



2016 Annual Report

Health Care Without Harm Asia



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About Health Care Without Harm

Health Care Without Harm (HCWH) is the leading advocate for environmental health and justice. It seeks to transform the health sector worldwide so that it becomes ecologically sustainable, without compromising patient safety and care.

HCWH is an international coalition of medical professionals, community groups, health-affected constituencies, hospitals and health care systems, and environmental health organizations alongside labor unions and religious groups. It has offices in the United States, Europe, Latin America, and Asia.



Vision

Our Vision is for Health Care Without Harm to mobilize its ethical, economic, and political influence to create an ecologically sustainable, equitable, and healthy world.

Mission

Our Mission is to transform health care worldwide reduce its environmental footprint, become a community anchor for sustainability, and be a leader in the global movement for environmental health and justice.

Overarching Goals

Buildings

Promote green and healthy health care facility design, construction, renovation, and operations in order to minimise their environmental footprint, and foster restorative and sustainable healing environments.

Chemicals

Work with health care to eliminate harmful chemicals or substitute them with safer alternatives; minimize chemical exposure of patients, health care workers, and communities; drive the design, use, and safe disposal of safer materials and chemicals.

Energy

Accelerate the implementation of energy efficiency while promoting clean, renewable energy in health care, thereby mobilizing the sector as a leader for a healthy energy future for all.

Food

Collaborate with health care facilities to promote, purchase, and serve sustainably grown and healthy food to support the development of sustainable food systems. These systems improve environmental health and address the upstream social and economic determinants of non-communicable diseases.

Pharmaceuticals

Support the safe production, management, and disposal of pharmaceuticals. This reduces their environmental and health impact throughout the entire life cycle of the product, and it fosters innovations for green products.

Transportation

Promote transportation strategies for patients, their families, and hospital staff that support healthier local and regional transport systems. This reduces health care's contribution to air pollution, climate change, and the burden of disease.

Waste

Promote zero waste policies, reduce the volume and toxicity of waste produced by the health care sector, and implement safe, sustainable disposal options as alternatives to incineration.

Water

Develop conservation, recycling, and treatment actions to reduce hospital water consumption and wastewater pollution; promote public health by advocating for policies and health care actions that assure community access to a safe water supply.



Message from the President



Beyond Doing No Harm: Health Care’s Role in the 21st Century

When we started Health Care Without Harm 20 years ago, we were a small group of outsiders to health care bringing forward issues of environmental pollution for which the health sector was responsible. By forging a powerful alliance between community activists and health care leaders, we were able to show, at scale, how to transform conventional health care to be more environmentally responsible.

Our work in Asia — from partnering with governments in phasing out mercury in medical devices to urging policymakers to push for more sustainable waste management — has contributed to our global initiatives that championed both the well-being of our people and the planet. Now that we have built a movement of health care systems and health professionals committed to a greater mission of healing communities toward a more sustainable world, we call on our allies in and outside of health care to mobilize as we face the greatest crisis of our time, climate change.

Health care professionals can help the rest of society understand the health issues arising from our continued inaction to put an end to fossil fuels, as the impacts of climate change begin to affect our daily lives. Everyone in the health sector can lead the rest of the world in turning the greatest health threat of the 21st century to an opportunity that goes beyond our original mission of doing no harm — whether it is by mitigating climate change inside health facilities as part of Global Green and Healthy Hospitals, or by speaking up on the public health benefits of clean energy sources as a Healthy Energy Initiative advocate.

Gary Cohen
Gary Cohen
President, Health Care Without Harm

Message from the Executive Director

Laying the Foundation for a More Transformative Health Care

I came in as Executive Director of Health Care Without Harm Asia in early 2016. At the time, HCWH Asia was taking part in the global processes of renewing and reaffirming HCWH’s unique role in the field of environmental and public health advocacy.

If there is one thing that greatly impressed me on my first year in the organization, it was the deliberate and openly transparent attempt to clarify its institutional intent, values, plans, structures, processes, and operations. This spirit of seeking and creating larger sectoral and societal impact is palpable both in the operations and coordination between regional offices and the global team.

Within the HCWH Asia office, we have been pursuing key institutional areas to help us achieve our goals. These areas are strategic planning, programs alignment, and placing fund raising as key component of organizational sustainability. These three are all on-going processes that have taken off the ground and are still unfolding, but if pursued relentlessly, will lift up the engagement with the health sector and environmental health advocates in Asia to a transformative level.

The past two years have established our work in pushing the health sector to use its power and influence in pressuring society to urgently confront the climate crisis. We empowered our hospitals and health systems to build climate-resilient health facilities through the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals network. We continued to create greater awareness on the health impacts of our energy choices through the Healthy Energy Initiative. And we urged governments to help the health sector mitigate the impacts of climate change.

