



World Health
Organization



WORKSHOP REPORT

Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment:

Strategic Planning Workshop for the Philippine
Three-Year Chairmanship and the Philippine
Implementation Plan
(2017-2019)

26-28 April 2017 | Diamond Hotel, Manila



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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Rationale of the Workshop

The 4th Regional Forum on Environment and Health in Southeast and East Asian Countries was held in Manila, Philippines on 6-8 October 2016, tagged as the Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment. The Regional Forum has successfully brought together 217 participants including the Ministers of Health and Ministers of Environment of 36 countries and other key stakeholders and partners from various regional /international organizations to three major events during the three-day forum: a Scientific Dialogue which focused on Health and Environment at the center of Sustainable Development, the Ninth High Level Officials Meeting and the Fourth Ministerial Meeting.

The Regional Forum on Environment and Health in Southeast and East Asian Countries was initiated in 2004 to gather together the ministries of health and ministries of environment of 14 Southeast and East Asian countries or the 10 Association of Southeast Asian Nations member states including China, Japan, Mongolia and the Republic of Korea. The Forum's purpose is to serve as a platform for sharing knowledge and experiences, discussion of how to implement integrated environmental health strategies with the end-view of stimulating inter-ministerial and inter-sectoral collaboration at the country and regional levels. Cognizant of the growing interest to expand the membership, the forum in the Philippines had notably more participants from other countries to include the countries of Western Pacific Region, Southeast Asian Region and UNEP regional Office for Asia Pacific (ROAP).

An important outcome document as endorsed by the Forum is the Manila Declaration on Health and Environment. The Manila Declaration recognizes that despite gains made toward achieving the environment-related Millennium Development Goals, attaining universal access, such as for safe water and basic sanitation has remained to be a challenge.

An agreement was reached to establish a Task Force to review and make recommendations on the formal title of the Forum given the wider interest of additional countries joining the regional forum, to review the Charter or the Framework of Cooperation, membership and governance, including a new structure of the Forum, to discuss the operationalization of the Regional Implementation Plan 2017-2019, and to identify the chair of the 5th Forum.

The Government of the Philippines serves as the Chair of this Regional Forum from 2017 to 2019. With the support of the Secretariat of the Forum consisting of the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO), WHO South-East Asia Regional Office (SEARO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, the Philippines as Chair should be able to more effectively and strategically steer and carry out the work of the Forum per Implementation Plan, and that health and environment ministers and officials are constantly engaged for enhanced collaboration at the country and regional levels towards the attainment of the Forum's objectives.

In view of this, a Strategic Planning Workshop was hosted by the Philippines on 26-28 April 2017 in Manila, Philippines.

1.2 Workshop Objectives

1. To develop a Plan to review the current Framework for Cooperation of the Regional forum on Environment and Health

2. To develop the Work Plan of the Regional Forum, identify resource/financial requirements based on the Implementation Plan 2017-2019
3. To develop the Resource Mobilization Strategy
4. To develop the Work Plan of the Philippines identifying resource/financial requirements based on the Implementation Plan 2017-2019

The Forum Program of Activities is shown in **Annex I**.

1.3 Workshop Participants

There were a total of forty-six (46) participants attending the three-day workshop. Two (2) were from UNEP, one (1) from WHO/SEARO, ten (10) from WHO/WPRO/WR, one (1) from the Ministry of Health Thailand, thirteen (13) from DENR, and nineteen (19) from DOH. **Annex II** shows the list of Forum Participants.

