

*5th Stakeholders' Forum on the  
Control and Elimination of  
Neglected Tropical Diseases*

## **Terminal Report**

**Prepared for**  
Department of Health  
Regional Office No. 7

**Prepared by**  
Culion Foundation, Inc.



**31 March 2017**



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## Executive Summary

Today, neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) continue to burden the lives of thousands of Filipinos, most of them belonging to poverty groups. Through the years, the Department of Health has committed to eliminating NTDs in the Philippines. By investing on these diseases, we are not only promoting health but we are also improving the education of our children and our economic development. Efforts, therefore, must be sustained to keep these diseases at a level that they are not a meance to public health as well as a cause for disability and lack of productiveness.

Culion Foundation, Inc. (CFI) commends the Department of Health (DOH) and its stakeholders and partners in eliminating NTDs for their untiring efforts to these tasks despite the shortage of resources. At the same time, we call on the private sectors and other non-government organizations to step up their efforts in supporting the government in its work. As CFI's mission is to help Filipinos improve their lives through improved health outcomes, it commits itself to working with the DOH in building an NTD-free Philippines and to ensuring that NTDs are neglected no more.

It is in this light, CFI was awarded the contract to manage the 5<sup>th</sup> Stakeholders' Forum on the Control and Elimination of Neglected Tropical Diseases with the theme "Evidence-based Technologies to Accelerate the Gains on NTD Elimination: A New Hope." The forum aimed to bring together all stakeholders working for NTDs in the Philippines and provide a venue for coordination and updating of progress in control and elimination efforts and to open doors to possible partners. Most importantly, the forum sought to highlight the convergence of common process, consistent and committed intra- and inter-sectoral collaboration and defining the area of complementation on NTD control and elimination initiatives.

The event was held on February 22 to 23, 2017 at Bayfront Hotel Cebu, Cebu City, Philippines. The forum consisted 12 lectures on neglected tropical diseases by various NTD partners. The participants were representatives from public health units and healthcare facilities, including their healthcare workforce, who are working on the control and elimination of NTDs, the local government units which were mandated to provide an enabling environment by means of policy advocacy and active public involvement; and other partners and stakeholders, which included, but not limited to, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, private companies and organizations, private sectors, and people's organizations. The event ended with a message from Dr. Jean Pauly Rosell-Ubial, the Secretary of Health.

Following the evaluation of the project performance, best practices were coordination and cooperation among the members and committees of the production team are necessary for an event to be successful.



### **The Project Management Team**

CFI's Program Management Unit (PMU) primarily took part in the implementation of this event with its working team:

***Program Manager***

Calixto J. Trillanes III

***Project Coordinator***

Ian Christopher N. Rocha

***Project Staff***

Joemil C. Amerna

Renford Esau Sinangote

Arrasfir Q. Tahil

Roslyn Parilla

***Program Consultants***

Dr. Leda Hernandez (*DOH-DPCB*)

Dr. Jonathan Neil V. Erasmo (*DOH-RO7*)

Dr. Joanri Rivalal (*DOH-RO7*)

Eugenio M. Caccam Jr. (*CFI, Executive Director*)



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## Section I

### **INTRODUCTION: The Project and Its Development**

#### **OBJECTIVES**

The forum aimed to bring together all stakeholders working for Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in the Philippines and provide a venue for coordination and updating of progress in control and elimination efforts and to open doors to possible partners. Most importantly, the forum sought to highlight the convergence of common process, consistent and committed intra- and inter-sectoral collaboration and defining the area of complementation on NTD control and elimination initiatives.

Specifically, this forum aimed:

1. To recognize the key partnership with various stakeholders in the control and elimination of NTDs
2. To present status in the current control and elimination efforts of NTDs in the Philippines
3. To provide update on the program of commitments as gathered from previous NTD stakeholders' forum
4. To present several best practices in NTD control and elimination that would help in the advocacy for the NTD-free Philippines
5. To identify other possible partners in the prevention, control and elimination of NTDs.



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## **SCOPE OF SERVICES**

The Culion Foundation, Inc. (CFI) was commissioned by the Department of Health–Regional Office 7 (DOH-RO7) as the Event Organizer for conducting the 5<sup>th</sup> Stakeholders' Forum on the Control and Elimination of Neglected Tropical Diseases on a negotiated procurement on November 14, 2016.

CFI was expected to perform and satisfy the scope of work stipulated in the Terms of Reference (TOR), viz., conceptualizing the event, managing and supervising the event, carrying out the work plan, overseeing the production team, managing logistics, ensuring communication and coordination with Department of Health (DOH) and guests, facilitating the media exposure, and preparing and submitting requisite reports and documentation.

Following a series of consultative meetings with the DOH's Infectious Disease Office of its Disease Prevention and Control Bureau (DOH-DPCB) and the DOH-RO7, it has been agreed upon that the implementation of this event was scheduled on February 22 to 23, 2017 in Cebu City, at the Bayfront Hotel Cebu as the venue and accommodation.

The DOH-RO7 committed to extend support and assistance to CFI by creating a Technical Working Group, with assigned staff to work on secretariat, logistic management, mobility and transport, cultural night, accommodation, exhibits and booths, and media exposure.

## **INCEPTION PHASE**

Problems and difficulties encountered and their implications for future actions were identified following the issuance of the purchase order (P.O. No. 2016-1406) to CFI by DOH-RO7. Primarily, a financial concern where specific costs do not correspond with the budgeted amounts, i.e., actual current hotel accommodation cost and insertion of additional cost for the travel expenses, both air and land, of 15 pax.