For 2017, HCWH Asia will further push its organizing and campaigning work within health care among policy makers and the general public. Global Green and Healthy Hospitals will expand to more countries in Southeast Asia. Our transformative thrust on green and low-carbon health care will focus on waste, chemicals and energy through the 2020 Health Care Climate Challenge,



where HCWH will provide technical and online assistance. In 2017, GGHH will also begin its work on health procurement in Asia.

While Healthy Energy Initiative deepens its policy work in the Philippines, it will also begin building partnerships in Indonesia and Korea — two countries where coal dependence is heavy and where GGHH has credible presence.

The year 2017 will be a build-up year for the Medical Waste program as it develops training modules, build a pool of trainers and experts, and start to offer services that will cater to hospitals and health facilities.

Given all these, I am proud to present HCWH Asia’s 2016 Annual Report, which I believe, is just a preview of more exciting things ahead.

Ramon San Pascual, MPH
Executive Director, Health Care Without Harm Asia



Our Campaigns

Since its establishment in 2003, HCWH Asia has made significant contributions in revolutionizing health care with the support of our various partners across the region.

We work with health professionals, hospitals, health care systems, government ministries of health, and international organizations on issues ranging from chemical substitution and health care waste management, to green procurement and climate change.

Global Green and Healthy Hospitals (GGHH)

GGHH is a global network of hospitals, health care facilities, health systems, and health organizations dedicated to reducing their environmental footprint and promoting public and environmental health.

The Global Green and Healthy Hospitals network has more than 700 members in six continents, representing the interests of over 21,000 hospitals and health centers. Our members are using innovation, ingenuity, and investment to transform the health sector and foster a healthy, sustainable future.

Healthy Energy Initiative

The Healthy Energy Initiative advocates for the consideration of the health implications in energy policies at the local, national, and global level, and campaigns for the health sector's divestment from coal. The Initiative mobilizes health professionals, health organizations, and health researchers to work together toward a cleaner, healthier, and more climate-friendly energy future.

Medical Waste Program

The program works with hospitals and health facilities by promoting the use of environmentally sustainable waste management systems and technologies in order to protect health workers, patients, and the environment.



Executive Summary

Indonesia's Minister of Health Dr. Nila Moeloek (center) with HCWH Asia Executive Director Ramon San Pascual (left) and HCWH International Director of Program and Strategy (right) during the 3rd Green Hospitals Asia Conference in Yogyakarta.

Ever since Health Care Without Harm Asia's landmark campaign to eliminate the use mercury in medical devices in the region, the impact of our work has continued to expand across different countries in Southeast Asia and beyond.

In 2016, HCWH intensified the call to mobilize the health sector to tackle the consequences of the greatest threat to health in the 21st century — climate change. As part the organization's global initiative, HCWH Asia works on three programs: Global Green and Healthy Hospitals, Healthy Energy Initiative, and Medical Waste.

Through close coordination with HCWH Global Secretariat, the membership of GGHH in Asia continues to grow with 23 new members coming on board in 2016. Hospitals and health systems also pledged to reduce their carbon footprint as part of the 2020 Health Care Climate Challenge. Over 400 hospitals, health systems, and health organizations from Indonesia, China, India, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, and Taiwan gathered and declared their commitment to invest in climate-resilient health care at the 2016 Green Hospitals Asia Conference held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

The GGHH Asia community has become more vibrant than ever. Members from different countries met face to face at the Green Hospitals Asia Conference. They demonstrated their commitment to environmental sustainability with over 21 case studies published this year. These case studies documented the implementation of sustainability projects on various GGHH sustainability goals. Four webinars, three in English and one in Bahasa Indonesia, had hundreds of audiences from different continents to learn about the work of GGHH in Asia, including renewable energy in health care, green procurement, and sustainable health care waste management.



The Healthy Energy Initiative took part in the publication of a Greenpeace-Harvard report that analyzed the impacts of coal plants in the Philippines.





Leading public health advocate Dr. Linda Rudolph of the Public Health Institute in California joined the pool of experts that facilitated the workshop on health impact assessments in March.

In 2016, Healthy Energy Initiative in the Philippines grew its network of health and environment champions who advocate clean and renewable energy sources. This advanced their advocacy for clean and renewable energy resources even further.

In March, HEI hosted a workshop on conducting Health Impact Assessments (HIA) for energy policies and projects. The workshop was attended by over 50 researchers, policy-makers, and advocates in public health, energy, environment, law, finance, and economic development. They learned the principles and processes of HIA as well as discussed the challenges and opportunities in the use and institutionalization of HIA in the Philippines and across the globe.



GGHH members from across Asia gathered for the annual members' meeting held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.



Together with various green groups, HCWH Asia called on candidates in the 2016 Philippine Presidential elections to discuss their environmental sustainability platforms.