2. OPENING SESSION: DAY 1- 26 April 2017

2.1 Opening Ceremonies

Remarks from the Philippine Department of Health (DOH)

Dr. Gerardo Bayugo, Undersecretary of Health emphasized that this workshop was the first key activity of the Philippines as Chairperson of the 4th Regional Forum on Environment and Health. He acknowledged the presence of the previous Chairperson of the Forum from Thailand, the Secretariat of the Forum from WHO and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the DOH national partner and Co-Chairperson of the Forum from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. This workshop is a realization of the collaborative effort to concretize the Manila Declaration into policies that cut across on health and environment related-Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This is a challenging role for the Philippines as the Chair to make a difference for the Forum to serve as a venue to significantly achieve the SDGs and to ensure that NO ONE WILL BE LEFT BEHIND in both WPRO and SEARO Regions. Undersecretary Bayugo also took note that the Forum's membership from 14 to 48 member states in the Asia-Pacific Region with diverse characteristics also poses an opportunity and a challenge as well. The Forum is an opportunity to harness the talents and skills in the Region to move forward towards the common health and environment agenda. It is at the same time a challenge since this would equate to enormous resources needed to make a difference. Thus, resource mobilization would be a flagship activity of the Philippine chairmanship with the cooperation of all key stakeholders, so that the legacy for this Regional Forum will be beneficial to all Member States.

Remarks from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)

Assistant Secretary Nonita Caguioa also reiterated on the significant role of the government of the Philippines after hosting the 4th Regional Forum on health and the environment last year, as Chair of the three-year Philippine implementation plan, and to operationalize the Manila Declaration. She noted that the participants of the Forum have identified priority environment and health issues that require regional action; facilitated dialogues, exchanged knowledge and best practices to promote sustainable development in the areas of environment and health; developed and sustained mechanisms for collaborative action; and mobilized material, human and technical resources to support work on

environment and health. She mentioned that the strategic planning workshop coincided with the commemoration of Earth Day on April 22, 2017. Hence the exchange of ideas during the workshop provided the right venue to find concrete and meaningful ways to maintain a clean and safe environment for a healthy population, to raise awareness about mother nature's health and the efforts being made to protect it. The Philippines, is indeed grateful for hosting this gathering because with everybody's proactive involvement in protecting our environmental assets through opportunities like this, collaborations toward ensuring a healthy and safe environment for everyone is further strengthened. She ended her message with a quote from Margaret Mead, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtfully committed citizens can change the world".

Remarks from the World Health Organization/Western Pacific Regional Office - Philippine Country Office

Dr. Gundo Weiler, Country Representative of WHO in the Philippines expressed his support to the Philippine government's dual role for the Forum, such as: as chair of the Regional Forum for 2017-2019, and as a member country that will operationalize the Philippine Implementation Plan for 2017-2019. He underscored the critical role of the Philippines to the very challenging demand of the sustainable development goals relevant to health and environment in the Asia-Pacific Region as reflected in the Manila Declaration and Regional Implementation Plan (2017-2019). This concern on environment and health is one of the five key strategies outlined in the Philippines-WHO Country Cooperation Strategy for the Philippines (2017-2022) and the focus of the Philippine National Environmental Health Action Plan (2017-2022). With these plans in place, together with the strong support from the Philippine government and partner agencies, Dr. Weiler is confident that this strategic planning workshop for the Forum will be a resounding success.

3. WORKSHOP DAY 1 (Agenda Item 1: Discussion on the Regional Forum)

Session 1- Panel Discussion on the Regional Forum

A panel discussion focusing on the Regional Forum was facilitated by Director Maylene Beltran of the Philippine Department of Health. The discussion tackled the following questions:

- a) What lessons have you learned in the preparation, conduct and post evaluation of the forum including chairing the forum for 3 years?
- b) What do you think were the impact and benefits of the forum to Member States including your own country?
- c) What are your recommendations to pursue further and institutionalize the Forum?

Dr. Nasir Hassan, HAE Coordinator/WPRO Secretariat to the Forum, gave a presentation of the overall context for the panel discussion. He provided a background on the conceptualization of the Forum on Environment and Health as well as on the conduct of the first three Fora hosted and chaired by Thailand, South Korea and Malaysia, respectively. He also described how the Philippines hosted and chaired the 4th Forum in October 2016, with an expanded number of participating countries. He also shared a video clip on the Forum noting key messages from the Secretary of Health Dr. Jean Paulyn B. Rosell-Ubial and Secretary Gina Lopez as well as WPRO Regional Director, Dr. Shin Young Soo.

