

Research Report

PhilCLEN studies presented at National Research Forum

The Second Philippine Health Research for Action National Forum was held on December 5-7, 2001 at the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine Training Center. The Health Policy Development and Planning Bureau (HPDPB) under the Department of Health (DOH) sponsored the three-day forum, which featured researches funded by the same agency. Studies done by the Philippine Clinical Epidemiology Network (PhilCLEN) were key features of the Forum, demonstrating its collective and collaborative contribution to the attainment of national health goals.

The PhilCLEN studies showcased were: (1) Baseline Surveys for the National Objectives for Health (BSNOH)—led by Dr. Mario Festin, this study was organized to provide baseline national data on health status, health risk/prevalence and service coverage. (2) Research Priorities for Health Sector Reform—Dr. Cecilia Acuin, the project leader, enumerated five broad areas for health sector reform, namely, health care financing, health standards and regulations, local health systems, hospital systems and public health programs. Presenters of each subtopic explained the methods and criteria for identifying main concerns that need further research.

Almost 200 professionals from health agencies, the academe and non-government organizations attended the affair. Other parallel sessions covered health promotion and disease control, health economics and health care financing, and health systems and local health development. In his closing remarks, DOH Secretary Manuel Dayrit stressed that researches are serendipitous undertakings necessary to fill in the gaps in knowledge to address health problems and to understand bigger systems issues.

Rachel Delino, M. Sc.
CERTC, University of the Philippines