As part of the Philippine Movement for Climate Justice, HEI took part in roundtable discussions and forums urging the government and various sectors to consider the health implications of energy sources. In the report "Coal: A Public Health Crisis," published by Greenpeace Philippines, HEI emphasized the negative health impacts of coal-fired power plants in communities. HEI also continues to build its work on the ground through educational workshops in communities hosting coal-fired plants. These workshops informed and educated health workers, government officials, and community members on the hazards of coal.

The Medical Waste campaign explored more sustainable and safe alternative waste management solutions by working closely with hospitals and health facilities. With



HCWH Asia celebrated Nurses' Week at the Centro Escolar University's School of Nursing with the No Harm Caravan.



Environmental stewards came together during the Zero Waste Fair in Luneta, Manila.

the cooperation of technical experts from Health Care Foundation Nepal and HCWH Global, the Medical Waste team conducted a feasibility study on vermicomposting hospital diapers at the St. Paul Hospital Cavite. As part of the organizing committee of Zero Waste Month in the Philippines, the campaign showcased sustainable waste management practices.

The campaign also actively worked with local and international networks advocating green solutions to the waste problem. The EcoWaste Coalition, the Global Plastic Alignment Movement, and Green Thumb Coalition brought environmental issues to the forefront during the 2016 Philippine Presidential Elections.



HCWH Asia's Healthy Energy Initiative co-organized a forum on the impacts of health energy policies on health with the European Chamber Business of Commerce Philippines.



Together with allies in the health and environment sectors, HCWH Asia urged the administration of newly elected Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte to respond to climate change as a public health emergency.

Pushing for low-carbon and climate-resilient health care was at the core of HCWH Asia's work in 2016. In regional and international gatherings of policy makers such as the World Health Organization's 4th Global Forum on Health and Environment in Manila and the 9th Global Health Promotion Health Conference in Shanghai, HCWH Asia pushed for strengthening health care's capacity to mitigate climate change, in relation to advancing the Sustainable Development Goals.



GGHH members in Nepal joined the Global Ethical Eating Day celebration.





Our Work in 2016

Over 400 participants gathered in Yogyakarta for the 3rd Green Hospitals Asia Conference.

GGHH Asia Conference and Members Meeting

Hospitals, health systems, and health organizations from all over Asia came together during the 2016 Green Hospitals Asia Regional Conference in Yogyakarta, Indonesia to tackle how the health sector can help mitigate climate change.

The event was held together with the 3rd Indonesian Health Promoting Hospitals Network Conference. It gathered hundreds of representatives from hospitals, health systems, and

health organizations in Indonesia, as well as China, India, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, and Taiwan.

At the end of the three-day conference, participants resolved to act together to tackle the climate issue. With a declaration, they emphasized the need for governments and the health sector to act together to protect public health and the environment.

Tzu Chi TIMA Manila Conference

Global Green and Healthy Hospitals Asia supported Tzu Chi International Medical Association's call for environmental stewardship through healthy and sustainable practices at the 2016 TIMA Conference held in Manila on March 4 to 6. GGHH Asia Coordinator Faye Ferrer presented the work of GGHH and shared the best practices of members in the region to hundreds of participants from different parts of Asia and the Philippines.



Promoting Health Impact Assessments

In March, HEI hosted a workshop on conducting Health Impact Assessments (HIA) for energy policies and projects.

Over 50 researchers, policy-makers, and advocates in public health, energy, environment, law, finance, and economic development gathered to learn the principles and process of HIA and to discuss the challenges and opportunities in the use and institutionalization of HIA in the Philippines and across the globe.

Resource speakers included Director of the Center for Climate Change and Public Health at the Public Health Institute in California Linda Rudolph and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health's Dr. Jonathan.

Two forums were also held in partnership with the University of the Philippines College of Public Health and the European Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines. These forums featured

Dr. Jonathan Buonocore, program leader for climate, energy, and health of the Center for Health and the Global Environment at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. He spoke on the health and climate benefits of renewable energy.



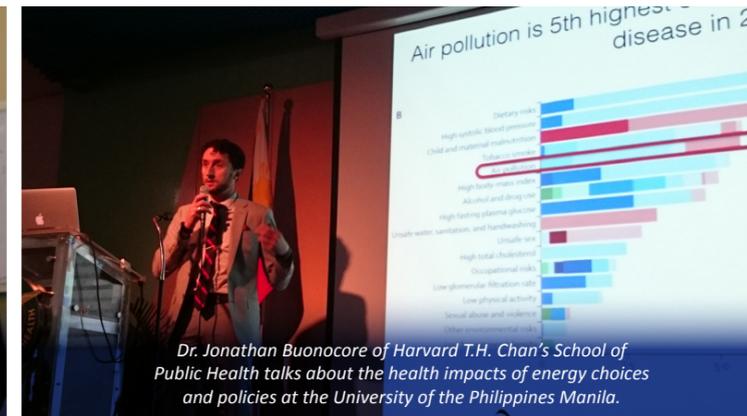
GGHH Asia Coordinator Faye Ferrer (center) with partners from the Health Promoting Hospitals Network in Indonesia during the 3rd Green Hospitals Asia Conference held in August.



