics along with current health news and issues, success stories involving patients, best practices of different DOH hospitals, and queries from the public.

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'10 Kumainments' launched to promote nutrition

Consists of simpler, catchy, shorter messages for better recall and understanding



likewise spearheaded regional launch activities and some have translated the 10 Kumainments in the vernacular.

"We would like to call on the support of government and non-government agencies, local government units, the private sector, and even ordinary individuals, to help spread the '10 Kumainments,'" said Assistant Secretary of Health Maria-Bernardita T. Flores, Executive Director IV of NNC.

The 10 Kumainments is aired over television and radio plugs. NNC shall soon release a Nutrition School-On-The-Air module and reference handbook for community workers on the 10 Kumainments.

THE NATIONAL Nutrition Council launched the popular version of the Updated Nutritional Guidelines for Filipinos (NGF) called "10 Kumainments" on October 23, 2014 at the SMX Convention Center, Pasay City during the opening program of the 3rd National Conference of Nutrition Action Officers.

The "10 Kumainments," consists of simpler and shorter messages for better recall and understanding. These guidelines aim to promote good nutrition and healthy lifestyle among Filipinos by following the ten simple Kumainments.

An audio-visual presentation was also presented which included the fictional character in the person of Moises Dalisay or "MangMoi" holding a bread

tablet where the kumainments are etched. The Mang Moi character is inspired by Moses in the Bible and the Ten Commandments.

The development of Ten Kumainments is in line with the implementation of the NNC Governing Board Resolution 6 Series of 2012 tasking the NNC to spearhead the dissemination of the Updated Nutritional Guidelines for Filipinos (NGF) and ensure participation of non-government offices, media, the academe and civil society.

The launching was attended by members of the NGF-Technical Working Group, regional nutrition program coordinators, representatives from partner agencies and about 500 nutrition action officers (NAOs) from all over the country.

The NAOs were asked to lead in the dissemination of the 10 Kumainments in their areas. The NNC regional offices have



THE 10 KUMAINMENTS The "tablets" (in bread form) showing 10 simple but essential guidelines to promote good nutrition

EDITORIAL

Fresh start, new hope

EVERY END of the year, we reflect upon all that have happened over the past 12 months and in particular, the accomplishments, changes, challenges, and developments we have encountered.

The year 2014 was a good year for the Department of Health. On January 7, 2014, there was a ceremonial measles vaccination to signal the start of mass measles vaccination led by then Health Secretary Enrique Ona. This addressed the alarming measles outbreak affecting a total of 1,724 cases with 21 deaths nationwide reported from January to December 14, 2013.

Mothers lined up at health centers in Metro Manila with their babies, nine months to 11 months, for the first dose of measles vaccine; and their older children, 12 months to 23 months, for the second dose.

Mobile teams were also deployed in areas where there have been rising cases of measles or significant number of unvaccinated children for a door-to-door approach that would ensure that children nine months to 59 months (five years) old received their first dose or completed their second doses.

Then there was also the "Goodbye TIGDAS" campaign, which targeted over 2 million children, aged six months to three years. About 1,500 children aged six months to 3 years were also targeted for measles vaccination until February 23, 2014. Indeed, a measles-free Philippines is likely in the foreseeable future.

During the year, the DOH reiterated its Pilipinas Go4Health campaign, which encourages Filipinos to practice a healthy lifestyle by making a personal commitment to increase their physical activity, have proper nutrition, and strive to quit smoking and avoid excessive alcohol intake—measures which have been proven to prevent heart or cardiovascular diseases.

For those who develop severe heart problems requiring surgical intervention, the DOH added eight government hospitals nationwide that are capable of performing heart surgeries, so the patients from Visayas and Mindanao need not come to Manila for the surgery.