These were brought about by inflation of market cost and value, where budgets for hotel venue and accommodation in a 4-star hotel, as prescribed in the TOR (sec. VIII), were way lower than the current cost; and, insertion of an additional entry in the SOW (entry no. 7) reflected in the PO while there was none in the TOR provided by DOH-RO7 for bidding purposes.

The implementation date of the event was moved to 21-24 February 2017 because of coinciding festivities in Cebu (Sinulog Festival) every January. With this circumstance, finding a more appropriate and cost-efficient hotel venue for the conference and accommodation of guests was quite challenging.

Based on the agreements made with the DOH- Central Infectious Disease Office-National Center for Disease Prevention and Control, through Dr. Leda Hernandez, agreed upon during the meeting on January 10, 2017, where the above-mentioned challenges were discussed, a solution was jointly arrived at, to wit:



1. To settle for the available budget for the hotel venue and accommodation, it has been agreed that the allocated budget, i.e., Php 2000/night/person as reflected in the TOR (sec. VIII), shall prevail over the consideration of availing of a 4-star hotel;
2. The inserted entry in the SOW (entry no. 7), i.e., provide plane fare, TEV and per diems for 15 DOH Central Office staff and speakers, shall be carried out if and only if the required number of participants (200) shall be lowered to 170. Corollary to this, final agreement is made to lower down the number of participants to 170 to ensure provision of required budget satisfying entry no. 7.

### **TARGET AUDIENCE**

The primary audience of this event were representatives from public health units and healthcare facilities, including their healthcare workforce, who are working on the control and elimination of NTDs; the local government units which were mandated to provide an enabling environment by means of policy advocacy and active public involvement; and other partners and stakeholders, which included, but not limited to, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, private companies and organizations, private sectors, and people's organizations.



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## **Section II**

### **EVENT MANAGEMENT**

#### **PROJECT ADMINISTRATION**

The CFI Board of Trustees through the Executive Committee (CFI-ExeCom) provided oversight and guidance to the project. Updates in the form of programmatic and financial reports were provided to the CFI-ExeCom. A Project Management Team under the supervision of the Executive Director was also organized. This was composed of the Program Manager and the Project Staff. Management applied strategic management approach to meet required deliverables and addressed financial and other operational issues. The team provided direct supervision, technical guidance to the production team, facilitation, coordination, direction, project control, and ensure that resources were ready when critical activities started, integrating the activities of the project in accordance with the work and financial plan. Management consultative meetings in receiving guidance from the DOH-DPCB were also done.

The Project Management Team worked toward the achievement of deliverables while honoring preconceived constraints. Consummation of the event included the documentation of the forum which is to be submitted including technical and financial reports.

#### **PARTNERSHIP AND COORDINATION**

CFI pursued collaboration with cooperating agencies to fully utilize their specialties and offered services. Other than the provision of finances, technical support and influence also contributed efforts in the success of this activity.

The Coordination Plan defined the process by which CFI communicated information about the event to the lead, cooperating and participating agencies. This promoted an efficient and streamlined process of good event management and early resolution of issues.

Initial coordinative efforts were done with the DOH-DPCB and the DOH-RO7, the lead agencies in this event. CFI cooperated with the government and non-government agencies specifically requested by DOH-DPCB and the DOH-RO7 to participate during the activity. Participating agencies in the event were the Local Government Units (LGUs), the DOH Regional Offices, Provincial Health Offices (PHO), and other identified partners and stakeholders.

Meetings and correspondence were forms of coordination that were initially identified. Event schedules were provided to the above agencies for their information and possible interest of their inclusion in the activities. Likewise, accomplishment reports were provided.

**Lead Agencies:**

- Department of Health–Central Office, Disease Prevention and Control Bureau
- Department of Health–Regional Office 7
- Culion Foundation Inc., as the Joint Lead Agency and Contracting Party

**Cooperating Agencies:**

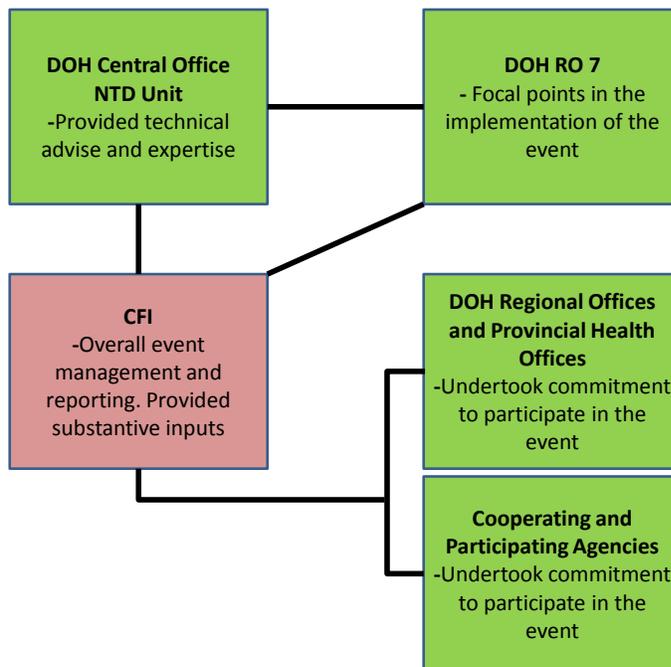
- Identified partners and stakeholders, e.g., non-government organization and civil society organizations

**Participating Agencies:**

- Regional Offices of the Department of Health
- Provincial Health Offices of the Department of Health
- Local Government Units

**Event Management Structure: The 3 C's: Cooperation, Coordination and Communication Process**

The paradigm below shows the inter-relationship between and among CFI stakeholders and partners. The figure provides the protocol on cooperation, coordination and communication process that each stakeholder and partner observed in order to avoid confounding issues.





