

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

**DR. AMELIA P. GUEVARA**

Undersecretary for Research and Development  
Department of Science and Technology

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Distinguished guests, delegates, colleagues, media friends, ladies and gentlemen, good morning!

The Philippines, through the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), the Department of Health (DOH), the Commission on Higher Education, the National Institutes of Health - University of the Philippines Manila, and our partners in and beyond the Philippine National Health Research System, is honored to have hosted Forum 2015, in partnership with the Council for Health Research and Development (COHRED).

The best of the best in the field of research and innovation for health came, and notably, many young people joined which added to the high energy of the Forum. Indeed, we need to mentor and nurture our next generation of researchers and innovators.

I am happy that over 3,000 delegates from 70 countries came to participate in over 60 sessions, listened to the debates, viewed the films and exhibits, were wowed by the performances of Philippine artists in the socials, and, most importantly, interacted with each other. From the many workshops and side meetings before, during, and even after the

Forum, people already planned to undertake concrete actions to further the partnerships, among others, the APEC workshop come April on nutrigenomics; the regional workshops on the framework for disaster health research; putting up start-up companies from research-based results among students; strengthening collaboration with Institut Pasteur, UK Newton Fund, Novartis Foundation, to name a few.

Your very presence here only means one thing: your commitment to health, equity, and development. This is our common goal, the very reason for this forum.

The theme of this year's Global Forum on Research and Innovation for Health, "*People at the Center for Research and Innovation for Health,*" poses both a reminder and a challenge to all of us. It is a reminder that we - whether we are part of the government, business industries, international organizations, academic and research institutions, or civil society- we play a part to address the current health challenges locally and globally. The theme also poses a challenge for us to continue our holistic efforts to achieve innovative and balanced approaches to health care.

The Call to Action behooves us to invest, individually and collectively, to Increase the Effectiveness of Research and Innovation for Health through Social Accountability, Increasing Investments and Country-driven Capacity Building, and intensify Research and Innovation in Health in improving

Food and Nutrition Safety and Security, Health in Mega Cities and Disaster Risk Reduction.

Issues are cross-cutting. We need everyone on board, as policymakers, health professionals, researchers and scientists, engineers, architects, social scientists, community workers, business people, people in finance, the arts, and a host of other stakeholders.

As research and innovation transcends national borders, collaboration is naturally global. This Forum underscores the nature of our collaboration, and has, indeed, facilitated new partnerships as well as strengthened existing ones.

Before I end, I thank the men and women who made this Forum possible, the unsung heroes behind the scenes; to our content partners and sponsors, the organizing and scientific committee members, and especially, all of you, the delegates, for making this forum a successful and memorable event to remember.

To our international delegates, please take the time to see our beautiful country and experience the warm hospitality of the Filipinos. You will see why it is, indeed, more fun in the Philippines!

*Mabuhay!*