

Dr. Fe B. Barquin
Chair
Region 8 Health Research and Development Committee

Honorable Ana York Bondoc, Undersecretary of Health of the Department of Health Jade del Mundo, the Executive Director of AIM, Dr. Macaranas, the Executive Director of the PCHRD Jaime C. Montoya, the Director of the Department of Health, Health Policy and Planning Bureau Ms. Maylene, the chairman and members of the health system, the stakeholders of the Philippine National Health System, the regional directors, distinguished guests, colleagues.

Good Morning! Thank you Dr. Acuin for the gracious introduction. In Eastern Visayas, the point of convergence for Research and Development is the Regional Health Research and Development Committee.

Providing policy directions for the Regional Health Research and Development in Region 8 is its Executive Committee. The quality of its research proposals and research studies and as to whether this are focused on research priorities are ensured by the Research Management Subcommittee. Ensuring that research proposals and implementation of research studies do not violate ethical policies and standards is the responsibility of the Ethics Subcommittee. Generation of funds for research grants and other RHRDC 8 operations is a responsibility of the Research Resources Subcommittee. This Subcommittee likewise manage capability enhancement activities for RHRDC 8, while, Research Information dissemination and knowledge translation is a responsibility of the Research Information Subcommittee. DOST 8 is the Secretariat and Fund Administrator of the PCHRD grant.

The slide illustrates representations of all the provinces—namely the Provinces of Leyte, Southern Leyte, Biliran, Samar, Northern Samar and Eastern Samar.

This illustrates the various RHRDC 8 in Tacloban City and Palo, Leyte where most of the Government Agencies, Main Campus of the State Universities and Colleges , UP Campus, and Level 4 Hospitals are located.

I would like to present the profile of the RHRDC 8 members. Thru the members we have illustrated the inter-sectoral and inter-agency collaboration thru the members of this Regional Health Research and Development in Region 8.

The RHRDC 8 members signed the MOA in 2007 were 7 Government Organizations, 7 State Universities and Collegess, the 2 UP Campus, the UP Manila School of Health Sciences and the UP Iloilo Tacloban Campus, 4 Private Schools, 2 Technical Schools, 1 hospital and 6 Non-Government Organizations and Professional Organizations.

The 1983 RHRDC 8 was composed of only 7 members who were identified because of the research capabilities of these agencies and institutions. When RHRDC 8 was revived in 1993, membership grew to eleven and then 20 in 2004.

In Region 8 Convergence strategies can be summarized into institutional capacity enhancement, human resource capability building, information dissemination and knowledge translation, networking and research management.

Sharing in the use of laboratory and computer equipments is done in the course of collaboration or multi-center research studies on tropical diseases. Laboratory services for microbiological identification or validation are provided to researchers initially for free but because of the rising cost of supplies the laboratory is now charging at Php 1,900 per sample. Researchers can also buy at 75 pesos per tube per strain of bacteria or fungi. In the 2 researches that we have approved in RHRDC researchers now can avail of these from other member agencies. Laboratory animals can likewise be bought from a laboratory of PTHAC in Region 8. Bioassay for researchers is offered by 2 member state universities.

In the conduct of research trainings in the provinces, LGU's provide for the venue in the conduct of research trainings or capacity building in the provinces. accommodation and share in the meal expenses of participants and lecturers. They provide for registration fees and Travel Expenses for the participants if trainings and other activities are conducted in the city. Host during Cluster reviews provide for the venue, accommodation. AV equipments and share in the meal expenses too. Of course RHRDC also share for the honorarium of lecturers and facilitators and also for the meals while DOH provide the vehicle and other traveling expenses. The DOH for Eastern Visayas provides funds for research grants. This year we are lobbying for the membership fee with the Visayas State University as the Fund Administrator of the funds generated in RHRDC.

