

Closing Remarks

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Thank you, Merl. I'm not in the program but I have to represent the Institute and my boss, Dr. Lulu C. Bravo from the National Institutes of Health. She's also the Vice-Chancellor for Research of the University of the Philippines Manila.

We're very pleased to be part of the PNHRs, the National Institutes of Health of the University of the Philippines Manila is a core agency and so we're in this together with DOH, PCHRD, DOST, and the CHED. This is the 2nd PNHRs Week we are participating in and I can tell you I have seen the difference between last year and this year. In the PCHRD fora, anniversary celebration, it is not like this. Where people interact with so much vigor and therefore, there is a need for us to continue interacting in this manner. We admit not everything is according to your taste but rest assured that your evaluation on this forum will help us improve in the future and we thank you for bearing with us.

Just two more things. We say the health research in the Philippines is alive and kicking. The challenge actually is to continue pulling it forward with our research-related activities, research for that matter, research outputs that will be marked by not just final reports but hopefully research publications published in the journals, preferably peer-reviewed. And hopefully, pushing it a little further to get the fruits out of the research work and this will be research outcomes. What have we shown that has been used by policymakers so that you know we're closer to become a healthier region. And in fact, there can be instances when researches in the region could affect national policy. Especially if more than 1 region actually proves a point then it can be used for national policy making. Have your research results been used for budgetary purposes so that there is now more support for this neglected area, for instance? And this is the challenge to push research so that it is not only planting of the seed and making the plant grow but the plant bears fruit and that is the research outcome. I learned that from Dr. Jimmy Galvez-Tan. Research outputs carried further, pushed further to become research outcomes, this is what we desire.

The last message is that we now, I will ask the audience, do you want more of this kind of assembly? The response is rather soft at the side, I wonder why [*mahina-hina ang sagot banda ruon, bakit kaya?*]. So, Do you want more of this kind of an assembly or forum? Because we need to get the means to get more of these opportunities for more interaction happen.

We realize, and I was struck by Region II, their report is so full of activity and outputs. And we would like to see... Region II you're impressive. And, of course, the other also are somewhat like that, some sort of lagging behind but with a push from PNHRs, I think you could be something of the Region II also, right?

Therefore, on behalf of PNHRs, we would like to say that we should commit to offering this opportunity for further interaction in the future. Yes, you have continuing interactions in the regions but at the national level we should also cross the borders because there could be common

interests and maybe we could work together towards a bigger goal and that of affecting, not only national, but possibly even international health for global health policy. That is a possibility.

We would like to congratulate the organizers. I think this RHDC concept emanated from PCHRD and they were the ones who saw this through and continuing to support our regions.

Now, we're together in this. I think it's a bright idea to help develop capacity, research productivity out there in the regions and we have to thank and congratulate PCHRD for that. Dr. Jimmy Montoya, congratulations to you and your year. We'd hope to see you again in the next PNHRAS Assembly. Look forward to that and please don't go home yet because there's still more coming up. Thank you for staying over and we'll still have dinner.

Thank you very much.