HCWH's Ramon San Pascual (left) and Josh Karliner (right) present the Certificate of Membership to Yonsei University Health System's Dr. Dong-Chun Shin (2nd from left) during the GGHH Members Meeting.



Paeng Lopez talks about how various sectors can push for the institutionalization of HIAs.



Dr. Jonathan Buonocore of Harvard T.H. Chan's School of Public Health talks about the health impacts of energy choices and policies at the University of the Philippines Manila.





Training Nurses to Do No Harm

In cooperation with the National League of Philippine Government Nurses, HCWH Asia organized a training for trainers called “Nurse No Harm,” with over 20 nurses representing various government health facilities in the country.

The training’s goal was to make environmental health advocates out of nurse leaders, not only within their hospitals, but also in the communities.

No Harm Caravan

In 2016, HCWH Asia launched the No Harm Caravan to create greater awareness on the role of health professionals in advocating a green and healthy world. The first No Harm Caravan was held during the Nurses Day celebration of Centro Escolar University’s School of Nursing in October. There, HCWH campaigners talked to students, faculty and health practitioners about how they can contribute to the environmental health movement.

Green Thumb Coalition

As part of the Green Thumb Coalition (GTC), a network of various environmental groups in the Philippines, HCWH Asia pushed for environmental justice platforms during the 2016 Philippine Presidential Elections



Sustainability Officer Moresa Tolibas-Reyes speaks about environmental sustainability to students of Centro Escolar University during the school’s Nurses’ Week celebration.



(l-r) Philippine Heart Center’s Engr. Jose Barsaga, Laguna Lake Development Authority’s Secretary Neric Acosta, HCWH Director Ramon San Pascual, Philippine College of Physician’s Dr. Tony Leachon, and Climate Change Commission’s Dr. Glen Paraso during HCWH Asia’s forum on climate change as a public health emergency.

Forum on Climate Change as a Public Health Emergency

HCWH Asia and its partners in the health and environment sectors held a forum calling on the administration of then incoming President Rodrigo Duterte to come up with a cohesive and responsive health strategy recognizing climate change as a threat to public health.

The forum, held in celebration of World Environment Day in June, was supported by the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), the Climate Change Commission, the Philippine Heart Center, Philippine College of Physicians, and civil society groups. They emphasized how climate change poses serious threats to Filipinos’ health because the Philippines is one of the most climate-vulnerable countries in the world.

9th Global Health Promotion Conference

When governments and health organizations convened in Shanghai for the World Health Organization’s 9th Global Conference on Health Promotion, HCWH Asia urged health leaders to address the situation of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) in health care facilities in the region.

Speaking during the health literacy forum on WASH, HCWH Asia Director Ramon San Pascual emphasized the importance of sustainable waste management in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Asia Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment

At the Asia Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment held in Manila from October 6 to 8, HCWH urged the governments of over 30 countries to support and invest in low-carbon and climate-resilient health care. HCWH’s Josh Karliner’s presentation on low-carbon health systems and hospitals helped advance the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals, while protecting people’s health from the impacts of climate change.



At the World Health Organization’s Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment, HCWH’s Josh Karliner and Ramon San Pascual are joined by Department of Health Secretary Paulyn Ubial and Undersecretary Gerry Bayugo.



Sustainability Officer Moresa Tolibas-Reyes speaks about environmental sustainability to students of Centro Escolar University during the school's Nurses' Week celebration.



The Medical Waste team, with support from HCWH's International Science and Policy Coordinator and Nepal's Health Care Waste Foundation's Bimala Dumar, conducted a pilot research on vermicomposting at St. Paul Hospital Cavite.

Zero Waste Month

HCWH Asia joined the nationwide celebration of Zero Waste Month in the Philippines, urging the local health sector to take the lead in helping preserve the environment through sustainable health care waste management.

At the 2nd Zero Waste Fair, the celebration's culminating activity held in Luneta Park last January 30-31, HCWH-Asia showcased some of the best practices of hospitals who implemented both innovative and simple initiatives in their health facilities to lessen the amount of waste they produce.

Break Free from Plastic Movement

HCWH Asia convened with other international environmental groups for the elimination of plastic as part of the Global Plastic Alignment Movement. The group was formed to address the growing waste problem through more environmentally sound waste management, without causing further damage to the ecosystem and public health. The movement advocates a healthier world, free from the toxicity caused by plastic pollution. They aim to achieve this through initiatives ranging from facilitating collaborations between communities and various sectors to adapt a more sustainable design and manufacturing practices, to opposing waste-to-energy and other burn technologies,

Vermicomposting Hospital Waste

With the support of Health Care Foundation Nepal (HECAF) and HCWH International Science Policy Coordinator Ruth Stringer, the Medical Waste team conducted a study on the feasibility of using worms to safely and sustainably treat hospitals diapers. The project was piloted at the St. Paul Hospital Cavite, where the HCWH team also conducted seminar workshops for the staff on waste management.



