



PRB

POPULATION REFERENCE BUREAU



The 3rd National Conference on Population, Health, and Environment (PHE)



***Prepared by Conservation International - Philippines
Conference Committee Chair and Host***

***With the PHE Network Conference Committee
30 April 2008***

FOREWORD

This final report on the Third National Conference on PHE is prepared by Conservation International - Philippines, Conference Committee Chair and Host, with much valued inputs from members of the PHE Network's Conference Committee and the Executive Committee as well as the Population Reference Bureau. We acknowledge their full support in successfully convening the conference with us.

Specially recognized as important in year-long preparations are the following: Save the Children Foundation, Path Foundation - Philippines, Inc., Foundation for the Philippine Environment, Philippine Legislators Committee on Population and Development, Commission on Population, Family Planning Organization of the Philippines, World Wildlife Fund - Philippines, and individual members Maria Corazon dela Paz, Rhodora Roy-Raterta, Jo Clemente, and Bill Fischelis. Through them as network members in the Conference Committee, CI-P Conservation engaged various sectors in stimulating exchanges on integrated Population, Health and Environment to advance human wellbeing.

The conference was much enlivened by the participation of delegates from government agencies, social scientists, experts in the environment sector, health advocates and practitioners, development workers, demographers, representatives from the media sector, other professionals and field workers.

We indeed envisage the PHE Network proceeding productively in the spirit that produced the Tagaytay Challenge in the 3rd National Conference. Mabuhay!

ROMEO B. TRONO

Country Executive Director

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Third National Conference on PHE, with the theme “*Scaling up Integrated Population, Health and Environment*” was another big achievement of a young multi-sectoral network of committed partners from the government and civil society sectors throughout the country. Successfully attended by more than 350 delegates, the conference held on March 5-7, 2008 in Taal Vista Hotel, Tagaytay City, addressed the expansion, strengthening and advancement of integrated PHE through a sharing of best practices, models, partnerships and networks, as well as plans infused by the participants’ acceptance of the Tagaytay Challenge. International partners led by the Population Reference Bureau were from various countries like the United States, New Zealand, Ethiopia, Nepal, Madagascar, Malaysia, and Costa Rica.

Over three days of the bi-annual conference, plenary sessions with esteemed experts and leaders set the direction of discussions. Parallel and skills building sessions were rich venues to listen to presentations and join discussions on best practices in the integration of PHE; share learning opportunities; review tested and explore new models to face emerging challenges; as well as strengthen linkages for better partnerships.

Conference discussions effectively clarified that one cannot really speak of a PHE model, but what is important is what works. The shared experiences were very rich in examples that emphasized varied scales and levels of using the PHE approach in diverse situations of Philippine communities. Since PHE assumes that integration implies the linking up of program components across population, health and environment, examples of scaling up in any of the four dimensions are still limited to geographic expansion still. What the conference showcased were still plans of scaling up in the other dimensions (programmatic, organizationally and partnerships). The conference was a chance to redefine scaling up not in terms of huge money and intervention, but as a means in putting our energies together that yields so many gains beyond the typical scaled-up thinking. The conference experience indeed demonstrated that the PHE Network can capitalize on its own capabilities in resource mobilization, with the appreciated counterpart from the partner PRB, its supportive donors, and partners from other countries.

The Tagaytay Challenge, the major document produced by conference participants, shall guide major island groups in pursuing in the next two years the plans for scaling up PHE initiatives in these four dimensions.

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Introduction

More than 300 environmentalists, social scientists, planners and policy makers from the legislative and executive units of government, health advocates and practitioners, demographers, representatives from the media sector, other professionals and field workers in the Philippines as well as participants from other countries including the United States, Ethiopia, Nepal, Madagascar, Malaysia, and Costa Rica gathered in the 3rd National PHE Conference to tackle sensitive issues on population, environmental sustainability and development. The theme “*Scaling up Integrated Population, Health and Environment*” carried by the conference on March 5-7, 2008 in Taal Vista Hotel, Tagaytay City aimed to expand, strengthen and advance integrated population, health and environment policy and program interventions in the country.

Background on the PHE Network and Annual Conference

The bi-annual national conference being convened by the PHE Network was on its third slate, this time held in Tagaytay City in Luzon. As a national formation of government and non-government agencies who espouse the integration of PHE programs that promote equity, health, and environmental stewardship, the network set the 2008 conference theme, “Scaling Up Population, Health, and Environment,” to clearly demonstrate the advancement of its goal since “making the Link” (1st national conference theme) and “Creating Our Future” (2nd national conference theme). Being aligned to the Network’s vision of healthy people living harmoniously with nature in a healthy environment, these themes devised by the network are decisive steps taken not simply to integrate and look toward the future, but also to act ahead. The agreements achieved at each conference are guideposts in such advancements from the Antipolo Declaration to the Cebu Accord, and now up to the Tagaytay Challenge.

This final report on conference highlights is prepared by Conservation International - Philippines, Conference Committee Chair and Host, with the Conference Committee, and submitted to the PHE Network Executive Committee and the Population Reference Bureau.

Conference Objectives and Design

Objectives decided by the PHE Conference Committee (in its 4 May 2007 meeting) were as follows:

General objective:

to expand and strengthen the spatial, programmatic, organizational, and partnering dimensions of PHE

Specific objectives:

to share achievements, challenges, and opportunities in policy advocacy, resource and community mobilization, research, and IEC in PHE;

to discuss various models, data and indicators for scaling-up PHE; and

to develop a viable plan to expand, strengthen, and advance PHE in the four dimensions of scaling up.