For Human Resource Capability Enhancement, this consists of Post-graduates studies : Epidemiology, Biostatistics, Mathematics, Microbiology. We have successfully endorsed to PCHRD these particular post graduate courses. Of course recently we have had applicants for post graduate studies who have been approve by PCHRD but unfortunately but because of the need of their services they have been unable to utilize this fellowships.

Basic Research Methods for a few years focused on tropical diseases. These has now shifted to focus on research priorities and specific designs. Lecturers from the region provide inputs during these trainings. Of course, Dr. Alan Feranil of PCHRD also joined us in this basic research methods trainings. For the training on Health System Research, Region 8 was supported by the UP Foundation led by Dr. Tomas Maramba. Data Analysis training was conducted by Dr. Ofelia Mendoza, Ms. Marilyn Crisostomo, Dr. Jesus Sarol and Dr. Maridel Borja. These trainings utilized Epi-Info which were inputted by Professors Rose Azcuna and Jinky Lozano from the UP Manila College of Public Health.

Meta-analysis trainings was exclusively facilitated by Dr. Sarol. Ethics trainings for researchers in Region 8 were facilitated by Dr. Judy Dalmacion and Dean Marita Reyes. Outside the region, ethics trainings were conducted by UP Fogarty. UP Manila again provided by Dr.

Fernando Sison as lecturer in Health Economics. Medical Anthropology, this is the forte of Dr. Acuin was recently integrated in Basic Research Methods Trainings.

Another capacity enhancement that we have in Region 8 are in the form of consultations provided by us in the research management committee not only for researchers but also for those post graduate students for their thesis and dissertation. Mentoring is particularly undertaken by members of the research units of the state universities and colleges. This year we are concretizing twinning between the main campus and satellite campuses of state universities and colleges between clusters of schools in the same area.

For information dissemination and knowledge translation there has only been one issue of the RHRDC Newsletter so far. The Research Information subcommittee is proposing to come up with a Journal this year. But of course in Region 8 we have also our RTR Medical Foundation which has regularly come out with their own journal of completed researches. The St. Scholastica's College of Health Sciences will be publishing their journal this year. Another development for information dissemination is the NEDA's EVIPNET and they are designing the RHRDC 8 website.

At the national level, for networking we have at the regional level designation of R and D coordinators for the provinces, research units of the state universities and state colleges. For the zonal networking we have established as mentioned earlier by Dr. Gruet research priority setting and sharing of expertise between these regions. At the national level we have mentioned with PCHRD and the Department of Health that have been facilitated by Ms Annie Catameo, OIC of HRID PCHRD DOST and Ms Rose Gonzalez, OIC Research Division of Health Policy Development and Planning Bureau of the Department of Health. At the international level we have the Global Research Updates ; Research Grants and Fellowship and recently the NIH has provided us a fellowship to attend an international ethics conference in Orlando, Florida.

For research management , let me just acknowledge the strong collaboration between the DOH Eastern Visayas and DOST 8. This is critical in the strong linkage for research management in Region 8. We are also being processed the representation in the Social Development Committee of the Regional Development Council in Region 8.

Dr. Ruben Caragay made an assessment of the RHRDC 8 and compared his observations of our committee to his observations of other regions as well. I assume health managers may have read this report.

If we be allowed to assess ourselves, by the way this is my own assessment because the previous slides is a consensus of those who participated the focus group discussion which we have last August 5, and this was participated by those who are mostly here this morning.

Our performance for the past years may be likened to a hare and a turtle. A hare because RHRDC 8 has been hopping and hopping and probably missed some ground; and to a turtle, because it has been moving slowly but though it carries a heavy weight it pops out of its head now and then to prove something. The hare hops, the turtle crawls, but in the end both reaches their destination.

The Regional Health Research and Development in Region 8 may have lost some ground and quite slow in its accomplishments with the weight of limitations intrinsic and extrinsic, yet we are moving towards our goal which is the goal of the Philippine National Health Research System.

Thank you.

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