The DOH has always strived to achieve the best

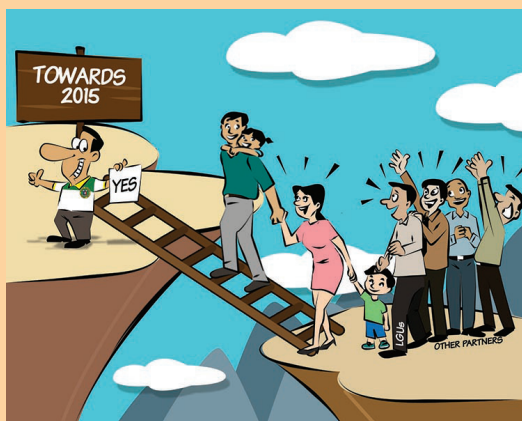


Illustration by Donna Pahignalo

outcome for all its programs through an effective implementation of its strategic plans. Its greatest satisfaction is to see its programs translating into actual benefits to the public, especially the poorest of the poor. Citations and accolades the DOH receives are well appreciated but they are not the primary objective for the DOH's overriding goal to achieve the most from its various programs.

Before the year ended, the DOH was conferred four awards for the 2014 Good Practice Award (GPA) during the 52nd Project Implementation Officers' Meeting (PIO) of the National Economic Development Authority last December 11, 2014. The PIO confers the GPA every two years to implementing agencies whose foreign-assisted project's (FAPs) strategies has led to successful achievement of desired outcome or effective resolution of a recurrent implementation issue.

This year's GPA was particularly memorable to DOH because of the distinction of being the only government agency receiving this prestigious award.

Among 23 entries that vied for the 2014 GPA, only five entries were shortlisted for final screening, and four entries of the DOH were chosen by the GPA Selection Board as deserving of the award.

These and many others are only some of the DOH's accomplishments in 2014. But admittedly, the year also had its fair share of challenges and controversies. The important thing is that the DOH has risen up to the urgent call to continually find ways and means to improve healthcare delivery in the country.

For the dedicated men and women in DOH, the coming of the New Year brings in that fresh start and a new hope that can inspire everyone to close ranks and remain united so we could focus on the department's vision of Kalusugang Pangkalahatan.

So much have been done already, but so much still need to be done.



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National Nutrition Council's radio programs reap awards

TWO OF the National Nutrition Council's radio programs bagged two awards this year that added to their growing number of achievements.

For the 2nd time, the National Nutrition Council's Radyo Mo sa Nutrisyon was recognized as the Best Radio Public Service Program during the 22nd Golden Dove Awards of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodcaster ng Pilipinas (KBP).

The awarding was held on 29 April 2014 at the Star Theater in Pasay City. Ms. Jovita B. Raval, Chief of the Nutrition Information and Education Division of the NNC received the award in behalf of Assistant Secretary of Health Maria-Bernardita T. Flores who anchors the program, together with Mr. Rod Marcelino, co-anchor and Ms. Mackay Quadra, of MQ MediaZone Productions which assists NNC in producing the radio program.

Radyo Mo sa Nutrisyon won for its episode "Wastong Nutrisyon Para sa Malinaw na Paningin."

Its two other episodes on "Prostate Cancer Iwasan" and "Food Allergy: Alamin ang mga dapat gawin" were also among the finalists. Radyo Mo sa Nutrisyon bested DZRH's Doctors on Call and ABS-CBN DZMM's Magandang Gabi Dok!.

Radyo Mo sa Nutrisyon is a 30-minute block time nutrition radio program aired over DZXL 558 kHz AM every Saturday from 12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Radyo Mo sa Nutrisyon is currently on its 5th year of airing. It discusses issues about nutrition, health and developmental programs and other concerns. NNC invites qualified resource persons to discuss the technical discussion in the weekly radio program.

Meanwhile, the National Nutrition Council's radio drama series Katumbas ay Biyaya was once again nominated for Best Public Service Program radio category at the 36th Catholic Mass Media Awards (CMMA) on 29 October 2014 held at the GSIS Theater, Pasay City.

Katumbas ay Biyaya was one of the six finalists chosen among 20 entries for the award category.