There was a tripartite partnership and agreement among the DOH-DPCB, DOH-RO7 and CFI. The table below shows the corresponding roles.

Partners	Roles
<b>Department of Health – Central Office (Disease Prevention and Control Bureau)</b>	a) Supervised and monitored implementation of the forum together with the Department of Health b) Provided technical inputs and expertise in the implementation of the event c) Review and approved concepts, work plan, design and scripts d) Provided the list of participants to be invited e) Provided materials for the press conference
<b>Department of Health – Regional Office 7</b>	a) Provided leadership and guidance in the performance of tasks and implementation of the forum that includes provision of staff who would work with the production team b) Facilitated proper coordination with DOH staff and cluster heads. c) Supervised and monitored the implementation of activities and submission of deliverables of the TA provider d) Identified media outfits to invite e) Ensured payment of the TA provider in tranches upon (1) approval of documents by the Department of Health and (2) meeting conditions stated in the TOR
<b>Culion Foundation, Inc. as Technical Assistance Provider</b>	a) Undertook activities stated in the scope of work and operate under the direct supervision of Dr. Leda M. Hernandez and DOH RO7 Team. b) Performed the services and carry out obligations with all assiduousness, efficiency and economy, without compromising the quality, and shall observe sound management practices c) Conducted activities with due care and diligence, in accordance with the Terms of Reference and the approved proposal and with the skill and care expected of a competent provider of technical assistance required d) Acted with respect to matters relating to the agreement or services as the TA provider to the DOH. It shall at all times support and safeguard the legitimate interest of DOH in any dealings with third parties. e) Abode by all the terms and conditions stipulated in the TOR and approved proposal f) Prepared and submitted documentation and technical terminal report to DOH RO 7 upon completion of the event.

### Section III

#### IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS AND METHODOLOGY

Per TOR, the Technical Assistance (TA) provider was responsible for coordinating the activity, liquidating the expenses and documenting proceedings & agreements. The TA provider worked closely with the Infectious Disease Office-Disease Prevention and Control Bureau, Department of Health under the direct supervision of Dr. Leda M. Hernandez.

This "**The 5<sup>th</sup> Stakeholders' Forum on the Control and Elimination of Neglected Tropical Diseases**" was a two-day forum conference which was held on February 22 to 23, 2017 in Cebu City. This forum activity was implemented with **facilitative adult learning** approach through *didactic lectures, and open plenary*.

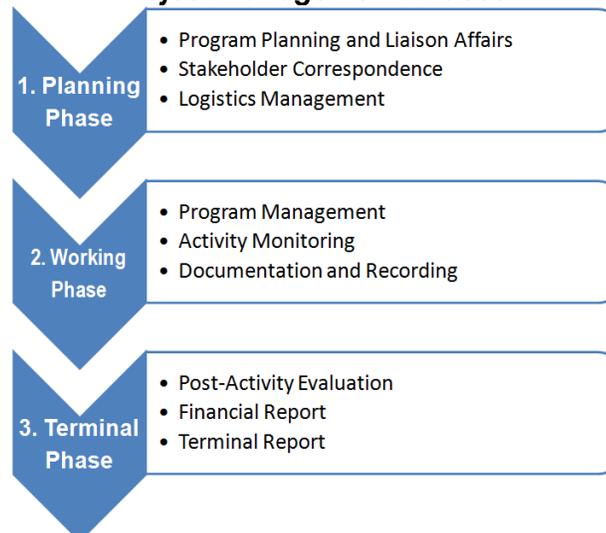
#### Schedule of Activities

	Day-zero	Day 1	Day 2	Day-after
<b>Expected Activity</b>	Check-in at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon  (Dinner coverage)	Whole day Forum Activities  (Full meals coverage)	Whole day Forum Activities  (Full meals coverage)	Check-out at no later than 12:00 o'clock in the afternoon  (Breakfast coverage)

The table above shows a 2-day NTD Forum Activities. However, participants were expected to check-in a day before the activity and were expected to check-out a day after the activity.

The project was implemented for two months with the following mechanism:

#### **Project Management Phases**





## **Project Management**

CFI, under direct supervision of and harmonious coordination with Dr. Leda M. Hernandez, managed the implementation of this project. The following specific activities were done:

### **1) Planning Phase**

- a. *Program Planning and Liaison Affairs* – this included coordination and consultative meetings with DOH Central Office and DOH-RO7; planning sessions with CFI project staff; designing final plan duly reviewed and approved by DOH.
- b. *Stakeholder Correspondence* – this referred to activities that required exchange of communication via telephone and internet with stakeholders from participant notification, sending invitation and final agreements and confirmation of attendance.
- c. *Logistics Management* – This activity commenced upon final plan was agreed among the partners (CFI with DOH Central Office and DOH-RO7). Specific activities included: (a) canvassing and service contracting of hotel and venue within at least one month prior the set forum activity; (b) coordination with and booking of flights of 15 DOH Central Office Staff and Resource Speakers at least one month prior the set forum activity; (c) preparation, procurement and purchase of training kits, handouts and other forum-related materials within at least two weeks prior the forum; and, (d) other circumstantial tasks that arose for the exigency of the project.

