

MESSAGE

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Secretary
Department of Science and Technology

7th PNHRS Week Celebration
Plaza del Norte Hotel and Convention Center, Laoag City
7-9 August 2013

Governor Imee Marcos, Philippine Council for Health Research and Development Executive Director Jaime Montoya, Commission on Higher Education Executive Director Julito Vitriolo, University of the Philippines Manila - National Institutes of Health Executive Director Vicente Belizario, Jr., Region 1 Health Research and Development Consortium Chair, Dr. Ma. Lourdes Otayza, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, a pleasant morning to everyone!

First, allow me to congratulate our friends and partners from the PNHRS core agencies, the PCHRD, the DOH, the CHED, and UP Manila, for another fruitful year of collaboration and outstanding public service in health.

I am very honored to be here this morning to join you all in this meaningful 7th PNHRS Week celebration with the theme *“People at the Center of Health and Health Research.”*

This theme is actually a running theme for this year's health research forums in preparation for the country's hosting of the Global Forum for Health Research in 2015. This theme was proposed because we believe that now is the perfect time for the voices of our people to be heard, in the global health research arena. Aside from that, the choice of theme reflects our strong commitment to produce meaningful programs, solutions and innovations for the benefit of the people we serve.

Ladies and gentlemen, I believe that when we use people-centered approach in our programs and initiatives, we show people that they are important, that they are the lifeblood of everything that we do. We show them that we are here, all partners in the health research community, to produce meaningful solutions to improve their lives. The people-centered approach is all about listening to people, respecting them, allowing them to make informed decisions, and involving them in crafting realistic and meaningful policies and actions.

We can already take cues from our ongoing work here in the PNHRs when it comes to leading people-centered initiatives and programs in the health research sector. PNHRs were conceived as a convergence strategy that aims to promote cooperation and integration of all health research efforts and stakeholders in the country to ensure that research contributes to evidence-informed health policies and actions. Now, with an institutionalized PNHRs in place, the country is not only assured of better and more efficient health care delivery and services but also

prompt and appropriate response to people's real health needs. That is putting people at the center of our health and health R&D initiatives.

Ladies and gentlemen, in our celebration today, let us be reminded that as key actors in the health research sector, there is a fine line between knowledge and public service when it comes to people-centered programs and initiatives. Remember, we have both the power to enrich the knowledge of the world and extend service to mankind. It is up to us to become effective health leaders, catalysts for change.

Magandang umaga po! Mabuhay!