Accordingly, the third conference encouraged network members, partners and stakeholders to present papers that highlight best practices in the integration of PHE; share learning

opportunities; review tested and explore new models to face emerging challenges; as well as join experiences and strengthen linkages for better partnerships. Plenaries were designed to set the direction of the network's initiatives through presentations by esteemed experts and leaders. These were supplanted by presentations and discussions about more specific experiences and models through parallel sessions. Skills building sessions were included to address the enabling needs of current and would-be PHE practitioners.

To ensure that specific situations and needs are emphasized, the organizational formation of participants through the PHE network's steering generated the major island-based situationers and planning that respectively opened and closed the 3-day conference through workshops. Conference side events, meanwhile, included two nights to separately launch publications of the Population Reference Bureau (PRB), Commission on Population (Popcom), Save the Children and Employers Confederation of the Philippines' (ECOP) video presentation, as well as exhibits that presented profiles of PHE members and their programs. Lastly, a study tour to a coastal site was undertaken for participants to have *in situ* familiarization with how the integration of PHE is being pursued by the host agency (CI) in Calatagan, Batangas. The plan to also have study tours in Mt. Banahaw, a terrestrial upland site, and in Paranaque, an urban site, was prepared but there were no takers of the invitation of the Foundation for the Philippine Environment (FPE) and Save the Children.

Participation

A total of 327 participants for the full three days and at least 40 short-stay individuals as observers for selected sessions, support staff, and guest performers attended the conference, or a total of 367 people. Attendees for the 3 days may be clustered as follows:

I. Government Sector		II. Private/Non-Government Sector	
National executive level	9	International NGOs	44
National legislative level	3	US NGOs	19
National judiciary level	1	Other Foreign NGOs (Non-US)	7
Regional line agencies	6	National NGOs	98
Provincial LGUs	10	Local level NGOs	9
Municipal LGUs	56	Peoples' Organizations	7
		Academic institutions	15
Foreign government sector	4	Media	8
		Business sector	28
		Others	42
		Total No. of Participants	367

For just those who reported their attendance in PHE conferences (n=135), 31 participants (23%) were attending for the first time; the rest had attended either the first (55 or 41%), or second conference (25 or 19%), or both (24 or 18%). A full directory of these participants is provided separately.

Flow of Activities in the Conference

Opening Ceremonies

The Conference was opened on **Day 1** on 5 March, with the rendition of the National Anthem and Doxology by the University of Rizal System Chorale. This was followed by the Opening Remarks given by Romeo Trono, Country Executive Director of Conservation International-Philippines, the Conference Host.

A representative of Hon. Abraham Tolentino, Mayor of Tagaytay City, then gave Welcome Remarks. He expressed the city's gratitude in having been chosen by the PHE Network as venue for the important conference objectives in which the city's leadership shares.

Messages in the Opening Program were from the head of key government agencies with mandates covering population and environment. Hon. Jose Atienza, Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, led the panel of speakers that included Hon. Francisco Duque III, Secretary of the Department of Health as represented by Director Tomas Osias of the Commission on Population, and the Philippine House of Representatives' Special Committee Chairperson on the Millennium Development Goals, Hon. Rep. Nerissa Soon-Ruiz.

As partner from the international community, Richard Skolnik, Director of International Programs of the Population Reference Bureau (PRB), affirmed their support for the Philippine PHE Network. Partnership with them has been instrumental in the surfacing of the Philippines as center of excellence in PHE in the past three to five years.

Ramon San Pascual, Executive Director of PLCPD, current PHE Network Secretariat, gave the last message in the opening program. He reported on the accomplishments of the network over the past two years since the Cebu Accord.

The Opening Ceremonies were hosted by Evangeline Florence Miclat of Conservation International-Philippines, and Dr. Enrique Hernandez of Path Foundation-Philippines, Inc.

Plenary Session, Island Group Situationer and Planning Workshops, Parallel and Skills Building Sessions

Two plenary sessions were designed to have renowned leaders to review global and national trends to address issues affecting effective and timely PHE approaches in their sectors. To connect to the challenges of scaling up PHE, participants were engaged in major island group situationers early on in the conference so that succeeding discussions shall be linked to local, national and international settings. The first workshop on regional and international contexts was supplanted by more specific thematic presentations and discussion through the parallel sessions that provided participants a wide range of choices. Hence, there were 4-5 parallel sessions that tackled experiences in PHE, approaches that worked effectively, and suggested models that can be explored by agencies according to their specific situations and opportunities. These parallel sessions were thus supported by skills-building sessions over two days, also with an average of 4-5 topics per session.

Plenaries thus opened the round of paper presentations. The **1st Plenary Session**, on Day 1 of the Conference, took a look at the Global, National and Local Perspectives in Scaling Up Population, Health and Environment. It started with a presentation, "Global Trends in PHE" by Janet Edmond of Conservation International. Nereus Acosta from the Ateneo School of Government and Department of Political Science, past House of Representatives member, then proceeded to describe current national trends in PHE. On a smaller scale, Masbate Vice Governor Vincent Homer

Revil, President of the League of Local Legislators on Population, Health, Environment and Development, went on to present the local trends in PHE.

Plenary 1 was immediately followed up by a workshop session. The topic “Situation Analysis on PHE Status and Challenge” gave the opportunity to level off the knowledge from discussion and sharing among participants who were grouped according to major island clusters since geographic scaling up (expansion spatially) is the context in linking up programs efficiently. The spirit of networking was strengthened in the workshop, since benefits from complementation and coordination are the ways to integrate the concerns of population, health and environment that agencies tend to work on separately.

