

Health Sciences Panel

Panel Exit Report
14th Congress



COMSTE

Congressional Commission on
Science & Technology and Engineering

PANEL COMPOSITION

Dr. Ramon L. Arcadio

Panel Chair

MEMBERS

Sec. Enrique T. Ona

Dr. Carmencita D. Padilla

Dr. Kenneth Hartigan-Go

Dr. Carmelita Divinagracia

Dr. Fely Marilyn Lorenzo

PANEL COMPOSITION

RESOURCE PERSONS

Dr. Jaime Montoya, PCHRD-DOST

Dr. Ma. Soledad Antonio, HPDPB-DOH

Dr. Fernando Sanchez, APMC

Dr. Zorayda Leopando, UPM

AREAS OF WORK

- Health Science Education and Health Human Resource Development
- Health Research and Development
- Financing of Health Care
- Health Service Delivery

PANEL OBJECTIVES

- Establish a vision of the health system in terms of the laws governing the practice of the health professions, higher education programs for production of health professions, generation of funds for R&D in the health sciences, financing of medical care of the nation and better delivery of quality health service;

PANEL OBJECTIVES (continued...)

- Make an analysis of the present situation and identify strategies that require legislative action; and
- Identify provisions in the present health laws that need amendment and new laws.

BACKGROUND OF PANEL'S WORK

- The Panel was organized in March 2008 and started its work with the setting up of the 2008 National Conference on Health which was held on 29-30 March and 16 May 2008.
- After the success of the conference, regular meetings were held to follow up on the recommendations which arose from conference, as well as new proposals from the different panel members and resource persons.

Key Panel Findings (1 of 4)

- Health R&D

- There is a need for adequate funding to promote and sustain health research that will address priority health needs (based on the National Unified Health Research Agenda.)
- There is a need for improved capacity for health research and development.

Key Panel Findings (2 of 4)

- Health Human Resource and Health Science Education
 - Aside from the massive exodus of health professionals in the country, there is a need to address the disproportionate distribution of health professionals
 - Majority of the health human resources flock to the country's urban areas and metropolitan centers, putting less medical attention on rural areas.

Key Panel Findings (3 of 4)

- **Health Care Delivery**

- Accessibility to health care (in terms of cost and availability) and harmonization of the fragmented public-private health service providers should be addressed.
- The issues of refocusing BFAD and strengthening and automation of processes and procedures should be addressed. Likewise, there is a need to level the market and orient university research towards an “application paradigm.”

Key Panel Findings (4 of 4)

- Financing of Health Care
 - Universal health care through compulsory health insurance through an expansion of PhilHealth should be achieved.

Priority Recommendations (1 of 4)

- Health R&D

- Health research should engage in globally-competitive and innovative health technology

- Products: herbal medicine, vaccines and diagnostics

- Services: medical travel, personalized care, genomic and stem cell research

Priority Recommendations (2 of 4)

- Health Human Resource and Health Science Education
 - Creation of a Health Human Resource Council
 - Adoption of migration management policies which are based on ethical recruitment, reciprocity and mutuality of benefits

Priority Recommendations (3 of 4)

- **Health Care Delivery**

- Rationalization of health service providers in terms of location, manpower and other resources
- Harmonization of public-private health service providers through institutionalized arrangements at LGU levels or at levels of health care provision (primary, secondary, tertiary)
- Adoption of a BFAD competitiveness/ strengthening legislation (Food, Drugs, Cosmetics and Devices Administration Act of 2009, signed to law August 2009)
- Massive information dissemination about drug products (especially on herbal and/or natural supplements)

Priority Recommendations (4 of 4)

- **Financing of Healthcare**

- Universal health care coverage which is socialized should be attained.
- Corporatization of DOH and other local hospitals and setting them up with local business models including the harmonization of fiscal policies (DBM, COA, GOCC, etc.)

Next Steps...

- To acquire allocated funding for the different programs raised
 - National TeleHealth Program, c/o Dr. Marcelo, to address inadequate health service delivery in remote areas
 - Php100M inserted to DOH funds in 2009, another Php100M inserted to UP System funds in 2010.
 - National Genome Center Project, c/o Dr. Carmencita Padilla, to address research concerns on the top killing diseases in the country
 - Php 47M inserted to UP System funds in 2010.

Next Steps...

- To further study other proposals submitted in the panel
 - *Philippine Health Information System Development, c/o Dr. Kenneth Hartigan-Go*
 - To improve the access, dissemination and use of health information at the national and local levels
 - To establish mechanisms for health infrastructure support at the national and local levels

Next Steps...

- To further study other proposals submitted in the panel
 - ***The Development and Operation of the Integrated Database System for the Human Resources for Health, c/o Dr. Fely Marilyn Lorenzo***
 - To formulate plans and strategies and to organize discussions with Human Resources for Health Network (HRHN) member-organizations to solicit inputs and requirements towards the development of the integrated HRH information system for evidence based planning and policy making as well as managing health human resource migration.

Next Steps...

- To further study other proposals submitted in the panel
 - ***Establishment and maintenance of a website for Philippine herbs and supplements, c/o Institute of Herbal Medicine, UP Manila***
 - To establish and maintain a website for Philippine herbs and supplements
 - To study and measure the extent of use by public of herbs and supplements
 - To address the lack of objective source of information for public, health care providers, policymakers

Next Steps...

- **Refocusing of Panel Priorities**
 - Definition of programs that are better handled by the Department of Health to those that are in the mandate of COMSTE
- **Reorganization of the Panel Membership**
 - Dr. Enrique Ona, expected to be busier now as appointed Secretary of the Department of Health
 - To include other personalities from the health industry (Intel Health, Novartis, other pharmaceutical companies, other top hospitals)

Thank you very much!



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