### **2) Working Phase**

- a. Program Management – implemented the planned two-day activities for the 5<sup>th</sup> NTD Forum; with anticipated risk management;
- b. Activity Monitoring – ensured compliance to what is planned and day-to-day coordination with key process owners to ascertain achievement of set daily objectives;
- c. Documentation and Recording – one of the major tasks of the production team; documenting every details of the two-day NTD Forum;

### **3) Terminal Phase**

- a. Post-Activity Evaluation – a conference was held with partners for a post-activity evaluation; this exploited on the extent of the achievement of set objectives;
- b. Financial Report – prepared and submitted financial report that included liquidation of expenses
- c. Terminal Report – prepared the write-up and submitted the final report to DOH RO7, which included photo and video documentation

CFI hired one (1) Project Coordinator for this purpose, for two months, who devoted 100% of his time to this project to ensure smooth project implementation, who was responsible for the documentation and reporting, and provided technical assistance

and support to liaison affairs and logistics management. In addition, four (4) Project Staff were hired on a contractual basis for 4 days as support staff in the production team.

### Forum Design

This forum activity was implemented with **facilitative adult learning** approach through *didactic lectures, focus-group discussions, and open plenary*. The forum design was coordinated and planned with the DOH. Didactic lectures and open plenary were delivered.

The DOH also provided the design as to: learning competency, learning content, and learning evaluation. However, this event covered provision of training kit.

### Expected Outputs

The following were the required deliverables:

1. Inception report and work plan
2. Stage design, program flow, and emcee's script
3. Hiring of professional performers as entertainers
4. Certificates, tokens and souvenirs preparation
5. Print, photo and video documentation
6. Technical and financial reports

### Potential Impact

The outcomes of the forum were (1) reorientation of program strategies for the provincial health officers; (2) a better understanding of the NTD challenges and gaps at the provincial level by both parties; and (3) agreements which are to be accomplished and followed up, as program and evaluation.

### Work Plan

Activities	Key Process Owner	Indicator (Deliverable)	Timeline (2017)											
			January				February				March			
			W 1	W 2	W 3	W 4	W 5	W 6	W 7	W 8	W 9	W 10	W 11	W 12
<b>I. Planning Phase (63%)</b>														
<b>Program Planning and Liaison Affairs</b>														
1	Coordination and consultative meetings	CFI, DOH	Attendance; Agreements; minutes											
2	Planning sessions with	CFI	Attendance;											



	CFI		Draft Plan																
3	Designing Final Plan	CFI, DOH	Final Plan; Agreements																
<b>Stakeholder Correspondence</b>																			
1	Participant Notification	CFI	Invitation Letters																
2	Agreements with Participants	CFI	Confirmation Letters																
<b>Logistics Management</b>																			
1	Canvassing and service contracting of hotel venue	CFI	Adjudicated canvassing of hotel and venue																
2	Flight booking of 15 DOH Staff and Guests	CFI	Booked flights of 15 pax																
3	Procurement of Forum-related materials	CFI	Procurement and Purchase Requests																
<b>II. Working Phase (25%)</b>																			
<b>Program Management</b>																			
1	Program implementation	CFI, DOH	Attendance, Documentation Report																
2	Risk Management	CFI, DOH	Risk Management / Contingency Plan																
<b>Activity Monitoring</b>																			
1	Day-to-day monitoring of activities	CFI	Monitoring Report																
2	Day-to-day Coordination	CFI	Coordination Report																





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Dr. Joanri T. Rivalal  
Mr. Eugenio M. Caccam, Jr.

***Structure***

The PMU was comprised of six (6) members (Program Manager, Project Coordinator and Project Staff) with extended support from the operations unit, with the Finance Officer, and overall oversight of the project by the Executive Director.

***Functions***

The PMU carried out project activities and performed specific functions as follow:

- Supervised and coordinated the project management and ensured attainment of project goals and objectives
- Ensured timely implementation of activities and achievements of targets/deliverables
- Ensured proper utilization of funds in accordance with the APW
- Attended coordinative meetings and planning sessions.
- Prepared and submitted terminal documentation report



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## **Section IV**

### **COURSE OF EVENTS**

#### **PRELIMINARY**

The 5<sup>th</sup> Stakeholders' Forum on the Control and Elimination of Neglected Tropical Diseases with the theme, "Evidence-based technologies to accelerate the gains on NTD elimination: A new hope," consisted 12 lectures. The forum started with an opening prayer and singing of the Philippine National Anthem and the Department of Health Hymn by the choir of the Department of Health-Regional Office 7. Dr. Jaime S. Bernadas, the Regional Director of the DOH-RO7, delivered the welcome remarks. A message to the participants was also delivered by Dir. Elias Fernandez, the Assistant Regional Director of the Department of Interior and Local Government-Regional Office 7.

#### **FIRST SESSION**

The first session consisted four lectures by the following discussants: (1) Dr. Aya Yahima for the global and regional updates on NTDs; (2) Dr. Leda Hernandez for the national updates on NTDs; (3) Dr. Maria Nerissa Dominguez for rabies elimination, and; (4) Engr. Roland Santiago for the role of WASH in eliminating NTDs. The first session was moderated by Dr. Winston Palasi, the Program Manager for Schistosomiasis, Filariasis, and Helminthiasis of the Department of Health, and facilitated by Mr. Eugenio Caccam, Jr., the Executive Director of Culion Foundation, Inc.