Parallel Sessions were the opportunities for exchange of experiences and models in PHE. On Day 1, among the themes were on PHE and Community Advocacy, The Population Factor and Conservation in the Philippines, PHE Responses to Climate Change, Best Practices in Population and Development Journalism, and Gender and PHE.

Parallel Session 1 took a look at PHE and Community Advocacy, and was facilitated by PATH Foundation Philippines. The session started with a presentation by Miriam Reyes, Rural Health Midwife of Baggao in Cagayan, entitled “Building Community Capacities for Scaling Up.” She stressed the importance of increasing the capacity of barangay leaders and municipal LGU staff because empowered and well-capacitated communities are the best on-site managers of their population, health, and environment.

Brenda Escalante, Deputy Executive Director of Balay Rehabilitation Center, talked on “The Use of PHE in Empowering Youth” from experiences in an existing project of Balay in Pikit, Northern Cotabato. The project involved mobilizing the Sangguniang Kabataan in Pikit to establish and operate teen centers that provide basic information on adolescent reproductive health and conservation.

From India, Dr. Mrutyunjaya Mishra of the Banaras Hindu University demonstrated how “Air Pollution Can Affect Children’s Health”. His studies revealed that air pollution is a significantly increasing problem in the developing countries, which leaves adverse impacts on human health and welfare loss. Mitigating such negative impacts has become an immediate priority of the governments in these countries.

Prof. Filemon Romero of the World Wide Fund Philippines and the Mindanao State University in Tawi-tawi shared experiences of the Tawi-tawi Provincial Technical Working Group as a “Mechanism for Integrating Population, Health, and Environment.” Based on their experiences, his suggestions for building a successful network/alliance include engaging the private sector in the initial stages of the planning and public recognition of the partnership identity and engagement of other stakeholders.

Among the lessons learned from Dr. Sabita Thapa’s (World Wide Fund - Nepal) presentation on “Integrating Population and Health into Forest Management Agendas in Nepal” were that communities’ technical and management capacity has to be built from the very beginning, and that even non-forma literacy committees support monitoring and management.

Parallel Session 2 was facilitated by the Population Reference Bureau and focused specifically on The Population Factor and Conservation in the Philippines. Dr. Josefina Natividad of the University of the Philippines Population Institute presented the results of the study, “Exploring the links between population and threatened biodiversity,” which made use of the graphical comparison of levels/ proportions of each population, development and poverty indicator by municipality; and a correlation analysis.

Martha Campbell, of Venture Strategies for Health and Development, explored the question “Can the Philippines Stabilize Its Population within a Human Rights Framework?” to which she gave the answer, “Yes, it can. It depends on whether women will be permitted - quickly - to make the choices they need to make - for their own health, their family’s well being, and tomorrow’s children.” Her paper was well appreciated by participants because many factors were enumerated as source of many constraints on reproductive health and misinformation on methodologies to clarify the population issues.

With the increasing concern about Climate Change and its effects on PHE, **Parallel Session 3** was designed to reveal possible actions that can be done as PHE Response to Climate Change. This session was sponsored by Conservation International, the Foundation for the Philippine Environment, and the Philippine Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation.

In her presentation, “Regulating Ecosystem Functions for PHE,” Dr. Rowena Boquiren, the Socioeconomics and Policy Unit Leader of Conservation International - Philippines opened the session with a discussion that set the tone and direction, explained the issues, and presented the ways forward in scaled up integrated PHE to include climate change adaptation and mitigation. It was emphasized that protection of ecosystem services is an entire domain of applying PHE inasmuch as ecosystem and human well-being -- which covers community and environmental health -- are intricately connected.

This was followed by the presentation on “Current Initiatives in Mitigating Climate Change in the Peñablanca Protected Landscape and Seascape” from Monico Anzia, Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer of DENR Region 2. He was able to show the linkages between land use, climate change, biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods. He was also able to demonstrate climate change mitigation through reforestation, which at the same time also conserves biodiversity and protects endangered species, conserves habitats, and maintains ecosystem services, and provides alternative livelihoods.

This was reinforced by the presentation of Dr. Oliver Coroza, Spatial Analysis and Information Systems Unit Director of Conservation International - Philippines, entitled “Modelling of Allocation Scenarios for Human Settlement or Land Use in Mitigating Climate Change,” in which he concluded that forest conservation, restoration, and reforestation can help mitigate climate change by reducing emissions and increasing carbon dioxide uptake.

Parallel Session 4 was sponsored by the Philippine Legislators’ Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD) and discussed the Best Practices in Population and Development Journalism. Che de los Reyes of PLCPD demonstrated how important it is to encourage mass media to actively cover and examine population and development issues and showed examples from the Annual PopDev Media Awards.

L. Ramos of Sun Star Cebu, discussed PHE in print media through news reportage on population, reproductive health, and public health. She called to attention the fact that in order for media to write about PHE issues, advocates should provide them with the information they need to write and support their articles (e.g. studies made, survey and monitoring results)

Frank Cimatú of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism explores non-traditional media in his presentation on writing online or internet writing. Other presentations in the session were on consistent radio reportage and commentary on the population issue by Angelo Palmones.

With the PHE Conference coinciding with International Women's Day, **Parallel Session 5**, which focused on Gender and PHE seemed to be more relevant. With Atty. Dory Raterta facilitating the session, Carolina Santamaria of the University of Costa Rica presented a study on "How women's health can be affected by pesticide environmental exposure: The breast cancer case." The study showed that pesticide exposure appears to be related to breast cancer in agricultural areas, and it is important because environmental factors such as these are preventable; hence, results from studies such as these should be able to influence policy-making.

