

1 | **The Philippine National Health Research Opening Ceremonies**

Convention Center, Laoag City, Ilocos Norte

8 August 2013

M E S S A G E

HON. ENRIQUE T. ONA
Secretary
Department of Health

[Greetings]

First, let us start by congratulating the PNHRs and the people and institutions behind its creation. The researchers, mentors and policy makers, the academe, the private sector and the LGUs, the core agencies- Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD), UP Manila- National Institute for Health (UP-NIH), our partners in the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and of course the DOH.

PNHRs is a ten-year partnership which thrived primarily on the principles of **participation** and **inclusiveness** in order to deliver **quality, efficient, equitable and effective service** to our clients through health research. PCHRD, DOH, UP-NIH then, saw that working individually was not doing well for research in the country and decided to pool resources, work together as one, and eventually enticed CHED and other research organizations and networks to participate, to make PNHRs more **inclusive**.

In the past seven years, the PNHRs was implemented with the set objectives of sharing and pooling resources, building capacities for knowledge production according to ethical standards in research and learning how to best use and manage research results.

PNHRs lives on, and the DOH as one of its pillars, commit to funnel more funds for health research by institutionalizing the allocation of 2% from its MOOE budget for

2 | **The Philippine National Health Research Opening Ceremonies**

Convention Center, Laoag City, Ilocos Norte

8 August 2013

research and development in partnership with PCHRD, PIDS, UP-NIH and other research institutions. We can now implement our Health Research Agenda and generate enough results to support policies and programs beneficial to our mandated beneficiaries – **The People!**

It is time for us to confirm our commitment of putting *People at the Center of Health and Health Research*, as we have actually framed and implemented a research agenda supportive of “Kalusugang Pangkalahatan”. Last year through the Health Systems Research Management project, we started implementing 61 researches geared towards Access to Quality Health Facilities, Attainment of MDGs, Governance and Financial Risk Protection. For 2013, we have 50 researches more in the pipeline. DOH is committed to keep the number going and growing through the coming years.

Through our partnership with PCHRD, PIDS and UP-NIH, we started building capacities for health research and development through our 2013 Health Policy Internship Program (HPIP), deploying 30 Health Policy Associates and Interns in priority areas of DOH. We are all getting older, and part of our initiative is to prepare and train the younger generation who will catch on after us. We cannot afford to revert and lose momentum, because we owe our “**bosses**”, (as our beloved President of the Republic calls them) that much. We will keep research going through our concerted effort through the PNHRs!

Congratulations and Mabuhay!