The panelists for the session included Ms. Siriwan Chandanachulaka from Ministry of Health, Thailand who served as Chair during the Chairship of Thailand and Undersecretary Gerardo Bayugo as Co-Chair as

well as partners from the Secretariat, Dr. Susan Pineda-Mercado and Mr. Terrence Thompson both from WPRO and Ms. Lesley Onyon from SEARO and Ms. Kakuko Nagatani-Yoshida of UNEP.

a) Lessons learned in the preparation, conduct and post-evaluation of the Forum including chairing the Forum for 3 years

On the discussion of what went wrong or the limitations and challenges faced by the Forum, Thailand mentioned that the three-year Chairship may not be enough. This was also supported by UNEP saying that the Chairship is a big challenge. WHO/WPRO for its part underlined that the Regional Forum missed a lot of opportunities with ASEAN, characterized by not involving the ASEAN Secretariat and it is an issue that Member States should raise with their respective governments. It also noted that there were parallel organizations outside of WHO and UNEP. For the Philippine government, it observed that despite efforts to share resources between the Health and Environment departments, there were limitations and lag in the process causing delays in preparation of activities.

Bright spots were also noted and observed in the course of the Forum's existence. WPRO noted that the Regional Forum (RF) serves as platform for dialogue between national authorities and organizations and facilitated a link between health and ministers meeting. UNEP mentioned that the RF is a breakthrough in terms of putting together the 2 sectors, health and environment, being key pillars of development. The Philippine DOH meanwhile highlighted that the RF enabled the closer coordination and involvement between the two secretaries/ministries (Health and Environment). It also took note of the increased participation of governments in the region with 36 countries attending the recent Forum.

Amidst some challenges faced by the Forum, key suggestions and points of actions were floated and proposed in aid of further improving the Forum. On the observation that the Forum Chair's term is limited and recognizing that country ownership and leadership is critical, it proposed to consider extending the Chairship to a 5-year term to give way for sufficient time to review the role/function and framework for cooperation of the Forum. SEARO/WHO made mention that although having three strands of Forum Secretariat (WPRO, UNEP and SEARO) works well, it might be taxing for the Forum Chair in terms of monitoring and this could be discussed on for possible adjustments. It also congratulated the Philippines for initiating dynamic things for the Forum. SEARO meanwhile stressed for the Forum to take on key and demonstrable deliverables within the 3 year term.

In terms of facilitating expanded membership of the Forum, Thailand stressed the importance of revising the framework to address additional membership. WPRO also suggested conducting activities such as national workshops for Member States (MS) to get and sustain their interest in the Forum. UNEP stated that getting the support of MS to the Forum maybe challenging if not difficult given the funding requirements, nevertheless, the body seemingly agreed to include in the discussions on the resource mobilization aspect. On this concern, both the Philippine DOH and DENR underlined that need to include financing institutions to raise funds for the RF and to sustain and expand its reach and work. WPRO also proposed to engage funding agencies and facilities like the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Green Climate Fund (GCF) for funding opportunities. It also suggested developing project proposals coming from MS and international organizations.

On specific Forum initiatives, Thailand proposed to formulate a scheme to put in place the thematic working groups (TWGs, e.g. SDGs under MS/TWG) that can eventually support the work on SDGs down to the national levels to which UNEP emphasized that having the TWG is beneficial to the Forum. It also suggested keeping the scientific conference and other policy spaces for health and environment as part of the Forum.