A presentation by Rebecca Gaddi of the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement, entitled **Engendered Governance Thru PHE**, demonstrated how the "process of inching ones way in has capacitated women to survive the culture that suppresses them from participating in worthy activities. From being 'unheard' to being 'heard', from peripheral to central, from less valuable to extremely valuable."

The first day of the Conference ended with a **Solidarity Dinner** and the **Launching** of PHE Network products. Richard Skolnik and Liza Colson presented **Profiling Regions of the Philippines on PHE**, published by the Population Reference Bureau. The framework of the **5th State of the Philippine Population Report**, was presented by Director Tomas Osias of the Commission on Population, emphasizing the contribution of case studies from the PHE Network members as facilitated by the Research Committee. With contributed musical numbers from Romy Trono, the East Africa contingent and the group Anima, the event was successfully hosted by Voltaire Tupaz, Policy Advocacy Officer of EED-TFIP.

By Day 2, the second plenary session showed the different dimensions of Scaling Up, at the Public, Private, and Community Levels. Hon. Erico Aumentado, Governor of the Province of Bohol, started the session with a look on the involvement of local government units in PHE programs at the public level. For the private sector, Dario Pagcaliwagan, Executive Director of the Lopez Group Foundation, Inc. opened up complementation roles of the public and business sectors. The talks of the first two speakers inspired participants to advance their approaches, this time y working on public-private partnerships. Karugu Ngatia introduced the third topic for the 2nd Plenary, this time with focus on the status of PHE initiatives in East Africa. Negash Teklu gave the presentation that tackled their scaling up of PHE networking at regional and national levels being conducted simultaneously, with the East African PHE Regional Network having been launched only in November 2007. Of the 8 country-members, at least three have immediately formed their national PHE networks. These are Kenya, Tanzania and Ethiopia.

This session had Catherine Untalan of the Miss Earth Foundation and Dr. Ronald Quintana of Path Foundation Philippines as Masters of Ceremonies.

The rest of the morning was allotted for skills building as venue to enhance field operations and knowledge management of participating agencies in integrated population, health and environment. Participants freely chose the sessions to attend. The design and facilitation were handled by either the invited key trainers or the PHE committees.

Prof. Martha Campbell as Organizer-Facilitator handled SB 1 on Communicating Population Issues Effectively. Very practical situations in addressing difficulties of effective communication on the subject of population clarified schools of thought normally affecting field workers. Role playing was used to engage participants to share the barriers they experience in discussing reproductive health. The session as fully sponsored by the Ventures Strategies for Health and Development.

SB 2 on Leadership Skills Seminar was handled by the PHE Network IEC Committee. Bill Fischelis first introduced basic concepts in leadership, followed by the sharing and workshops on leadership stories from both the local and international levels.

SB 3 on Scaling Up Research Approaches for PHE was handled by the PHE Network Research Committee, under the sponsorship of the Foundation for the Philippine Environment. The committee's year long work on reviewing indicators and methods used by official data gatherers was presented as take-off point to share for validation the least set of variables being suggested. Agencies are encouraged to help link up initiatives in monitoring population, health and environmental issues. Participants arrived at a consensus to actively use, validate and enrich the minimum number of indicators recommended by the committee.

Two parts make up the **SB 4** on Communicating with Policy Makers and the Regional Profiles jointly organized and facilitated by PLCPD and PRB. The first topic was a lecture discussion on legislative action advocacy based on PLCPD's past 18 years of work. PRB facilitated the presentation of PHE issues using the recently published regional profiles as source of data and identification of issues. Participants were engaged in a workshop next, to draft notes for policy makers. A plenary sharing and critiquing capped the session which was well appreciated by participants committed to bring PHE concerns to the level of policy.

SB 5 on was a recent addition to the array of sessions, but was well acknowledged as a rich venue to scale up investments on PHE. Conceptualized and organized by Atty. Rhodora Raterta, the session on Accessing the Justice System for Grassroots Organizations was handled by Atty. Midas P. Marquez as facilitator with Atty. Marlon Manuel from the Alternative Law Group as presenter.

Day 2 of the Conference also served as venue for the sharing of more experiences in PHE through another set of parallel sessions in the afternoon, this time with the following as themes: PHE and Advocacy for Alliance Building/Networking, Learning from PHE Experiences, Sustainable Financing for PHE Programs, and another session on PHE and Community Advocacy.

Parallel Session 6 on PHE and Advocacy for Alliance Building/ Networking was facilitated by the Foundation for the Philippine Environment. The session took a look at the different factors that contribute to the creation of a network, as in the case of the "Life Cycle of an Advocacy Network: The Case of the PHE Network," by Cynthia Dionco.

In "Evolving Marine Protected Area Management in Central Visayas: from single reserves to networks," Darwin Raymundo of the Coastal Conservation and Education Foundation noted that Coastal Resource Management Programs can be effective entry points for Reproductive Health/Family Planning Initiatives, and that the integration of different projects by an implementing institution into a unified PHE approach is more effective and reaches more beneficiaries.

Tim O'Donovan of the Development Resource Center shared a study on Reproductive Health, Population and Environmental Challenges in the Pacific from the perspective of the Aotearoa New Zealand Asia Pacific Alliance. He noted that understanding the links between SRH, population and the environment can be challenging but using educators for resources from the beginning is key.

Nancy Harris of John Snow, Inc., exported several good ideas from Madagascar in her presentation, "Translating Rhetoric into Results: Strategies for Effective PHE Program Design and Expansion." As an example, she illustrated the Champion Community Approach, with a champion community being a community that has decided upon—and achieved—a series of tangible goals in health, family planning, improved agriculture, environmental sanitation and conservation over a defined period of time and has received formal recognition celebrating its status.