#### **1) Aya Yajima, PhD**

##### **Résumé Précis:**

- NTD Focal Point, World Health Organization-Western Pacific Regional Office
- Doctor of Philosophy in Agriculture and Veterinary Science, University of Tokyo
- Master of Science in Environmental Health, Asian Institute of Technology
- Post Graduate Diploma in Public Health, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
- Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science, Queen Mary University of London

**Topic:** Global and Regional Updates on Neglected Tropical Diseases

Dr. Yajima reported that there are 17 NTDs present in the world today which include Buruli ulcer, chagas, echinococcosis, rabies, Guinea worm, lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, soil-transmitted helminthiasis, schistosomiasis, trachoma, foodborne trematodiasis, leishmaniasis, leprosy, African human trypanosomiasis, dengue fever, yaws, and taeniasis cysticeriosis, wherein 9 of these diseases are present in the Philippines. In order to overcome the NTDs, she stated that there are five key interventions which include innovative and intensified case-management, preventive chemotherapy, safe drinking-water, sanitation and hygiene, vector control, and veterinary public health. These interventions contribute to the universal health care and sustainable development goals.



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## 2) Leda Hernandez, MD, MPH

### **Résumé Précis:**

- Chief of Division on Elimination of Disease, Department of Health
- Doctor of Medicine, Fatima College of Medicine
- Master of Public Health, University of the Philippines
- Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology, Far Eastern University

**Topic:** NTD Elimination as a Public Health Threat: A New Hope

Dr. Hernandez discussed the national targets per NTD of the Disease Prevention and Control Bureau. There are 6 out of 17 NTDs found in the Philippines which include filariasis, schistosomiasis, rabies, leprosy, food and waterborne disease, and helminthiasis. In her lecture, she discussed the national targets and accomplishments per NTD, including the new tools being used in controlling and eliminating NTDs in the Philippines. The targets are the following: reduction of prevalence to less than 20% by 2020 for soil-transmitted helminthiasis; elimination as a public health problem for schistosomiasis; elimination by 2018 for lymphatic filariasis; ensure provision of comprehensive, integrated quality leprosy services at all levels of health care for leprosy; elimination by 2020 for rabies; and reduction of prevalence to 10% by 2020 for foodborne trematodes. She also added that local ordinances, research, comprehensive surveillance system, advocacy and funding are needed to overcome this public health issue. The key interventions include innovative and intensified case-management; preventive chemotherapy; safe drinking-water, sanitation and hygiene; vector control; and veterinary public health. She added that these interventions contribute to universal health care and the sustainable development goals (SDG) of the United Nations such as SDGs 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, and 17. The ongoing NTD projects include the development of NTD curriculum, development of NTD laboratory network, NTD management information system, the use of rapid test for leprosy, remote microscopic diagnosis, and NTD website.

## 3) Maria Nerissa Dominguez, MD, MPH

### **Résumé Précis:**

- National Professional Officer, World Health Organization
- Doctor of Medicine
- Master of Public Health
- Bachelor of Science in Zoology

**Topic:** Elimination of Animal Rabies towards Elimination of Human Rabies

Dr. Dominguez discussed that ending rabies is an integral part of good health and wellbeing as one of the sustainable development goals. She included the following 4 rationales: rabies is a major public health problem that disproportionately burdens poor rural communities; rabies is preventable yet continues to kill; dog-mediated human rabies can be eliminated by vaccinating dogs; and rabies elimination is feasible. In addition, she discussed the core strategies to address the elimination of both animal and human rabies. For humans, the following are the strategies: post-



exposure prophylaxis such as human vaccination and immunoglobulin; public awareness and education; and forecasting and procurement of human anti-rabies vaccine and immunoglobulin. For animals like dogs, there should be sustained dog vaccination, promotion of responsible dog ownership, dog population management, and forecasting and procurement of dog anti-rabies vaccine.

#### 4) Roland Santiago, MPH, MM

##### **Résumé Précis:**

- Supervising Health Program Officer, Environmental Related Diseases Division, Department of Health
- Master of Public Health
- Master in Management major in Public Administration
- Bachelor of Science in Environmental and Sanitary Engineering
- Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering

**Topic:** The Role of WASH in the Control of Environmentally-related NTDs

Engr. Santiago discussed the role of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in the control of environmentally-related NTDs. He said that in order to win the battle of NTDs, stakeholders and partners should do WASH through empowering families, communities, local government and other sanitation stakeholders, support legal or regulatory framework, management systems, and technical assistance from various sources, access to financing mechanisms for WASH projects, and protecting the environment and people's health. Engr. Santiago also discussed the National Sustainable Sanitation Plan of the Department of Health which has programs that were developed at the local level while targeting specific improvements in the enabling environment for sustainable sanitation at national level. It includes activities designed to improve the elements of the enabling environment such as policy, strategy and direction, coordination, institutional and capacity development, advocacy and communications, financing, programming, monitoring and evaluation. In addition, the Zero Open Defecation Program (ZODP) and the Community-led Total Sanitation (CLTS) were also discussed. The ZODP aims to motivate those practicing open defecation to abandon such practice and adopt sound sanitation practices through community wide initiatives. The CLTS is an approach that enable communities to analyze their sanitation conditions and their practices of open defecation, and collectively internalize the terrible impact of open defecation on public health and on the entire neighborhood environment.