In the immediate term, some of the proposed activities agreed on are the following: Review of the regional forum; Identify national priority SDG targets; Setting of national SDG targets; and collective target setting for the regional forum countries. A summary of the discussed is attached as **Annex III**.

b) Impact and benefits of the Forum to Member States, including own country representatives

The discussion also underscored the impact and benefits of the Forum to the Member States (MS) and country representatives. WPRO mentioned that the Forum has enabled and facilitated the discussion involving recommendations of the COP on climate and health. It reported that at least 17.8M has been secured for Pacific Island countries and funding windows from New Zealand and Australia are open for applications. UNEP described that the face of environment is health and the Forum served its purpose well. Aside from particular cases, the Forum has in general brought together both Health and Environment sectors together and enabled the sharing of technical knowledge and expertise among MS and organizations and paved the way to persuade decision makers about the link of poor environment to poor health especially among the poor. Other potential impacts and benefits that the Forum could work on involves air quality of the urban population, working with other organizations and working groups (Health Care Without Harm) and mobilization of resources through funding agencies (GCF and GEF). The outputs of this discussion are summed up in **Annex IV**.

The Panel Discussion was concluded with a synthesis of the key points raised by the panelists as shown in **Annex V**.

Session 2-Current Scenario

Session 2 was conducted to describe what the current scenario is for the Regional Forum. This session was also conducted in plenary with Dr. Lyndon Lee Suy of DOH- Disease Prevention and Control (DPCB) facilitating. The Session's specific objectives are to describe the present scenario of the Regional Forum and identify facilitating and hindering factors that influence the Regional Forum in terms of Economic, Legal, Ethical, Values, Technological, Economic Social and Political (ELEVATES-P) parameters. Dr. Lee Suy introduced the session with a description of the process, gave examples of the factors using the parameters.

Inputs on the overall environment wherein the forum is operating

The session also underscored the current scenario that pertains to the five areas of the Regional Forum as well as other considerations or parameters.

A critical area for action is the Charter of the Forum and alignment with other Fora. It was recalled that there were two Regional Committee Meeting (RCM) resolutions in 2005 encouraging Member States of WPRO to participate and should be mentioned too under ASEAN and South Pacific Network. It was also observed that while the forum Charter is stronger than Framework, the Charter is not being used anymore. There was also a suggestion on the mapping of existing regional framework, including activities such as the World Earth Day and consider existing international agreements and commitments such as Climate Change/Paris Agreement, Minamata Convention.

On membership, it was noted that the number of developed/developing Member States (MS) may increase from 14 to 48 countries with varying economic status and that some MS may have limited resources of financing their participation to the Forum.

On baselining, it was proposed for the Forum Secretariat to come up with baseline information on the SDGs to set the tone on the targets of each country by 2030 and should be the subject of discussion among MS.

In terms of program focus, each country has its own environmental programs in place that are aligned with the SDGs. The Forum should serve as platform for discussion of SDGs 3, 6, 11, 12, 13, 14 (climate change issues, transboundaries, emergencies, disasters) and unfinished MDGs. It was noted also that there are other existing platforms like ASEAN, APEC, and SOPAC that can be tapped and invited to the Forum.

Various parameters were considered to describe the present scenario or status, as well as potential for the Forum. On the technological considerations, electronic technologies such as teleconferencing and E-mail can easily address geographic limitations, while other existing technologies can also be tapped to respond to environment and health issues across the region. It was highlighted, as a political consideration, to observe health diplomacy and high-level confidentiality when discussing health issues such as trans-boundary concerns.

On the social aspect, it was stressed to seriously consider the vulnerability of the poor and take into account migration in terms of social parameter. There was also a suggestion to do mapping of vulnerable groups due to climate change. In terms of ethics, it was proposed to observe/develop a code of conduct and rules of engagement and to align these with international standards.

It was also desired that the Forum would become the venue for recognition and sharing of best practices, including possible incentives. For communications, it was proposed to maximize social media and highlight green technology. It was also stressed that planning for 2019 should be done as early as possible.

Other observations also took into account the expanded number of attendees in the recent Forum to 36 member states and countries and who are prospective members of the Forum that straddle two WHO regions (SEARO and WPRO).

Some participants also expressed appreciation for the value of the Forum in terms of fostering regional cooperation and noted that the issues addressed by the Forum are taking on dimensions of Human Rights, Equity for environmental health services, Gender Sensitivity, Environmental Care, Social Justice and Environmental Justice. This is inspite of the apparent diversity in the region both geographically and culturally (e.g. 20 small island countries) as well as population diversity (e.g. China, Pacific countries).