Learning from PHE Experiences was the theme for **Parallel Session 7**, which was facilitated by the World Wide Fund for Nature - Philippines. Dr. Aurelia Luzviminda Gomez of the University of the Philippines in Mindanao shared "The Human Context of the Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor (EMBC)," which was an endeavor to do a socioeconomic benchmark of the EMBC. From the study,

it was gathered that to simultaneously improve human well-being and protect the environment, mechanisms for livelihood security as well as co-management of resources with the vulnerable groups, particularly with IPs should be considered.

Cara Honzak of the World Wildlife Fund-US, in “The Value of Taking an Integrated Approach to Population, Health and Environment-Lessons from Asia, Africa, and Latin America,” recommends the following among the keys to optimizing value-added of FP/RH for conservation: basic health services, with plans to integrate family planning; clean water and sanitation; environmentally sustainable livelihood security; youth awareness and male sensitization on family planning.

Elizabeth Schoenecker of the USAID shared how the successes of the PHE Network in the Philippines were used to design a PHE project in Rwanda. There were a number of similarities between Rwandan coffee families and Philippine fisher families that prompted the adaptation of PHE approaches learned in the Philippines to the Rwandan context.

Also presented in the session was a paper on “Communicating to Communicators: Mainstreaming PHE Messages through the Media” which Jo Clemente presented.

Parallel Session 8 was facilitated by Dr. Nicomedes Briones of the University of the Philippines in Los Baños, discussed some strategies for Sustainable Financing for PHE Programs. Marlou Abaja of the Employers’ Confederation of the Philippines explained that with the recent environmental concerns such as climate change, disasters, pollution and the interrelationship of population processes to industrial productivity—the business sector realized that these issues will affect human resources productivity and business profitability and showed how PHE is incorporated in the business sector’s advocacies and programs.

Payment for Ecosystem Services for Healthy Communities was presented by Dr. Rowena Boquiren of Conservation International. Ecosystem services refer to the direct or indirect benefits from nature that are not usually valued in the market.

Ruth Grace Ambal of Conservation International–Philippines noted that there is a need to put in place an alternative means to overcome setbacks in species conservation, particularly in the engagement of the private sector. She then presented the Adopt-a-Species Wildlife Program, which aims to encourage the conservation of threatened species and their habitats through the active participation of the private sector and all other sectors of society, while at the same time conserving and protecting biodiversity and preventing species extinction.

Parallel Session 9 was the venue for sharing more experiences on PHE and Community Advocacy, and was again facilitated by Path Foundation Philippines. Leo Salvino from the Local Government Unit of Roxas, Palawan shared Experiences in Implementing the PHE Approach in 7 Pilot Barangays in their area, which resulted to the establishment of a network of marine protected areas, and the passage and approval of municipal ordinances related to PHE.

William Manuel of the Palawan Program of Conservation International-Philippines demonstrated integrated PHE through partnerships in protected area establishment and management. With the proposed Mt. Mantalingahan Protected Landscape as an example, he presented the different partners’ initiatives on PHE research, ecosystem services and links to human wellbeing, and poverty reduction through livelihood enhancement and provision of basic services.

Dr. Olga Virtusio, City Health Officer of Parañaque City, shared strategies on Engaging the Youth in PHE; and stressed its importance by explaining that that empowered youth are able to serve as youth leaders, peer facilitators, and advocates for PHE; and that they become role models in their own communities for environmental protection and preservation.

Lastly, Dr. Enrique Hernandez of Path Foundation Philippines shared an Effective Advocacy for Ecosystem-based Scaling up of PHE, which is a program that primarily targeted policymakers and stakeholders in the Danajon Ecoregion.

A second workshop capped the afternoon sessions, again involving participants in their respective island groups to have indicative planning for the next two years. The discussions took off from the sharing of situationers the day before. Participants articulated programmatic interests of their organizations and recognized needs of communities and sectors, emphasizing the courses of action that can realistically addressed within the target period (2008 to 2010).

Day 2 ended with cocktails and more product launchings from the PHE Network members. With Norma Pongan as Master of Ceremonies, a video presentation entitled **The Power of Dream** opened the Save the Children's hosted launching, followed by the opening remarks of Dr. Joseph Michael Singh, Deputy Country Director. **For Children, By Children**, a children's storybook about their families, their health and environment, and as told in Kiniray-a, Hiligaynon, and Filipino was then presented, with the writers and illustrators introduced. The Employers Confederation of the Philippines' launching of its contributions followed, with Marlou Abaja as second Master of Ceremonies in the event. Sanchir Tugschimeg and Atty. Rafael Francisco first gave talks on managing HIV and AIDS in the workplace, followed by the presentation on the workplace population agency program of the confederation given by Jose Roland Moya, Deputy Director General of ECOP. A film viewing on best practices of ECOP capped the launching activity, with closing remarks given by Vicente Glenn Genovate, Program Manager of Save the Children.

Day Three started with a second round of skills building sessions in the morning. SB 6 tackled Poverty Reduction Towards Healthy Communities, organized by Conservation International and facilitated by Prof. Nick Briones of the University of the Philippines in Los Baños. "Issues in the development of livelihood enhancing schemes" was the subject of workshops about which participants grouped themselves by island group.

A second session, **SB 7**, discussed "Monitoring and Evaluation of PHE Programs Across Scales: Indicators for Success" with Caryl Feldacker as presenter, Research Associate for Population-Health-Environment as USAID has supported. The presenter explained the importance of M&E indicators with the applicability of MEASURE Evaluation globally. Participants enjoyed the informal discussions that brought the session strongly at the ground level.