#### **OPENING OF THE EXHIBIT**

After the first session, the opening of the exhibit followed a ceremonial cutting of ribbon which was led by Dr. Maria Francia Miciano-Laxamana, Assistant Secretary of Health. The exhibit was divided into 6 divisions which include information and updates on the 6 NTDs in the Philippines such as leprosy, lymphatic filariasis, helminthiasis, rabies, schistosomiasis, and food and waterborne diseases.



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## SECOND SESSION

The second session consisted three lectures by the following: (1) Dr. Anna Melissa Guerrero for the national action plan in preventing antimicrobial resistance; (2) Dr. Marivic Balagon for leprosy rapid test, and; (3) Ms. Jennifer Luchavez for the prevalence of parasitic diseases in the country. The second session was moderated by Dr. Ernesto Eusebio Villalon III, the Program Manager for Leprosy and Rabies of the Department of Health, and facilitated by Mr. Calixto Trillanes III, the Program Manager of Culion Foundation, Inc.

### 1) Anna Melissa Guerrero, MD, MPH

#### Résumé Précis:

- Chief, Pharmaceutical Division, Office of Health Regulation, Department of Health
- Doctor of Medicine, University of the Philippines
- Master of Public Health with specialization in Health Technology, University of Birmingham
- Bachelor of Public Health, University of the Philippines

**Topic:** National Action Plan to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance

Dr. Guerrero talked about the country's situation on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and the behavioral drivers that contribute to antimicrobial resistance, as well as its current initiatives in eliminating it. She mentioned that the Philippines is among the 27 identified high-burden countries globally with regard to resistance to isoniazid and rifampicin. The Philippine action plan to combat AMR includes the following efforts: governance and leadership; surveillance and laboratory capacity; access to essential medicines of assured quality; awareness and promotion; enhance infection prevention and control across all settings; research and development; and rational antimicrobial use among humans and animals. By 2020, the Philippines will reduce by 30% carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteria infections acquired during hospitalization; maintain the prevalence of ceftriaxone-resistant Neisseria gonorrhoea to 0%; reduce by at least 30% overall methicillin resistance in Staphylococcus aureus bloodstream infections compared to rates in 2014; reduce by 30% multidrug-resistant Pseudomonas spp. Infections acquired during hospitalizations compared to estimates in 2014; and reduce by 25% ciprofloxacin-resistant non-typhoidal salmonella infections compared to 2014.

### 2) Marivic Balagon, MD

#### Résumé Précis:

- Executive Director, Cebu Leprosy and Tuberculosis Research Foundation, Inc.
- Doctor of Medicine, Cebu Institute of Medicine
- Bachelor of Science in Biology, Velez College of Arts and Sciences

**Topic:** Rapid Test for Leprosy



Dr. Balagon discussed her research output on the application of the rapid test for leprosy.

### 3) Jennifer Luchavez, PhD(c)

#### **Résumé Précis:**

- Supervising Science Research Specialist, Research Institute for Tropical Medicine
- Doctor of Philosophy in Infectious Tropical Diseases (on-going), London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

**Topic:** National Survey on the Prevalence of Soil-transmitted Helminthiasis, Schistosomiasis, and other Intestinal Parasitic Infections among Public School Children in the Philippines

Ms. Luchavez talked about the national survey on the prevalence of soil-transmitted helminthiasis, schistosomiasis, and other intestinal parasitic infections in the Philippines. She started it by enumerating the objectives of the survey which include determining the prevalence of helminthiasis using Kato-Katz technique, updating the prevalence of schistosomiasis, and determining the intensity of infection of soil-transmitted infections. In addition, the study was designed in accordance with the Guidelines for Helminth Control in school-aged children by the World Health Organization. Ms. Luchavez presented the results of the national survey per region. The cumulative prevalence of soil-transmitted helminthiasis infection is 7,440 out of 26,171 students examined. There are 11 provinces in the Philippines with cumulative prevalence of more than 50% which include Sorsogon, Masbate, Northern Samar, Western Samar, Catanduanes, Basilan, Camarines Norte, Occidental Mindoro, Eastern Samar, Camarines Sur, and Iloilo.

## **THIRD SESSION**

For the second-half of the afternoon session, it is composed of three lectures on schistosomiasis, rabies, and lymphatic filariasis presented by the following: (1) Dr. Gemiliano Aligui; (2) Dr. Sarah Jayme, and; (3) Ms. Kimberly Won. In behalf of the last lecturer of the third session, Dr. Leda Hernandez presented her lecture. The last session of the forum's first day was moderated by Dr. Theodora Cecile Magturo, the Program Manager for Food and Waterborne Diseases of the Department of Health, and facilitated by Mr. Renford Esau Sinangote, the Project Team Leader of Culion Foundation, Inc.

### 1) Gemiliano Aligui, PhD, MD, MPH

#### **Résumé Précis:**

- Vice President for Academic Affairs, University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center, Inc.
- Doctor of Philosophy in Biological and Medical Sciences, Brown University
- Doctor of Medicine, Manila Central University-Filemon D. Tanchoco Memorial Medical Foundation
- Master of Public Health, University of the Philippines
- Bachelor of Science, University of Santo Tomas



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**Topic:** Modeling Schistosomiasis Transmission: Implications for Control

The first lecture in this session was presented by Dr Aligui. He stated that modeling approach provides a practical solution to project outcomes in a resource limited situations. Measurement issues include human infection status, snail infection status, exposure status and environmental assessments. He emphasized the critical issues to be addressed in eliminating schistosomiasis as a public health problem through suggested modeling approaches.