In terms of enhancing Forum objectives, it was suggested to tap the support of the media and professional bodies and include other organizations as stakeholders like the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA).

The workshop results for this session are summarized as **Annex VI**.

Session 3- Identification of the Main Issues and Providing Recommendations

Dr. Lee Suy facilitated the Session 3 which aimed to identify main issues and challenges affecting the Forum and provide recommendations to address main issues of the Forum.

Key points were raised on the various issues and challenges faced by the Forum. Following the recommendations of the 4th Regional Forum, the need to revise the Forum Charter was again raised citing that the Framework for Cooperation may not be responsive to current needs. In terms of structure, it was noted that there is no current Vice-Chair of the Forum and this should be addressed accordingly. It was also noted that there are two UN agencies (WHO & UNEP) serving as Secretariat. There is also a suggestion for stronger secretariat contingent to look at the technical concern with the host country.

Moreover, the strong turnout of participating countries in the recent Forum and the lack of mechanism to expedite process of expanding membership necessitate the development of a process of speeding-up the inclusion of prospective Member States (MS). It was also noted that there should be no conditions for membership to the Forum but MS should comply with the requirements of the Forum, primarily advocating health and environment and networking in the Forum and subsequently taking on certain goals and targets within the context of the Forum.

Another important issue is the unclear cost of participation to the Forum by MS. To this end, it was proposed to develop guidelines as part of the Charter on the cost of participation of MS. Another suggestion is for the Forum Chair to initiate dialogue with potential funders for participation of MS in meetings as well as for initiatives on health and environment.

The summary of the identified issues, challenges, and recommendations is attached as **Annex VII**.

Session 4: Best Scenario

Dr. Lee Suy proceeded to facilitate the Session on setting the best possible scenario for the Forum which aimed to: a) Describe the outcomes that are to be achieved by 2019; and b) Identify milestones in 2017 and 2018.

Building on the recommendations from the previous session, three main issues shall be addressed – these are on the need to ensure that the forum becomes responsive to current needs and that the existing Charter be reviewed and revised. This can already encompass resolving the issues raised on the absence of a mechanism to expedite the process of expanding membership and that there is no current Vice Chair in the forum.

Based on discussions among the participants, the following recommended action points were resolved to be carried out as part of the work plan for the Regional Forum:

- To strengthen Governance Mechanisms of the Forum
- To develop an advocacy and communication plan to encourage countries and other key stakeholders in the region to be members of the Regional Forum
- To institutionalize and make the Regional Forum as a venue for discussion of politically sensitive and confidential issues on health and environment
- To implement activities of the Chair of the 4th Regional Forum and related meetings

The Regional Forum work plan is attached as **Annex VIII**.

Session 5: Stakeholder Mapping / Analysis

Director Mario Baquilod of DOH-DPCB served as facilitator for the session that sought to identify stakeholders and activities to pursue the best possible scenario from 2017 to 2019.

The key stakeholders identified that the Regional Forum can work with include the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SOPAC), and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) having similar functions with the Forum. Other identified stakeholders that can be tapped as partners include the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Health Care without Harm, International Water Association (IWA), and World Bank. Networks or alliances like the Clean Air Asia can also be considered.

Session 6: Setting Governance and Leadership Mechanisms / Forum Chair's Directions

Undersecretary of Health Dr. Gerardo Bayugo facilitated the session that dwells on how the Philippines as Forum Chair will lead and manage the implementation of the Regional Work Plan. He also presented the governance and leadership mechanisms, as well as resource mobilization strategies and fund management for effective Chairship of the Forum.