HCWH Asia joined international scientific experts in Dasan, Korea for the Science and Technology Convergence on Climate Change.



Ramon San Pascual emphasizes the importance of SDGs in relation to good health and wellbeing.

Broadening and Deepening our Network

In 2016, HCWH Asia participated in important meetings and events hosted by our institutional partners across the world. During the 9th World Health Assembly in Geneva in May, HCWH Asia through Executive Director Ramon San Pascual, was part a side event on Climate Change and Health organized by the Philippine government on behalf of the coalition of 42 vulnerable nations and the United States.

When governments and health organizations met in Shanghai for the World Health Organization's 9th Global Conference on Health Promotion in November, HCWH Asia urged health leaders to address the situation of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) in health care facilities in the region. At the Dasan Conference 2016 in South Korea, themed Science and Technology Convergence on Climate Change, Ramon San Pascual also presented green and low-carbon health care to South Korean and other international science experts.

Publication of Case Studies

Through case studies publication, GGHH has been showcasing and documenting members' progress and achievements on their sustainability goals. Case studies allow members to learn from one another and share the projects they are working on from implementation and challenges, to recommendations. In 2016, GGHH Asia members submitted a total of 22 case studies covering their successes in areas such as energy efficiency, waste management, sustainable food, and transportation.

Coal: A Public Health Crisis

The Healthy Energy Initiative contributed to the Greenpeace Southeast Asia report Coal: A Public Health Crisis. Diseases and deaths attributed to coal use in the Philippines which was published in February. The report revealed the health impact of existing coal-fired power plants in the country and why renewable energy is the way to go towards a clean, sustainable, and healthy energy future.



The Healthy Energy Initiative works with residents coal-hosting communities in Bataan to educate them about the health impacts of coal.



Our 2016 Partners

Asian Medical Students' Association - Philippines
 Balifokus Indonesia
 Buddhist Tzu Chi Medical Foundation
 Center for Renewable Electricity Strategies
 Centro Escolar University School of Nursing
 Coal-Free Bataan Movement
 Ecowaste Coalition
 European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines
 European Climate Foundation
 FHI360
 Green Convergence
 Greenpeace Southeast Asia
 Green Thumb Coalition
 Health Care Foundation Nepal
 Health Public Policy Foundation (Thailand)
 Korea Environmental Industry and Technology Institute
 Korea Society for Green Hospitals
 Health Promoting Hospitals Network of Indonesia

Laguna Lake Development Authority
 National League of Philippine Government Nurses, Inc.
 Oscar M. Lopez Foundation
 Philippine Department of Health
 Philippine Heart Center
 Philippine Hospital Association
 Philippine Movement for Climate Justice
 Plastics Movement Alignment Project
 Public Health Foundation India
 Rock Environment and Energy Institute
 St. Paul de Chartres Health Care Ministry
 St. Paul Hospital Cavite
 Thailand Ministry of Health's GREEN and CLEAN Program
 University of the Philippine College of Public Health
 University of Sto. Tomas Medical Society
 World Health Organization Southeast Asia Regional Office
 World Health Organization Western Pacific Regional Office

What our Partners Say

“ FHI 360's collaboration with HCWH Asia has vastly increased our access to information that has directly enhanced our ability to make environmental improvements in our health and development work. With access to a wide range of experts and resources, we have been able to efficiently respond to environmental questions from donors and partners, as well as help promote the goal of greener health facilities through sharing of case studies and real experiences. This has been powerful in driving environmental change within the health and development sector in which FHI 360 works.”

Janet Robinson,
 Director, Research,
 Asia Pacific Region FHI 360

“ I have been working with HCWH For five years already now, in protecting the health of our people and the planet from adverse environmental changes, in the present and in the near future. HCWH has been creating 'value,' which gives us important messages that health care should first do no harm and be environmentally responsible. These messages need to be delivered to all health care professionals all over the world, especially in Asia — because Asia is the most populous and vulnerable to environmental damage due to climate change and air pollution.”

Dr. Dong-Chun Shin,
 President
 Korea Society for Green Hospitals

“ Through HCWH Asia's Healthy Energy Initiative, we are able to educate our community health workers and authorities about the health impacts of coal. By bringing in health and energy experts, they have inspired the community's resolve to resist coal and its environmental and public health risks.”

Derek Cabe,
 Coal-Free Bataan Movement

“ Through our partnership with Health Care Without Harm Asia and Global Green and Healthy Hospitals, the Tzu Chi Medical Foundation is able to reach out to more people in promoting care for the environment and people's health. Their wide network of partners in Asia and around the world has helped us establish more partners, both within and outside the health care sector. The wealth of tools and resources, as well as expertise they offer to GGHH members, have been extremely useful for our hospital staff in implementing sustainability programs.”

