

The 8th Finnish-Philippine UP Global Health Course

I. Introduction

Globally, people are healthier, wealthier and live longer today than 30 years ago, according to the World Health Report 2008. However, this progress is marked with increasing gaps in equity between developed and developing countries, as well as within countries. Indeed, thirty-three years after the Declaration of Alma Ata, advances in health, science, technology, and economy are not being felt by those who need it most and the challenge of attaining Health for All remains.

With the advent of globalization, societies are realizing their increasing dependence on each other. This underscores the need for an international and interdisciplinary approach to health and development. There is a need for a concerted response from all stakeholders to make this world truly healthier, wealthier, more just and humane.

Current traditional health professional education recognizes the need but remains wanting in promoting an integrated, interdisciplinary approach and global cooperation for health promotion. Focus is still largely individual-centered, disease-oriented, hospital-based, curative, technology-focused, and doctor-[or professional-] centric.

Born of a partnership with the University of Tampere in Finland, the University of the Philippines College of Medicine (UPCM) participated in the Finnish Diploma Course in Global Health in 2002, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2010 and 2011. The UPCM sent a faculty facilitator and four participants, initially UP medical students and later UP medical graduates to the Finnish diploma courses on global health, as well as organized a 2-week practical training period in the Philippines for Finnish participants of the abovementioned courses.

Thereafter, UPCM continued to develop a Global Health Course (UP-GHC), which was offered for students from various universities in 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2010 and this year. The course addresses these educational gaps by highlighting local and international health issues, as well as best practices to address these issues. It was envisioned as a way to deepen the participants' understanding of health, now with a global perspective, thus preparing them to become more effective health professionals. The course was made possible through the joint efforts of the students and faculty of the UP College of Medicine, with financial contributions from the Office of the Dean and its attached units: the Community-Oriented Medical Education Unit and Social Medicine Unit. Resources were likewise shared by the UP Medicine Student Council and UP Center for Gender and Women's Studies, with one-time grants from the Global Health through Education, Training and Research (GHETS), the Philippine Council on Health Research and Development, and the secretariat of the First Asia Pacific and Human Rights Congress.

To further enhance the partnership with the University of Tampere, the University of the Philippines and University of Tampere through Duodecim successfully organized the 1st Finnish-Philippine UP Global Health Course in the Philippines last 2009. It was attended by 11 Finnish and 21 Filipino healthcare professionals. As a continuation of that, the two universities will again collaborate and offer the course to interested Finnish and Filipino healthcare professionals

The course aims to:

1. Increase health professionals' awareness of the global and local health situation and trends as it relates to economy, history, politics, and culture;
2. Provide exposure to various health programs, tools in health analysis and methods in creating solutions;
3. Provide a venue for sharing of experiences in a multicultural and multidisciplinary environment; and
4. Establish a network of health care professionals concerned with local and global health issues.

II. Course objectives

At the end of the course, the participant must be able to:

1. Describe the global health situation, trends and priorities;
2. Analyze the local health situation, trends from the added perspective of global health trends;
3. Share experiences with fellow participants from the Philippines and other countries (Finland);
4. Analyze the various health programs addressing these global and local health needs;
5. Propose specific solutions to an identified health problem using learned cognates in health promotion.

III. Course Information

All teaching is conducted in English. It consists of a 2-week theoretical part, which uses varied participatory learning methods for health professions including plenary lectures, small group discussions, group work, workshops, poster presentation and case studies.

During the 2-week practical period, the participants will be exposed to a range of health and development activities of various stakeholders in health. This includes: 1. *government* at the national level: the Department of Health and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth); and at the local level: a local city health office 2. *academe*: partnership with local government in an urban and rural setting; 3. *non-government organization*: its approach to health and development; and 4. *private sector*: a tertiary medical center and a private practice at the clinic level.

The participants have a synthesis activity at the end of the theoretical part. They are also required to submit a written report on their findings/experience during the practical field assignment. They are also required to submit a learning diary which gives a day to day reflection on this experience and how this relates to their respective professions and home country.

IV. Contents of Teaching

The theoretical period is divided into four modules: a) Global and National Health Situation b) Paradigm of Health and Development c) Global Health Trends and Issues d) People's Response.

Topics covered include:

A: Global and National Health Situation:

- Current Global Health Situation

- Impact of Globalization and the Social Determinants of Health

B: Paradigm of Health and Development:

- Primary Health Care
- Gender, Culture, Sexuality and Health
- Comparative Health Systems
- Health Financing

C. Global Health Trends / Issues:

- International Health Organizations
- Maternal and Child Health
- Migration and Health Human Resources
- Global Burden of Diseases and Emerging Global Health Threats
- Noncommunicable Diseases
- War and Health
- Disaster Preparedness
- Human Rights in Health
- Mental Health
- Access to Essential Medicines and National Drug Policy Analysis
- Integrative Medicine

D. People's Responses

- Social Mobilization and Community-Based Health Programs
- Global Partnerships and the People's Health Movement
- Health Education and promotion

V. Application Procedure

A total of 30 participants will be selected (11 from Finland and 19 from the Philippines and other countries). Duodecim selects the Finnish participants to the course and UP Manila selects the participants from the Philippines and other countries.

For the UP Manila Organizing Committee selection process, the applicant must have completed health professional/veterinary studies and have had at least 1 year's work experience. S/he must have a good working knowledge of written and spoken English and submitted an official Application Form completed with all required attachments to the committee.

Participants invited from the Philippines include members of the UP Community Health and Development Program (CHDP) (i.e., colleges of nursing, dentistry, public health, pharmacy, allied medical professions), faculty from the various departments of the UP College of Medicine, members of non-government organizations and local government units (LGUs) involved in health, and other health professionals involved in public health.

VI. Funding

The course is funded by a grant from the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs/Department for International Development Co-operation, organized through the Finnish Medical Society Duodecim. This covers course costs and participants' accommodation.

VII. Venue:

The venue for the theoretical part of the course will be at Alvior Hall of the UP College of Medicine. Participants will be housed at the Tropicana Apartment Hotel near the UP College of Medicine.