4. WORKSHOP DAY 2 - 27 April 2017 | Agenda Item 2: Discussion on the SDGs on Health and Environment

The Second Session Day is mainly focused on the discussion on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) involving Health and Environment. The identified relevant goals identified for discussion were the following:

- SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation
- SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities
- SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production
- SDG 13 – Climate Action
- SDG 14 – Life Below Water
- SDG 15 – Life on Land

Director Maylene Beltran provided a recap of the discussions and concerns raised for Day 1 and highlighted the key and important points inputs generated during the various group workshops and plenary sessions:

- There was a suggestion to take caution in using the term 'knowledge management center' to avoid confusion with that of a physical center.
- There is a need to be mindful of the documents of the Forum and to update country reports
- It was suggested to develop a website for the Forum. UNEP will take on the RF website
- It was also proposed to explore or find a way to link the Regional Forum to other similar platforms like the European Regional Forum

Engr. Bonifacio Magtibay, WHO Philippines provided a presentation on the Manila Declaration. The copy of the Manila Declaration is attached as **Annex IX**.

Director Maylene Beltran and Director Mario Baquilod facilitated the sessions that tackled the current scenario and associated issues and challenges on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on health and environment in the region.

The interface between Health and Environment

The current scenario in the health and environment sectors was tracked in terms of actions undertaken at various levels. At the national level, the National Environmental Health Action Plan (NEHAP) has been in place among MS, although there was a suggestion to look at priority areas and best practices. This plan is also being formulated in cities and islands, with the Community Environmental Health Action Plans (CEHAP) and Island Environmental Health Action Plans (IEHAP) in place. The challenge is how to develop starter cities and starter islands to attain the SDG targets such as the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), air quality and other applicable criteria. For coastal communities, measures are still need for health and environment.

The groups also discussed and provided inputs relating to the six SDGs relevant to health and environment. Under SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation, Dr. Hassan (WPRO) underlined that the issue on water and sanitation relies mainly on the political will. Mr. Thompson (WPRO), for his part, stressed that the Regional Forum should focus on protection of water sources. Dr. Susan Pineda-Mercado, WPRO meanwhile raised questions pertaining to the expectations and targets in three years. She went on to propose that water resource management be considered as well as the mapping for health care facilities or mapping water security/protection and appropriate technology in support of water and sanitation and called upon MS to put all these in their respective plans. Engr. Magtibay commented that SDG 6 should not be limited to water and sanitation activities only but could include other targets such as on integrated water resource management. For SDGs 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), Ms. Onyon (SEARO) inquired on what the Regional forum would focus on given that there are already initiatives being done by the others agencies/international groups and stressed the need to link with other working groups and generate a common voice. Ms. Kakuko (UNEP) mentioned the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APEN), which the TWG can be linked to.

Dr. Nasir enumerated that key issues are poor air quality, hazardous chemical wastes, and moving to water regulation/laws of DENR and how do you link these to health. He said that the goal is that solid background information on air quality and chemical wasters relevant to health would be available by 2019 and added that the Regional Forum is a good venue to provide good discussions on these issues. Mr. Thompson raised that health care facilities are also sources of pollution citing hospitals wastes and incinerators. He added that this is an opportunity to demonstrate good in-house environmental practices as highlight of the interface of health and environment. Dr. Mercado then proposed to set as target the interface between health and environment.

For SDG 15 (Life on Land), Dr. Mercado inquired on what is the interface under this SDG. She also highlighted that geographic mapping/measuring and vulnerability/exposures underpin all these discussions. She made mention of the importance of determining the health effects/impacts of all these to be able to provide guidance to MS on how to go about these problems. Dr. Hassan proposed to hold a meeting between DOH and DENR to bring this for further discussion and determine where the Forum can provide the niche. Thailand noted that the Forum has to choose the most important actions and the corresponding resources required. SEARO agreed on the priority setting and further suggested to look at the common criteria to all across SDGs and based on what has been agreed on in the Manila Declaration. Mr. Masato also supported the idea of employing Geographic Information System (GIS) for mapping as well as looking into health care financing and advocacy as areas of cooperation.

The summary of the inputs is attached as **Annex X**.