Now in its 9th season, Katumbas ay Biyaya is aired over DZRH 666 kHz AM every Saturday between 10:00 and 11:00 am.

It is a 30-minute radio program featuring the dramatization of various nutrition and related concerns and then later discussed by a nutritionist-dietitian from the NNC.

This is part of the NNC's media campaign under the Promote Good Nutrition Program that aims to educate Filipinos to adopt positive nutrition behaviors. Past episodes are also aired nationwide in NNC's 25 Nutriskwela community radio stations and in local radio stations by the NNC regional offices.



NNC Executive Director and Asst. Secretary Maria-Bernardita Flores receiving the awards, together with NNC staff Ms. Jovita Raval and Katherine Villanueva

This is the fourth year in a row for Katumbas ay Biyaya to be a CMMA finalist. The radio program was one of the finalists in the 33rd and 34th Catholic Mass Media Awards (CMMA) for Best Public Service Program (radio category) while it bagged the 35th CMMA award in 2013 for the same category.

The CMMA, organized by the CMMA Foundation, is one of the most prestigious award-giving bodies and an offering of the Archdiocese of Manila to media practitioners who embody what is good and true for God and humanity.

DOH joins international community in 2nd ICN vs fight against nutrition challenges



ADDRESSING NUTRITION CHALLENGES Assistant Secretary Maria-Bernardita T. Flores led the Philippine delegation for the 2nd International Conference on Nutrition held at the FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy on 19-21 November 2014.

THE 2ND INTERNATIONAL Conference on Nutrition (ICN) was an inclusive inter-governmental meeting on nutrition jointly organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the World Health Organization (WHO) both of the United Nations. It was a high-level ministerial conference that adopted a flexible policy framework to address today's major nutrition challenges and priorities for enhanced international cooperation on nutrition.

ICN2 brought together national leaders, senior national policymakers from agriculture, health and other relevant ministries and agencies, leaders of United Nations agencies and other intergovernmental organizations and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, researchers, the private sector and consumers.

The conference reviewed the progress in improving nutrition since the first ICN in 1992,

reflecting on nutrition problems that remain, as well as on the new challenges and opportunities for improving nutrition presented by changes in the global economy, in food systems, by advances in science and technology.

It then identified policy and program options for improving nutrition, to be implemented according to the unique conditions of each country.

It adopted the 2014 Rome Declaration on Nutrition which spelled out key country commitments to:

1. Eradicate hunger and prevent all forms of malnutrition worldwide;
2. Increase investments for effective interventions and actions to improve people's diets and nutrition, including in emergency situations;
3. Enhance sustainable food systems to provide year-round access to food that meets

people's nutrition needs and promote safe and diversified healthy diets;

4. Raise the profile of nutrition within relevant national strategies, policies, actions plans and programmes, and align national resources accordingly;
5. Improve nutrition by strengthening human and institutional capacities to address all forms of malnutrition
6. Strengthen and facilitate contributions and action by all stakeholders to improve nutrition and promote collaboration within and across countries,
7. Develop policies, programmes and initiatives for ensuring healthy diets throughout the life course,
8. Empower people and create an enabling environment for making informed choices about food products for healthy dietary practices and appropriate infant and young child feeding practices
9. Implement the Rome Declaration through the Framework for Action which will also contribute to ensuring accountability and monitoring progress in global nutrition targets

The conference likewise called for the stronger integration of the vision and commitments of the Rome Declaration into the Post-2015 development agenda.

ICN2 built on ongoing global political processes and initiatives to contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda including identifying priority areas, nutrition development goals as well as the policies that are required to achieve, measure and account for them. The outcome of the ICN2 also

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DOH joins international....

contributed to the UN Secretary-General's call for a high degree of policy coherence at global, regional, national and sub-national levels and a global partnership for development at all levels. The ICN2 was also hinged on the Secretary-General's call to leaders gathered at the Rio+20 Summit to take up the "Zero Hunger Challenge".