The last session, **SB 8** entitled Advocacy Campaigns: Planning and Implementation was organized and facilitated by the Isaac Walton League of America, the National Audubon Society, Sierra Club, and PLCPD.

Closing the Conference

As most participants were engaged in the skills building workshops, key representatives of PHE Network members had a **General Assembly** for brief updates and selection of the next Secretariat and Conference Host. The Philippine Business for Social Progress was unanimously elected as Secretariat for the next two years and the Mindanao Chapter as Conference Host in 2010.

Meanwhile, leading members who answered the call for them to craft the Tagaytay Challenge finalized the document, with consultations having proceeded iteratively over two days and nights. Scaling up PHE initiatives in four dimensions is a commitment that the Tagaytay Challenge posed to conference attendees.

The end of the morning skills building sessions and PHE Network General Assembly signaled the closing of the conference with the program facilitated by Cora Dela Paz and Dr. Ronald Quintana as Masters of Ceremonies. Hon. Crispin Remulla, House of Representatives member from Cavite gave his Message, which was followed by that from Provincial Governor Maliksi through his representative.

Gratitude to the government leaders of Cavite was expressed by Ramon San Pascual (PLCPD Executive Director), who then led the turnover ceremonies by presenting the Tagaytay Challenge for acceptance through signing by partners and members from the government, civil society and the private sectors. Lead agencies as members of the PHE Executive Committee were announced and invited to express their commitment to the Tagaytay Challenge: WWF for the IEC, CI for Research, PLCPD for Policy Advocacy, and the following for chapters, namely for Popcom for NCR, PRRM for Luzon, FPE for Visayas, and FPOP for Mindanao. The Population Reference Bureau as partner from the international sector since formation of the PHE Network in the Philippines also reaffirmed its acceptance of the Tagaytay Challenge.

Turnover ceremonies for the next Secretariat had Ramon San Pascual (PLCPD) presenting to Jazmin Gutierrez (PBSP) the seedling as symbol of sustained nurturing of the PHE Network's status as center of excellence. PBSP graciously accepted this important role. The very high spirit of achieving goals as a network was followed up by Romy Trono (CI) inviting FPOP and the government sector representative to take over the reins of hosting the 4th national conference in 2010.

Achievements of the Conference

Objectives

Objectives of the conference were to (1) share achievements and challenges, (2) discuss various models, methods, data, and others, and (3) develop viable plans to strengthen integrated PHE. These objectives were all being explained since the invitation was disseminated. The conference program on the actual activity similarly carried the objectives clearly. The pre-conference orientation and the conference sessions therefore strived to realize the objectives.

Relative to Objectives 1 and 2, the pre-conference activity which focused on orienting participants on PHE was welcomed by those who were appreciating the integrated approach for the first time. The conference discussions in the next three days also effectively clarified that one cannot really speak of a PHE model, but what is important is what works. The shared experiences were very rich in examples that emphasized varied scales and levels of using the PHE approach in diverse situations of Philippine communities.

While it was recognized that there are no perfect models in PHE but diverse methods and components that have worked positively, scaling up was the next interest of the conference assessment. Shared experiences in most papers demonstrated the use of the integrated approach of PHE in programs. Since PHE assumes that integration implies the linking up of program components across population, health and environment, the assessment shows that examples of scaling up in any of the four dimensions are still limited to geographic expansion still. What the conference showcased were still plans of scaling up in the other dimensions (programmatic, organizationally and partnerships).

As there has not been many experiences yet in actual scaling up, the attempt to bring discussions forward was acknowledged in sessions on how to expand and strengthen PHE initiatives programmatically and in partnerships. What the IPOPCORM has achieved in geographically expanding the integration of coastal resource management, reproductive health and livelihood alternatives is a very successful example from the Visayas presented in a parallel session. The session on climate change adaptation and mitigation was on actual experiences with scaling up in the four dimensions as shared by the experiences of the DENR, CI and the local government unit in Sierra Madre. Meanwhile, the session on sustainable financing presented public-private partnership as model in approach that has yet to be implemented since the link of the government's executive department and local government units with the business sector is still in a buy-in stage.

Attendance of target sectors

The target number of participants (200) were met and exceeded (total 367), only slightly higher than the last conference. The assessment rated conference participation as a strong point in the following terms: excellent participation of engaged attendees and numbers, wide geographical reach, and sectoral representation.

Participants from the government sector is very high, reaching 25.30% of conference attendance. Local governance is a priority engagement of both the government and civil society sectors. It was acknowledged that we can still expand our coverage through working with the League of Municipalities, League of Cities, League of Provinces, and others, instead of simply inviting LGUs from our networks. Meanwhile, participation of the government sector at the national legislative and executive departments has yet to be improved, even with the inclusion of the mandated national agencies among the major sessions as speakers. The role of the DENR and DOH as PHE leaders at the executive department still has to be worked on. The Senate did not have any

presence nor support for the conference. Only the presence of the House of Representatives as representative of the legislative department was felt in the conference. This assessment reflects the serious challenge in policy work and advocacy that the network still has to address.

Added value in scaling up as conference theme

The participants submitted evaluation sheets reflect how the theme was appreciated:

- The theme made the network and participants think about what we could do and how we could go beyond; being pushed to think that this is something that could be sustained, a strategy that many actors can adapt and pursue.
- Prior appreciation of “Scaling Up” was very much focused on the geographic aspect earlier, until the conference which used a theme now in reference to the four dimensions.
- People were challenged with more creativity and wide concerns to focus on.