5. WORKSHOP DAY 3 | Agenda Item 3: Discussion on the Philippine Work and Financial Plan

The Third Day and Closing Session were intended for discussions on the Philippines' Work and Financial Plan as Forum Chair of the Regional Forum. Specifically, the sessions aims to: Define the Philippine support to the Regional Forum as Chair and as a Member State; Identify responsible units/ focal points; and Determine resource requirements. The agenda was divided into an opening session and subsequent session workshops on Philippine Government Support to the chair of the Forum and the Philippine Government Response to Health and Environment Related SDG targets. Engr. Maria Sonabel S. Anarna (DOH) provided the workshop overview.

Dir. Maylene Beltran shared some of highlights and take off points from the first two session days and facilitated the session on Next Steps/Way Forward. She also shared important points from the discussions made in Day 1 and 2, as follows:

- a) Identification of interface of health and environment to focus our actions towards the achievement of health and environment-related SDGs
- b) Start with good data to come up with concrete and practical plans as well as deliverables
- c) Mapping environmental vulnerabilities is a fundamental practice
- d) Action plan should have an added value to be pursued in the RF considering that some actions are already being done by other bodies
- e) Creation of area of cooperation with existing multilateral committees and secretariat networks is applicable to all health and environment-related SDGs

Engr. Bonifacio Magtibay, meanwhile, provided the background and facilitated the discussion on the Regional Framework for Action on Health and Environment on a Changing Planet and the Philippine National Environmental Health Action Plan (NEHAP).

5.1 Philippine Government Support to the Chair of the Regional Forum

As the Forum Chair for the next three years (2017-2019), the Philippine government, through the DOH and DENR, has lined up activities in support of the Chair of the Regional Forum. Key of these activities that the government will facilitate and implement within the Chairship term include immediate actions and activities for implementation through 2019. Within the year, the creation of technical teams (Thematic/Technical Working Groups) for the revision of the Charter Forum is expected to be firmed up. Visits to other Regional Forum on Health & Environment (e.g. Europe) are also being anticipated to take place by 2018. Major Forum events happening between 2017 and 2019 include organizing the High-Level Officials Meeting (HLOM), the Task Force Meeting and the TWG meetings. This is also parallel to the monitoring of the Regional Forum Work Plan formulated in this workshop. It was also expected that the website of the Forum Chair under WHO will be up within that timeframe. Activities are also expected to be undertaken on the five areas of the Manila Declaration and it was proposed to hold at least 5 meetings.

Significant attention will also be given to the conduct of consultations for the NEHAP at the national level. It was proposed to complete the consultations and consolidation of reports by December before the

high-level official meeting. The consultations is expected to be repeated after two years and presented to the National Summit on Health and Environment before it is reported to the 5th Regional Forum.

Specific to the plans for the 5th Asia Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment, it resolved and agreed to hold preliminary activities leading up to the RF. For 2018, a High-Level Meeting (HLOM) is expected to happen with senior officials (Undersecretary Level) presiding. For this purpose, funds will have to be mobilized although UNE used to provide funds for the environment side. Sourcing of funds is therefore an important issue that needs to be discussed and settled. Key suggestions on the program include integrate climate and health in the agenda and holding of possible side meetings. Meanwhile, the forum venue and hosting will be decided and announced at a later date.

It was also proposed to draw up plans in the context of relevant national, regional and global events. It was also suggested for DOH and DENR to take note of key global activities that the Secretaries/Forum Chair will be attending where they can hold side meetings/events for the members of the RF and if possible, hold meetings with the ministers of MS to discuss projects of the RF. Another major relevant environment-related event is the Conference of Parties (COP) 23 happening on November in Bonn, Germany. It was proposed to have a side event as part of the COP's Health Action Day. It was also noted that preparatory meetings for Bonn are scheduled for May 2017. Relatedly, the Global Health Pollution Summit is also happening in Italy and will be attended by high-level officials. It was also noted that the General Assembly of the UN Environment will be held in December or last quarter of 2017. The copy of the milestones and work plan is attached as **Annex XI**.