The Philippine delegation headed by Assistant Secretary of Health Maria-Bernadita T. Flores, the Executive Director of the National Nutrition Council (NNC), included Director Carlos Magnaye of the Department of Agriculture, representatives from the Philippine Embassy in Rome (CDA Leila Lora-Santos, Enrique Voltaire Pingol, Marion Reyes, Lupiño Lazaro, Jr.) and in Geneva (Arnel G. Talisayon), Dr. Anthony Calibo of the Department of Health, and Maria Lourdes A. Vega of the National Nutrition Council.

As head of the delegation, Assistant Secretary Flores delivered the Philippine Country Statement, which outlines the Philippines' commitment to address the double burden of malnutrition.

The country paper recounted key actions that will be pursued in the Philippines to include:

1. Focus on the first 1000 days of life, and as such strengthen efforts to ensure optimum infant and young child feeding practices;
2. Scale up actions to address micronutrient deficiencies as well as acute malnutrition,
3. Advance efforts in nutrition in emergencies through a consciousness of preparedness, response and rehabilitation in emergency situations.

4. Develop nutrition-sensitive interventions among sectors of the government particularly in agriculture and social protection, and under the regime of decentralization,
5. Mobilize local government units in including nutrition among their priorities and investing in its implementation.
6. Strengthen the link of supplementary feeding practices to local agriculture and food production and livelihood opportunities especially in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs)
7. Work in partnership with development organizations including UN agencies.

It also expressed the Philippine commitment to continue the legacy that ICN pursued over the last twenty years, with emphasis on sustainable solutions to malnutrition, amidst the growing threat, but at the same time cognizant of the opportunities posed by further integration between and among nations in the global community, more specifically the ASEAN nations.

And, for her closing message, Asec. Flores firmly asserted that "We will uphold our responsibilities and work with our international partners to improve the nutritional status of Filipinos", assuring everyone to count on the Philippines to do its part in living up to the 2014 Rome Declaration on Nutrition.

For more information on ICN2 and the Philippine country statement, visit the following websites: <http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/icn2/en/>, <http://www.iisd.ca/fao/nutrition/icn2/>.

Message of the Acting Health Secretary...

excluded or left behind. We also believe that the pillars of a stronger health system that can respond to the health needs of Filipinos within the country are also the same pillars that can help improve the health of Filipinos outside. For example, the National Health Insurance Program, through PhilHealth's Overseas Filipinos Program, has been actively working towards expanding enrolment and improving benefits for overseas Filipinos. Today, efforts are currently being undertaken in order to reach more overseas Filipinos through establishing networks with other key migration actors such as POEA and our embassies and consulates abroad.

On the other hand, since 1998, the Philippine AIDS Prevention and Control Act of 1998 has been requiring the provision of HIV-AIDS education to all OFWs and foreign service officers even before departure, especially now that nearly 1 out of 6 cases of HIV-AIDS since 1984 is attributable to overseas Filipinos. However, we know that in our current response to migrant health, there remain gaps to be filled as well as opportunities to be harnessed.

Addressing migrant health needs a collective effort, not just from the DOH but from all sectors involved in migration. The whole of government and whole of society approaches are necessary. There is still so much to be done in terms of policy development, advocacy, capacity building, networking, resource mobilization, and information sharing and monitoring and evaluation. Migrant health services needs to be strengthened in an equitable, accessible and efficient manner. Today, in this forum, we hope to continue this fruitful dialogue on how we can work together to address the gaps in our approach to migrant health.

Before I end, allow me to thank you for engaging the DOH to become a member of this Inter-agency Committee for MOF. Be assured that the DOH will always be in the forefront in advancing the health of our migrants. Promoting migrant health benefits not only the individual migrants' interest but is also vital for the country's sustainable development. After all, a healthy citizenry equals a wealthy nation.