Dr. Ming-Nan Lin,
 Vice Superintendent,
 Dalin Tzu Chi Hospital



Board Members

Board Members

Rommel Lim, Chair

Rommel is the former Program Officer for Anti-Incineration campaign and Medical Waste Campaigner at HCWH-Asia. His efforts promoted non-incineration alternatives to medical waste treatment and formed linkages with other environmental groups working on other waste and environmental issues. He studied politics at the University of the Philippines and was previously with the Burma Program of the Initiatives for International Dialogue. Rommel served as the Mayor of the municipality of Gubat, Sorsogon in the Philippines from 2010 to 2013.

Michelle S. Segarra, DMD, MOH, FADI, FICD, Vice Chair

Dr. Michelle is a Doctor of Dental Medicine. She obtained her DDM and Masters Degree in Occupational Health from the University of the Philippines (UP) Manila. She is currently a Professor at the UP College of Dentistry and the President of the UP Dental Alumni Association.

She has held many administrative positions at the College including Chairman of Clinical Dentistry and Chairman of the Basic Dental Health Sciences. She is active in several international dental honor societies, such as the Academy of Dentistry International and the International College of Dentists.

Michelle has written several local articles on proper dental waste management and mercury use in dentistry, which were published in the Journal of the Philippine Dental Association. She has also given lectures in Occupational Hazards in Dentistry, Dental Stress Management, Waste Disposal in the Dental Practices, and Green Dental Clinics to practicing dentists and dental students.

At present, she is finishing her doctoral studies at the Tokyo Medical and Dental University.

Atty. Armand H. Mejia, Board Secretary

Atty. Armand is an attorney engaged in environmental law. For more than a decade, he has been the Legal Counsel for the Ecological Waste (EcoWaste) Coalition of the Philippines Inc., a Senior Partner at the Loveria Astive Mejia and Velasco Law Offices and Project Coordinator for Angat Watershed Conflict Mediation Project of the Mediators' Network for Sustainable Peace (MedNet).

He has also served as Legal Consultant for Marine and Fisheries Law Enforcement Project, a project of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and NGOs for Integrated Protected Areas (NIPA) of the Conservation of Priority Protected Areas Project. He was a Staff Lawyer for Tanggol Kalikasan (TK) Inc., a public interest environmental law office and Haribon Foundation Inc. He co-authored two books on environmental protection: Paralegal Training Manual for Protected Areas and The Legal Environment.

Gina Nazareth, MD, FPCP, FPSN, Treasurer

Dr. Gina is a nephrologist practicing at St. Frances Cabrini Medical Center and Renal Services Incorporated-Fresenius Medical Care Dialysis Center in Sto. Tomas, Batangas, and Daniel O. Mercado Medical Center in Tanauan City, Batangas. She is presently the National Treasurer of the Philippine Society of Nephrology (PSN) and is the former President of the Philippine Society of Nephrology-Southern Tagalog chapter. She is also a board member of the Philippine College of Physicians (PCP). When the PCP Southern Luzon chapter hosted the 19th PCP midyear convention at Puerto Princesa, Palawan, Medical Ecology became the chapter's advocacy— and later, one of PCP's main advocacies.

An article she wrote on ways to make the planet greener was published in her In My Green Mind column in the PCP-SL newsletter. She represented PCP in the anti-medical waste incineration campaign of HCWH-Asia.

Dr. Esperanza Cabral

Dr. Cabral served as Secretary of the Department of Health in the Philippines. Before her appointment as Secretary of Health, she was previously the Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Dr. Cabral, who is a cardiologist and clinical pharmacologist, graduated from medical school of the University of the Philippines. She extended her medical and pharmacological training at the U.P. Philippine General Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts General Hospital, and the Joslin Clinic in Boston, Massachusetts.

Dr. Cabral has long served as an educator and leader in Philippine medicine. At the University of the Philippines College of Medicine, she was a professor of medicine and pharmacology. She served both as Director of the Philippine Heart Center and Chief of Cardiology of Asian Hospital and Medical Center. She authored and co-authored more than 85 scientific papers on hypertension, cardiovascular pharmacology and clinical and preventive cardiology. She educated the public as a TV show host on "HeartWatch" on IBC Channel 13 and "InfoMedico" on NBN Channel.

Regional Advisory Council

Dr. Dong Chun Shin, Chair

Yonsei University Health System / Korea Society for Green Hospitals (South Korea)

Dr. Shin is the President of the Korea Society for Green Hospitals and Director of the Department of Preventive Medicine/ Institute for Environmental Research of Yonsei University College of Medicine.

He chairs the Environmental Caucus of the World Medical Association(WMA), as well as the Policy Studies Division of the Korea National Academy of Science and Technology. As a leading advocate of environmental health in South Korea, he actively promotes sustainability in health care as a member of the Environmental Health Committee of the Ministry of Environment, the Korean Society of Environmental Health and Toxicology, the Korean Society for Indoor Environment, the Korean Society for Atmospheric Environment, and the International Society of Indoor Air Quality and Climate.