**2) Sarah Jayme, DVM****Résumé Précis:**

- Country Representative, Global Alliance for Rabies Control
- Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, University of the Philippines
- Master of Veterinary Public Health Management (ongoing), University of Sydney

**Topic:** Rabies Education Tools to Support Global Elimination Efforts

The next lecture was discussed by Dr. Jayme. In her lecture, she highlighted the global rabies elimination goal which is to end human deaths from canine rabies by 2030. According to her lecture, there are five pillars of rabies elimination which include socio-cultural, technical, organization, political, and resources. Dog-mediated human rabies kills tens of thousands of people every year worldwide. Freedom from dog-mediated human rabies is a global public good and is feasible with currently available tools. She also shared the education platform and initiatives of her organization which helped the country in eliminating rabies. The GARC education program is a web domain where various online courses are hosted. The components of the project of her organization include prevention of dog bites and human rabies, establishment of sustainable diagnostic and surveillance systems, elimination of rabies in the vector species, community awareness and mobilization, and integration of rabies prevention education into elementary schools. She also shared the best practices of her organization in the fight against rabies.

**3) Kimberly Won, PhD, MPH****Résumé Précis:**

- Health Scientist, Division of Parasitic Diseases and Malaria, Center for Disease Control and Prevention
- Doctor of Philosophy in Epidemiology (candidate), Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute
- Master of Public Health, Emory University
- Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Emory University

**Topic:** Serologic Tools for Lymphatic Filariasis Surveillance

For the last lecture of the forum's first day, Dr. Hernandez presented a lecture in behalf of Ms. Won. She discussed the lymphatic filariasis (LF) antigen tests, as well as new antibody tools, and potential surveillance strategies. In conclusion, more



antibody positive individuals were identified than antigen positive individuals; low antibody levels among younger age groups suggestive of little to no ongoing LF transmission; and antibody tools may have role in guiding LF programmatic decision making.

## **RECOGNITION OF DISEASE-FREE AREAS**

After the last session of the first day of the forum, recognition was given to the provinces of Misamis Oriental and Capiz for being filariasis-free areas which were represented by their provincial health officers, Dr. Jerie Calingasan for Misamis Oriental and Dr. Samuel Delfin for Capiz. The same recognition was also given to the provinces of Romblon and Iloilo for being rabies-free areas which were represented by their provincial health officers, Dr. Ederlina Aguirre for Romblon and Dr. Patricia Grace Trabado for Iloilo. The plaques of recognition were awarded by Dr. Maria Francia Miciano-Laxamana, Assistant Secretary of Health, and Dr. Gundo Weiler, World Health Organization Representative.

## **CULTURAL NIGHT**

To cap off the first day of the forum, a cultural night was prepared and organized as part of the socialization. The students of the University of Southern Philippines Foundation rendered traditional folk dances and the Buzz Buddies Dance Group performed modern dance.

## **FOURTH SESSION**

The fourth session is composed of two lectures on NTD management information system and supervisor's coverage tool by Dr. Zaixing Zhang and Dr. Katherine Gass, respectively.

### **1) Zaixing Zhang, MD, MSc**

#### **Résumé Précis:**

- Medical Officer, Malaria and Parasitic Diseases, World Health Organization
- Doctor of Medicine, Kunming Medical University
- Master of Science in Epidemiology, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

**Topic:** Neglected Tropical Disease Management Information System

On the last day of the forum, Dr. Zaixing Zhang, Medical Officer for Malaria and Parasitic Diseases, introduced an NTD management information system (NTDMIS) to the participants. The NTDMIS is a mobile and web-based information system that collects, manages and stores data and generate reliable and real-time information. It is easy to use using different devices and it is used at the field-based health workers conducting MDA. In his lecture, he talked about the data collection and reporting, as well as the outcome and future plans for the information system on the NTDs.



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## 2) Katherine Gass, PhD, MPH

### Résumé Précis:

- Epidemiologist, NTD Support Center, Task Force for Global Health
- Doctor of Philosophy in Epidemiology, Emory University
- Master of Public Health with specialization of Global Epidemiology, Emory University
- Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics and Theatre, Oberlin College

**Topic:** The Supervisor's Coverage Tool: From Concept to Recommendation

An online lecture on supervisor's coverage tool by Dr. Gass was presented. She discussed the background and rationale of the SCT and its methodology. SCT is a quick, simple and inexpensive tool for monitoring and supervising MDA which is implemented by district supervisors. Its primary uses are classifying coverage as likely above or below the threshold, supervising CDDs and sub-district planners or organizers, detecting issues with compliance and the drug distribution, and identifying sub-districts in need of mop-up activities. The steps of the SCT are as follows in sequence: identify the survey population, identify the supervision area, determine how many individuals will be chosen from each village, select individuals using a village register or by numbering each household, interview the 20 selected individuals about MDA coverage, interpret the results, develop an action plan, and implement the action plan. In addition, she shared the experiences of SCT in Nigeria, Ethiopia, and the Philippines.

## CONCLUSION

To sum up all the lectures, a way forward message was delivered by Dr. Mario Baquilod, Director of the Disease Prevention and Control Bureau of the Department of Health. This followed by a message from Dr. Gundo Weiler, the World Health Organization Representative in the Philippines. At the end of the forum, Dr. Paulyn Jean Rosell-Ubial, the Secretary of Health, delivered her keynote message to the stakeholders and partners in the fight against NTD. This followed a pledge of commitment by all of the participants in eliminating and controlling NTDs in the Philippines.



## Section V

### GENERAL EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### Program Review and Evaluation

Every delegate was given an evaluation form to accomplish after the program but only 102 delegates were able to participate in the program evaluation.

