

EDITOR'S NOTE

This issue of the *Public Policy Journal*/Vol. X No. 1 focuses on contemporary issues on health as it is affected by globalization, migration, and terrorism. It also brings attention to civil society's participation in health development and to the status of primary health care (PHC) in the Philippines.

Professor Aleli D. Kraft in her paper, "Trade and Health: A Policy Paper" proposes a framework linking international trading to health and highlights the need for consistent trade-related health policies. She argues that "globalization poses several risks and opportunities that have to be managed in order to achieve health sector objectives." She focuses her discussion on three issues, i.e., access to affordable medicines, trade in health services and in traditional and alternative health care.

The second paper, written by Dr. Jorge V. Tigno, dwells on the health implications of labor migration from the Philippines. He begins by presenting the dynamics of international labor migration from the Philippines and the extent to which such movement has been made more complex by global forces. He asserts that increase in international migration impacts on health and well-being of migrants and the populations of both the sending and receiving countries. He emphasizes that the Philippine government must play a key role in upholding the right to health of Filipino migrants.

In the article, "Biological and Chemical Threats to Public Health and Safety in the Philippines," Dr. Jonathan L. Salvacion observes that the country has no clear system in place with regard to management of biological and chemical threats. He describes the negative sociogenic effects of mismanagement and recommends education of the public and systematic research for development of a national database. He stresses the need for preventive legislation to regulate materials that can be used in developing weapons and to enable government to monitor activities that may be intended for dispersal of toxic materials.

Dr. Dennis B. Batangan reports on important issues taken up in the 2002 and 2005 Global Health Forums on Civil Society and Health in his paper, "Strengthening Civil Society Participation in Health Development." He proposes a framework for facilitating civil society and state engagements and supporting

innovative approaches (demonstrated by civil society programs) in addressing challenges in health program implementation.

In the last paper, Dr. Ma. Lourdes G. Rebullida revisits Primary Health Care 25 years after the Alma Ata Declaration. She notes changes in the international and national contexts of PHC and raises concerns on continuing commitment to PHC. She points out that conceptual issues persist. She also highlights the need to locate PHC in the health sector reform agenda and to maximize implementation in the devolved health care system.

All these papers emphasize the need for all stakeholders to work together in crafting policies to improve the health care delivery system and to protect the right to health of all Filipinos.

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