He served as President of the Korean Society of Environmental Toxicology, Organizing Chair of the Joint Conference of ISEE-ISES (International Society for Environmental Epidemiology-International Society for Exposure Sciences), Vice-President of the Korean Society for Atmospheric Environment, member of the Central Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Environment.

He was conferred Korea's Presidential Citation for Environmental Achievement and the Order of National Service Merit.

Dr. Shin's research area of interest includes health and environmental sustainability and risk assessment and management.

Dr. Chin-Lon Lin

Buddhist Tzu Chi Medical Foundation (Taiwan)

As CEO of the Buddhist Tzu Chi Medical Foundation and the Tzu Chi International Medical Association (TIMA) and chair of Taiwan's task force on Health Promoting Hospital and Environment, Dr. Chin-Lon Lin is dedicated in convening a broad coalition of local government, civil societies, hospital systems and medical professionals to transform from environmental hazard to environmental stewardship. Prior to joining Tzu Chi, he was the Chief of staff of Northridge Hospital Medical Centre in Los Angeles.

Dr. Lin is the principal investigator of the Tzu Chi Health Study, showing the prevalence of serious illnesses like cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and obesity can be considerably reduced by switching to a plant-based diet. As the author of numerous scientific papers and four books, he is a driver of environmental responsibility and has inspired many in the health sector.

Mahesh Nakarmi

Health Care Foundation Nepal (Nepal)

Mahesh is the co-Founder and Director of Health Care Foundation Nepal (HECAF). A civil engineer by training, he has made a career of helping South Asian governments and international and Nepali institutions prepare and respond to natural disasters and other mass casualty events.

He is also co-founder of the National Society for Earthquake Technology and HECAF's National Kidney Center (NKC). At NKC he pioneered a Healthcare Waste Management Program which has been singled out by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a model approach to the problems of medical waste in developing countries. He is also a WHO Certified Mass Casualty Management Instructor.

Janet Robinson

FHI360

Janet Robinson is a clinical, regulatory, laboratory, environmental, and quality specialist with more than 30 years' experience in medical laboratory diagnostics and clinical trials. She is currently serving in a dual role as FHI 360's Director, Research, Asia Pacific Region and as FHI 360's Global Director of Laboratory Sciences. For the past thirteen years, she has provided regulatory, clinical, and laboratory leadership, implementation, technical assistance, capacity building and training to clinical research and program professionals and institutions in developing countries, particularly in west and sub-Saharan Africa and South East Asia.

Her leadership of health systems strengthening and health and environment programs includes improving medical waste management systems and greening of the healthcare sector. She is leading FHI 360's work globally to green the healthcare sector.

Before joining FHI, Ms. Robinson held several positions with Unipath Diagnostics Inc., including Director of Clinical and Medical Affairs. Ms. Robinson is a certified clinical pathologist (University of London, England), and is a Fellow of the Institute of Biomedical and Laboratory Sciences (UK). She is an invited member of several international laboratory working groups including that of the Clinton Foundation and WHO in S.E. Asia. She is also a member of the US FDA Advisory Committee for Clinical Chemistry.

Sr. Arcelita Sarmillo, SPC

St. Paul de Chartres Health Care Ministry (Philippines)

Sr. Arcelita is the administrator of the St. Paul Hospital, Cavite, one of the 13 member hospitals of the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres Health Care Ministry in the Philippines. She started her ecological advocacy 14 years ago through solid health care waste management. This advocacy has expanded to holistic initiatives to care for Mother Earth, such as: rainwater harvesting, vermicomposting, recycling, chemicals replacement, etc. She strongly believes in Pope Francis' statement, "Climate change is a social, human and ecological crisis." Her undergraduate course was Nursing with graduate studies in Nursing and Hospital Administration. She is a member of the Board of Trustees of several SPC hospitals and is the Assistant Treasurer of the Private Hospitals Association of the Philippines.

Dr. H. Suherman, MKM

Indonesian National Health Promoting Hospitals (Indonesia)

Dr. Suherman is the National Coordinator of the Health Promoting Hospitals (HPH) Network of Indonesia. He obtained his Masters in Public Health from the Indonesia University. He served as Director of R. Syamsudin, S.H General Hospital in Sukabumi City and Head of the Indonesian Regional Hospital Association (ARSADA) of West Java Province.

Ang Zhao

Rock Energy and Environment Institute (China)

Ang Zhao is the Director of the Rock and Energy Environment Institute (REEI) and has worked in the environmental protection field for over 10 years in China. He focuses on climate change policy and renewable energy policy. Before co-founding REEI, he worked with Green Earth, Greenpeace, and Windpower Intelligence on watershed conservation, coal power policy and wind power policy, respectively.