RATING INDEX	
Quantitative Interpretation	Qualitative Interpretation
3.26 – 4.00	Very Satisfactory
2.51 – 3.25	Satisfactory
1.76 – 2.50	Not Satisfactory
1.00 – 1.75	Very Not Satisfactory

Areas of Evaluation	Mean Rating	
	Quantitative	Qualitative
Preparation for the Activity	3.71	Very Satisfactory
Content Delivery	3.60	Very Satisfactory
Resource Person: Dr. Aya Yajima	3.59	Very Satisfactory
Resource Person: Dr. Leda Hernandez	3.69	Very Satisfactory
Resource Person: Dr. Nerissa Dominguez	3.64	Very Satisfactory
Resource Person: Engr. Roland Santiago	3.79	Very Satisfactory
Resource Person: Dr. Anna Melissa Guerrero	3.61	Very Satisfactory
Resource Person: Dr. Marivic Balagon	3.65	Very Satisfactory
Resource Person: Dr. Jennifer Luchavez	3.62	Very Satisfactory
Resource Person: Dr. Gemiliano Aligui	3.60	Very Satisfactory
Resource Person: Ms. Kimberly Won	3.50	Very Satisfactory
Resource Person: Dr. Sarah Jayme	3.67	Very Satisfactory
Resource Person: Dr. Zaixing Zhang	3.59	Very Satisfactory
Resource Person: Dr. Katherine Gass	3.48	Very Satisfactory
Training Venue	3.57	Very Satisfactory
Overall Training	3.01	Satisfactory

The preparation for the activity, content delivery, and training venue which were organized and prepared by Culion Foundation, Inc. got a *very satisfactory* result. For the resource persons, everyone got a *very satisfactory* result, too. In addition, the overall training got a *satisfactory* result.



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## Challenges Met

Prior to the program, as earlier stated in the inception phase, problems encountered and their implications for future actions were identified following the issuance of the purchase order (P.O. No. 2016-1406) to CFI by DOH-RO7. Primarily, a financial concern where specific costs do not correspond with the budgeted amounts, i.e., actual current hotel accommodation cost and insertion of additional cost for the travel expenses, both air and land, of 15 persons. These were brought about by inflation of market cost and value, where budgets for hotel venue and accommodation in a 4-star hotel, as prescribed in the TOR (sec. VIII), were way lower than the current cost; and, insertion of an additional entry in the SOW (entry no. 7) reflected in the PO while there was none in the TOR provided by DOH-RO7 for bidding purposes. The implementation date of the event was moved to February 21 to 24, 2017 because of coinciding festivities in Cebu such as the Sinulog Festival every January. With this circumstance, finding a more appropriate and cost-efficient hotel venue for the conference and accommodation of guests is quite challenging.

In addition, according to the recommendations of the delegates in the evaluation form, the program met some challenges which include hotel management organization such as room accommodation, screen for the presentations, and meal consideration for Muslim participants. For the room accommodation, some delegates wanted to be grouped in accordance to the same region. For the screen, the delegates recommended for more improved LED wall in order to read the presentations clearly. Other challenges were too long presentations by the resource persons and presentations were not reviewed before the program per se. A dry run should have been done before the start of the program to check the quality of the presentations especially at the center screen. Unfortunately, the speakers were not able to send their presentations to the event organizer beforehand due to their hectic schedules. The other comments were already positive appreciation. (*Please see Annex G*)

## Lessons Learned

Based on the agreements made with the DOH-DPCB, through Dr. Leda Hernandez, agreed upon during the meeting on January 10, 2017, where the above-mentioned challenges were discussed, a solution was jointly arrived at, to wit: to settle for the available budget for the hotel venue and accommodation, it has been agreed that the allocated budget, i.e., PHP2,000 per night per person as reflected in the TOR (sec. VIII), shall prevail over the consideration of availing of a 4-star hotel; and the inserted entry in the SOW (entry no. 7), i.e., provide plane fare, TEV and per diems for 15 DOH Central Office staff and speakers, shall be carried out if and only if the required number of participants (200) shall be lowered to 170. Corollary to this, final agreement is made to lower down the number of participants to 170 to ensure provision of required budget satisfying entry no. 7. A final planning session with the DOH-RO7 TWG was set on January 16-17, 2017 which aimed to carefully design the implementation plan and work plan.

Prior to the event, planning with the hotel management regarding hotel accommodation, event venue, and technical and logistics management, is necessary in order to prevent unnecessary and unwanted situations during the event. In addition, resource persons



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should be requested to send their presentations to the event organizer at least 3 days before the event in order to prevent technical problems during the conference and to save their presentations in a flash drive which will be distributed to each participant in the conference. It is also recommended to have a dry run a day before the event. Regarding the food, the event organizer should also be sensitive to non-pork eaters such as Muslim participants.

### **Best Practices**

Coordination and cooperation among the members and committees of the production team is necessary for an event to be successful.

## **Annex A**

# **Copy of the Contract**

## **Annex B**

# **Copy of the Terms of Reference**

# **Annex C**

## **Directory of Delegates**

## **Annex D**

# **Souvenir Program**

## **Annex E**

### **CVs of the Speakers**

## **Annex F**

# **Copies of the Lecture Presentations**

## **Annex G**

# **Evaluation: Participants' Feedback**

## **Annex H**

# **Commitment of Undertaking**

# Annex I

## Media Documentation

## **Annex J**

# **Photo and Video Documentation**