**MABUHAY TAYONG LAHAT.
MARAMING SALAMAT PO!!**



JANETTE L. GARIN, MD, MBA-H
Acting Secretary of Health

Promoting Migrants' Health through Sustainable Development

FELLOW OFFICIALS and representatives of the Inter-agency Committee for the Celebration of the Month of Overseas Filipinos (MOF) and International Migrants Day, representatives from other government agencies, representatives from non-governmental organizations, academia, private sector, international organizations, ladies and gentlemen, a pleasant morning to all of you.

Today, we celebrate the Month of Overseas Filipinos and the International Migrants Day.

It is indeed an auspicious occasion especially for our fellow Filipinos who are based abroad either as workers or as migrants. We dedicate this special day for them and their families.

The theme of this year's celebration "Promoting Migrants' Health for Sustainable Development" is indeed very timely. As of December 2012, the Commission on Filipinos Overseas estimates that there are nearly 10.5 million Filipinos living or working abroad, or roughly 11% of our total population. In addition, POEA reports that out of 2.2 million applications processed, more than 1.8 million Overseas Filipino Workers or OFWs were deployed last year. And according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, OFW remittance totalled nearly 22.9 billion US dollars, comprising 8.4% of the country's GDP in 2013 alone.

However, Filipinos overseas, who are employed around the world, should not only be seen as human resources for overseas employment or channels for inward flow of monetary investment, but as migrant people whose health and well-being need to be promoted, and like any other Filipino citizen, should be enjoying the basic right to health guaranteed by our Constitution, as well as our international commitments such as the International Convention on the Protection of

the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families and the World Health Assembly Resolution 61.17 on the health of migrants.

The critical importance of this dimension of international migration has recently been more glaring than ever before. Last March, no less than President Benigno Aquino III himself released Administrative Order No. 41, which established an inter-agency committee, that included DOH, tasked to formulate and implement guidelines on giving governmental assistance to Overseas Filipino Workers in distress. In addition, in response to the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Corona Virus or MERS-CoV outbreak in the Gulf countries, the President also issued Executive Order No. 168 which created an inter-agency task force to be headed by DOH for the management of emerging infectious diseases in the Philippines. The importance of this task force became much more prominent with the recent surfacing of Ebola virus in West Africa, now declared by the World Health Organization as a public health emergency of international concern.

Migration has and will always be a part of Philippine society, especially in a globalized world we live in today. Our people have been migrating to other countries for the past century, perhaps even way before that, but migration has further intensified when our country made overseas deployment of workers its national policy in the 1970s. Since then, new government agencies such as the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration or POEA and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration or OWWA have been established to help implement this program. An important turning point was when Congress passed the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995, which created new institutions for the orderly

facilitation of migration and guaranteed migrants with various basic protections such as legal, welfare, and repatriation assistance.

At the Department of Health, we collaborated with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) by signing a Memorandum of Agreement on Migrants Health, last April 2013. Through this collaboration, we launched the National Migrants Health Program of the DOH and we were able to convene the first National Conference on Migrants Health last September. We truly recognize the critical importance of migration, and how it affects health, especially in the 21st century. These recent developments indeed reaffirm that the DOH is on the right track in deciding to look into the health of migrants and to plan on how we can better serve them. Migrant health, though, is not an entirely new health agenda. The health of migrants and all Filipinos has always been an intrinsic part of the Aquino Health Agenda to achieve Universal Health Care or Kalusugan Pangkalahatan by 2016.

Universal Health Care is defined as the "provision to every Filipino of the highest possible quality of health care that is accessible, efficient, equitably distributed, adequately funded, fairly financed, and appropriately used by an informed and empowered public." Our goals for Universal Health Care are three-pronged: better health outcomes, sustained health financing and responsive health system. In order to achieve these goals, we are actively pursuing three strategic thrusts: improving financial risk protection through expansion in the National Health Insurance Program or PhilHealth enrolment and benefit delivery; enhancing access to quality hospitals and other health care facilities; and attaining the health-related Millennium Development Goals such as reducing the burden of HIV-AIDS and also including the prevention of control of non-communicable diseases.

We, in the DOH, believe that there can be no Kalusugan Pangkalahatan if migrants are