Mr. Zhao holds an MSc. in Environmental Policy and Regulation from the London School of Economics and Political Science, UK.

Professor K. Srinath Reddy

Health Foundation of India (India)

PHFI is a public-private initiative that emerged from multiple constituencies including Indian and international academia, state and central governments, multi and bilateral

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agencies, and civil society groups. Before becoming the President of PHFI, Prof. Reddy headed the Department of Cardiology at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. He was appointed as the First Bernard Lown Visiting Professor of Cardiovascular Health at the Harvard School of Public Health in 2009. He is also an Adjunct Professor at the Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University and Honorary Professor of Medicine at the University of Sydney. PHFI is engaged in capacity building in Public Health in India through education, training, research, policy development, health communications and advocacy.

He chaired the Core Advisory Group on Health and Human Rights for the National Human Rights Commission of India for several years and was a member of the first National Science and Engineering Research Board of Government of India.

He recently chaired the High-Level Expert Group on Universal Health Coverage set up by the Planning Commission of India. He has also served as the President of the National Board of Examinations which deals with post-graduate medical education in India. Prof. Reddy is a member of the Leadership Council of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), established to assist the United Nations in developing the post-2015 goals for sustainable development. He chairs the Thematic Group on Health in the SDSN. Prof. Reddy is a high-level panel member on the Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition.

Shweta Narayan

Community Environmental Monitoring (India)

Shweta Narayan is a researcher and an environmental justice activist. She coordinates the Community Environmental Monitoring (CEM) program for The Other Media and has been associated as a volunteer for the campaign for justice for the survivors of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy since 2002.

As part of CEM she provides technical and legal advice to pollution impacted communities. As a Right to Information activist she has unearthed and used information regarding violations of industries in an effort to hold regulatory agencies and industries accountable, and to assist communities in their quest for their pollution-free environment.

CEM's ambient air sampling exercise led the Supreme Court Monitoring Committee on Hazardous Wastes in India to direct the Central Pollution Control Board to evolve national standards for toxic volatile organic compounds in ambient air.

Shweta has a Master's degree in in Social Work from Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) with a specialization in Criminology and Correctional Administration.

Rommel Lim

Board of Trustees, Health Care Without Harm-Asia

Rommel is the former Program Officer for Anti-Incineration campaign and Medical Waste Campaigner at HCWH-Asia. His efforts promoted non-incineration alternatives to medical waste treatment and formed linkages with other environmental groups working on other waste and environmental issues.

He studied politics at the University of the Philippines and was previously with the Burma Program of the Initiatives for International Dialogue. Rommel served as the Mayor of the municipality of Gubat, Sorsogon in the Philippines from 2010 to 2013.

Josh Karliner

Director of Global Projects, Health Care Without Harm

Josh is Director of Global Projects and International Team Coordinator for Health Care Without Harm. In this capacity, he works to support the development of HCWH's work in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, while also overseeing the organization's global campaign on climate change, the development of the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals Network and HCWH's collaboration with WHO to eliminate mercury in health care.

He has over 25 years of experience working on international environmental and human rights issues. He is the author of two books and a wide variety of academic and popular publications on global environmental politics.



HCWH Asia Staff

Ramon San Pascual, Executive Director
Mary Joyce Lanuza, Deputy Director
Faye Ferrer, Global Green and Healthy Hospitals Coordinator
Moresa Tolibas-Reyes, Sustainability Officer
Raphael Lopez, Healthy Energy Initiative Campaigner
Ayesa Enrile, Environmental Health Campaigner
Mary Ann Lustresano, Project Associate
Camille Dianne Mendoza, Communications and Press Officer
Manuel Abadiano, Fundraising Manager
Krisanto Maria Evangelista, Administrative and Research Associate
Nefritiri Mendinueto, Administrative and Finance Associate
Antony Esguerra, Bookkeeper

Our Offices Worldwide

HCWH Global
Rafael Hernandez 2649
1428 Buenos Aires, Argentina
ph/fax: +54 11 4896 0018
e-mail: global@hcwh.org
www.noharm-global.org

HCWH Europe
Rue de la Pepiniere 1
Brussels 1000, Belgium
ph/fax: +32 2503 4911
e-mail: europe@hcwh.org
www.noharm-europe.org

HCWH Latin America
Rafael Hernandez 2649
1428 Buenos Aires, Argentina
ph/fax: +54 11 4896 0018
e-mail: info@saludsindanio.org
www.saludsindanio.org

HCWH US & Canada
12355 Sunrise Valley Drive, Suite 680
Reston, VA 20191
ph: +1 703 860 9790
fax: +1 703 860 9795
e-mail: info@hcwh.org
www.noharm-uscanada.org





Health Care Without Harm Asia,
Unit 203 Kalayaan Center, 65 V. Luna
Avenue, Quezon City 1101, Philippines

www.noharm-asia.org