At the Conference Committee level, it was assessed that the conference was a chance to redefine scaling up not in terms of huge money and intervention, but as a means in putting our energies together that yields so many gains beyond the typical scaled-up thinking.

- Funding constraint in programmatic and geographic terms became a challenge in terms of sustaining PHE. Main example is the children’s storybook. We need more examples
- Last parliamentary meeting on PHE, people are being affected by what we are doing and they would like to try it out among their own organizations
- Gave foreign participants a new way to appreciate what’s happening in the Philippines; successful in terms of PBSP taking over the secretariat and getting the private sector involved.

Translated as a chant (2x stomping the right leg on counts 1 and 2, then raising the left arm with clenched fist while shouting “Scale Up” on the 3rd count), the conference theme was ingrained in the participants’ minds on the first evening, a launching cum solidarity night, and repeated now and then in some sessions to pep up the participation of attendees.

PHE has indeed become a byword, with what the Network has achieved. The recent rice crisis in the Philippines was even a good timing to discuss PHE, because population density was the topic of a recent conference even among biologists. With scaling up as a theme, the next conference can be designed in a manner that is still scaling up but will discuss the actual gains, lessons, and methods so that operationalizing the theme shall be sustained.

Conference Evaluation

Multifarious concerns connecting population, health and the environment reflected the rich backgrounds and interests of participants. This is confirmed by a wide array of items expressed as strongest points of the conference as relayed in the evaluation sheets and assessment meetings:

- Diverse views, sharing and convergence was very productive
- Choice of speakers was a strong point
- The conference was a wake up call for us legislators
- great speakers and examples
- great presenters and excellent presentations
- very great participation in sessions in terms of representation, composition and organization of session
- very good choice of topics and speakers, except for some comments on 1 speaker
- skills workshops as the strongest point
- pre-conference preparations excellent
- excellent conference design and management
- well organized, good participation all throughout
- well-balanced; effective in mixing up the activity; hours were well-planned, no lectures during “ungodly” hours; ended at just the right time; really liked how the program incorporated the situational analysis and planning
- Orientation was one of the very strong points because there was leveling off that happened; 20-25% are new attendees

Among the weaknesses mentioned were likewise many:

- weak time management in relation to just 1 speaker from government; from Bohol
- longer time desired for question and answer, for discussions
- weak point - getting the DENR Secretary as speaker, though it was good to recognize their view so we can work to change it and overcome difficulties
- evening sessions: suggestion for videoke session
- workshop planning sessions were tight, lacking in time

Several sources of feedback and Conference Committee assessments are the bases of conference evaluation: measured evaluation is by participants who turned in questionnaires; documentation notes generated assessment points; lastly, qualitative discussion by the PHE Conference Committee completed the evaluation.

Topics taken up in the plenary, parallel and skills building sessions were appreciated especially where attendees mostly chose what session they needed familiarization on or updating. The sustained sharing of knowledge, methods, and learning from best practices is expressed by most conference attendees as realized objective of the conference.

From a reading of the questionnaires, the conference was given a very high rating of 4 and 5 (5 as excellent, 1 as poorest) by most (at least 70% of participants). Moderate ratings were from a little over half of attendees in the session. Considered lowest are only two sessions of the conference, with aspects that had ratings of 3 from half of attendees, either because of organizational clarity or weak usefulness of discussion aids (PS8 and PS7).

Content and Organization of Presentations

OPENING PROGRAM

The conference commenced with appropriate decorum as expectantly awaited national event of a forward-looking young network. Efficiently yet lightly handled by highly selected masters of ceremony, the messages given by the distinguished speakers opened the incisive attention on the integrated approach of population, health and environment, and scaling up as the crafted conference theme.

The institutional locus of PHE concerns was well recognized in the choice of speakers to emphasize the complementary roles of government, civil society, and business sectors as well as across local and international partnerships. There were reactions in the inclusion of one speaker on account of differences in position on reproductive health. Inasmuch as the opening program was intended to set the tone of the conference, discursive exchanges were set off for the next conference sessions as designed by the organizers. Participants were successfully prompted to sustain their interest to join anticipated discussions.

PLENARY SESSIONS

Both plenary sessions were assessed positively, with one speaker as the only weakness in content and time management (speaker from provincial LGU assisted by Path). Between the two Plenary Sessions, participants rated the first session (Global, National, and Local Trends in Scaling Up) as more relevant and interesting, but found the second session (Dimensions of Scaling Up: Public, Private, and Local Government Levels) to be clearer and more organized. Clearly the most appreciated discussion was from the private sector. The speaker's presentation of the business sector's support for public-private complementation was encouraging as a potent way of scaling up.

Rated with weakness was the presentation from the local government sector because it exceeded way beyond the allotted time. Weak time management by the organizer and facilitator for the sessions was attributed to the fact that the speaker is one of their key partners at the local level.

REGIONAL WORKSHOP SESSIONS

The first Regional Workshop Session (Situation Analysis on PHE Status and Challenges) was more relevant for participants from the Luzon, Visayas, and International groups, than for participants from the Mindanao and NCR groups.

For the second workshop session (Planning for the Next Two Years), all five regional groups gave high ratings to the relevance and prioritization of the workshop.

PARALLEL SESSIONS

The parallel sessions had comparable sizes of participants (more than 50 attendees). In terms of appreciation, the following sessions were recognized for relevance and interest (rating from 4 to 5): climate change, community advocacy (both sessions), gender, learning from PHE experiences, and alliance building; lowest in assessment (rating of 3) were sustainable financing followed by alliance building and journalism.