5.2 Proposed Philippine Implementation Work Plan

As part of the implementation activities as Forum Chair of the Regional Forum, the Philippine government, through the Department of Health and Department of Environment and Natural Resources, jointly formulated a work plan and lined-up activities to set into motion the implementation of the targets for 2017 to 2019. Coordination meetings between the two agencies will be a critical step in finalizing the country-level plan as well as the commencement of the activities of the Forum Chair at the regional level, including the Philippine government support to the Forum Chair.

In the immediate term, the Philippines will spearhead the preparation for the hosting of the Task Force Meeting in Manila in July, which will be attended by the 10 volunteer MS, Thematic Working Groups heads, Forum Secretariat and other relevant organizations.

Central to the national-level initiatives are the health and environment-related SDG activities and the grassroots-levels project models showcasing the interface of health and environment and the operationalization of the NEHAP. Under the former, it is expected that project proposals will be developed for 20 grassroots models (at least one per relevant SDG) within 2017. Accordingly, implemented projects along with the NEHAP will be regularly monitored and tracked (quarterly). To highlight the achievements/accomplishments under NEHAP, an annual National Summit on Health and Environment will be organized every September to coincide with the Environment Health Day. The Inter-agency Committee on Environmental Health will also be convened regularly to discuss issues and resolutions on environment and health relevant to Manila Declaration and NEHAP. The proposed Work Plan is attached as **Annex XII**.

Following the agreed upon recommendations, immediate next steps to be undertaken by the Forum were lined up. The Task Force, comprised of 10 volunteer Member States, is scheduled to meet in Manila on the 3rd week of July. The Philippine DOH can ask assistance from three Secretariats to manage the

participants (around 20) in terms of funding arrangement (Air fare c/o UNEP, Hotel accommodation c/o DOH). Communications for the meeting will commence starting middle of May (15-18) while the outputs of the meeting are expected to be circulated between August to September. On resource mobilization, it was set that by the end of 2017, proposals to financing institutions (GCF, GEF) should have been sent out.

Specific to the Forum Chair, the Philippine DOH-DENR as the Secretariat to the Forum Chair will issue a joint Department Personnel Order (DPO) or joint memo by the two Department Secretaries. It was also proposed to identify a physical office in Quezon City for the Regional Forum Chair. It was also resolved that funding for the Philippine Chairship will be sourced from DOH-BIHC and DPCB. For its part, DENR will also look for funding sources. Accordingly, the concerned agencies will make the appropriate costings for the activities.

5.3 Next Steps / Way Forward

The group identified activities/next steps as a way forward including development of the Chair's website, sending our invitations to all countries that have attended the RF for membership to the RF and finalize the plan in 2 weeks before the July meeting. Ms. Onyon proposed to send instructions to countries on how they will join the Forum and method of acceptance by Chair. This can be done by send/write thru the Secretariat. A milestone of activities at various levels through throughout the next 3 years (2017-2019) was also prepared with indicative list of activities/initiatives leading to the next and 5th Regional Forum.

6. Closing Session

Remarks from the Forum Chair / Philippine Department of Health

DOH Undersecretary Gerardo Bayugo formally closed the strategic planning workshop and he underlined the regional and national plans and activities to be implemented as Forum Chair and implementing country. He also noted that as an immediate next step, such plans and activities will have to be approved first by the DOH management.

Remarks from the Philippine Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Ms. Elenida Basug, EMB-DENR underlined that the workshop has provided an avenue to pool ideas, develop strategies and identify possible mechanisms that will the Forum implement programs and targets and hurdle any challenges to attain the goals set forth in the Manila Declaration. Despite the challenges and the huge responsibilities, she is optimistic that the will-power, passion and strong collaboration among Member States will ensure that the Region will be a healthy and better place to live in for generations to come. She ended by noting that the collaborative sessions of the DOH, DENR and the Secretariat (WPRO, SEARO and UNEP) has been very productive.

7. ANNEXES (See separate pages)