For organization and clarity, climate change, community advocacy (PS9) and learning from PHE experiences consistently ranked highest; all the rest were ranked from 3 to 4 by most attendees, which is still a positive assessment. PS 3 (PHE Responses to Climate Change) was given the highest ratings in terms of both relevance & interest, and usefulness of instructional aids.

SKILLS BUILDING SESSIONS

All sessions had high ratings (4 and 5) by majority (more than 70%) of attendees in terms of relevance and interest. SB 7 (Monitoring and Evaluation of PHE Programs across Scales: Indicators for Success) had the highest rating for all 4 criteria of the survey, followed by SB4 (the session on regional profiles and policy makers).

CONFERENCE MANAGEMENT / ORGANIZATION

In terms of conference management, registration had the highest ratings (very organized, no queues) followed by hosting, while time management and side activities had the lowest, though a little over half of participants were still giving ratings of 4 and 5. There were comments on unclear status of some attendees in terms of scholarships opened up to them.

MEDIA AND ADVOCACY PLAN FOR THE CONFERENCE

Promotion of the Network and the national conference through the media was effectively handled beginning January. Fourteen media hits in the current report are relayed by PLCPD largely from the agencies they have monitored. The press conference before the actual conference came out good, with at least 26 tri-media practitioners mobilized from national to local scales. (Refer to Appendix ____)

LOGISTICAL / TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

In terms of logistical requirements, high ratings were given still consistently (4 to 5) by more than 70% of participants, the highest for choice of venue, accommodations, and lights and sounds while the lowest ratings (still high, only over half of participants) were given to the proceedings.

Conference Management

The inter-agency Conference Committee composed of PHE Network members and chaired by the Conference Host, Conservation International, handled the year-long preparations and the activity proper. Subcommittees and special teams were set up to handle specific tasks: Program, Documentation, Invitations and Registration, Logistics, and Side Events (study tour, exhibit, launching). CI coordinated the planning meetings of the first two and handled the rest of these smaller groups; PLCPD handled the Media Plan; and a Resource Mobilization Team was internally set up by CI.

With these small groups being engaged regularly with at least monthly or bimonthly meetings, conference preparations proceeded very well. The host also created an internal conference management team composed of CI personnel, with tasks issued one month before until two weeks after to wrap up the activity as support to the Network members' roles. CI headquarters gave full financial assistance for operations of the agency's staff.

Key PHE members handled their own resource mobilization for the participation of their staff and partners. The host raised funds for over-all and major conference management needs. All these comprised some 75% of resources needed for the conference, and therefore completed the very critical major seed funds rolled by the main sponsor PRB (of an estimated PhP4m to PhP4.2m as total conference costs). Not included in this assessment is the outlay of financial support for partners from the US and other countries who came on their own. The experience indeed demonstrated that the PHE Network can capitalize on its own capabilities in resource mobilization, with the appreciated counterpart from the partner PRB, its supportive donors, and partners from other countries.

Recommendations for Future Work

Suggestions to sustain the tested schemes and improve the handling of other important aspects of the next PHE conferences and conference management are the following:

- Categorically identify in the sessions the best practices; which ones are on models being presented for discussion; and methods/tools being suggested in scaling up (facilitation roles have yet to be assessed)
- Have freer, flexible access to the sessions during the conference (comment from participants who wanted to be moving around, but who nonetheless were not constrained to move around; may be interpreted as a need for more capability building, IEC and skills enhancement projects with PHE members)
- Match speakers who extend their time allotment with firm facilitators or masters of ceremony
- If the theme is not very clear to participants, reinforce its integration in the whole program; repeating things, internalizing; popularization and frequent reinforcement so it can be operationalized.
- “Scaling up” as theme, what it means, and the four dimensions as presented in the public notices are best repeated in all the sessions.
- Structure future activities of the network, and of the next conference, according to levels of current familiarization/operations of target participants (what is PHE as an integrated approach, what are the directions of scaling up that can be pursued by the committees and chapters, how are the agencies, stakeholders, partners to be engaged in actual programs already, and so on).
- Develop discussions on some topics at the grassroots level as future activities of the network (community mobilization, policy advocacy, sustainable financing, response to climate change adaptation, accessing justice institutions, gender issues, M&E work on indicators were all appreciated, next-step actions/progress are being expressed as needs to be addressed beyond the conference)
- To link up the conference with implementation of the plans under the Tagaytay Challenge details, network members are best involved in execution and monitoring.
- Conference and the Network’s organizational activities need not compete for time so that focused participation is ensured. Limited people were able to attend the General Assembly because it was scheduled at the same time as skills-building session.
- Involvement of the Network members in the Media Plan was very important. Monitoring of media advocacy at the local and regional level must be spread to members of the network.
- For the next conference; it might be able to assess the impact of bringing some of the partners to the conference; see who it has the biggest impact on; devise a way to measure (e.g. follow-up survey); maybe monitor the progress of the workplans
- With about 75% of participants as usual attendees, monitor and guide how they have been involved in PHE.

- Have more PHE integration projects in components and complementation roles to be presented in the next conferences
- Recognize the initiative of the partners; prove to the donors that Scaling Up is being practiced by the Network already; show appreciation to the donors by giving them good report
- Improve the handling of side events like the exhibit and study tours. With more financial support, there may be more people who will join.

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ANNEXES

Annex 1: Conference Program

Annex 2: Plenary Session Presentations

Annex 3: Parallel Session Presentations

Annex 4: Skills Building Session Presentations

Annex 5: Regional Issues and Challenges

Annex 6: Regional Plans

Annex 7: Tagaytay Challenge

Annex 8: Evaluation

Annex 9: Media Hits

Annex 10: Photo Gallery

Annex 11: Financial Report