

ANNUAL REPORT

2013

The Philippine Institute of Traditional and Alternative Health Care (PITAHC) is a Government Owned and Controlled Corporation (GOCC) that was created under R.A. 8423 otherwise known as Traditional and Alternative Medicine Act (TAMA) of 1997 and attached to the Department of Health.

PITAHC was envisioned to help improve the quality and delivery of health care services to the Filipino people through the development of traditional and alternative health care and its integration into the national health care delivery system.

To contribute to the government desired societal goal of inclusive growth and poverty reduction, and to further achieve PITAHC's organizational goals, well defined outputs, indicators and targets of the different programs, projects and activities (PAPs) were implemented in accordance with the mandate of PITAHC.

PITAHC being reclassified as a research institution by the Governance Commission on GOCCs (GCG) in September 2012, carried out different activities on research and development of products, services and technologies in partnership and collaboration with different research institutions and Traditional and Alternative Health Care (TAHC) organizations. Relative to this, PITAHC rehabilitated and upgraded its laboratory facilities and acquired new equipment in its Herbal Processing Plants that serve as venue in the conduct of its in-house researches.

Along with research and development, social advocacy/training activities on the promotion of the use of scientifically validated herbal medicines, traditional and alternative health care (TAHC) modalities, and formulation of competency standards and guidelines in the practice thereof and certification of practitioners and accreditation of TAHC training centers and clinics were likewise undertaken.

Research and Development

The impact of the results of scientific research on medicinal plants and their appropriate technological application is measured by the transfer and utilization of their outputs. The ultimate beneficiaries of these researches will be the drug industries that will adopt the completed researches for commercial use and the general public that will be benefited by providing them with affordable but equally safe and effective drug alternatives.

For this year, the following three (3) researches on medicinal plants including the preparation of technology transfer document were carried out. These researches were done in collaboration and partnership with the National Integrated Research Program on Medicinal Plants UP-Manila and the Davao Herbal Processing Plant.

1. Phase I (Accelerated) and Phase II Clinical Trials: Safety and Efficacy of *Carmona retusa* (Vahl) Masam (Tsaang gubat) Syrup Compared with Dicycloverine Syrup Among Pediatric Patients with Mild to Moderate Gastrointestinal Colic/Pain Secondary to Acute Gastroenteritis.
2. Quality Studies on *Psidium guajava* (Bayabas) Leaf Raw Materials from selected Areas in Region XI.
3. Technological Document Preparation of Ulasimang Bato Tablet (*Peperomia pellucida* L.) as Anti-hyperuricemic Agent

To ensure availability of TAHC reference materials, PITAHC tapped the technical expertise of the different TAHC organizations to facilitate the formulation and development of Competency Standards and Guidelines on TAHC modalities such as Tuina Massage, Hilot, Colonics Hydrotherapy, Naturopathy and Traditional Medicine /Complementary Alternative Medicine (TM/CAM) Health Care Devices. Likewise, information, education and communication materials on TAHC were also developed.

For this year, the following were accomplished:

1. Documentation of Philippine Traditional Knowledge and Practices on Health and development of Traditional Knowledge Digital Library on Health: The Ayta Peoples of West Luzon Mountain Range.
2. Philippine Medicinal Plants: The First 100
3. An Anthology of Filipino Traditional Healers: Albularyo, Hilot, Mantatawas, at Iba Pa
4. Encyclopedia of Common Medicinal Plants of the Philippines Volume 1
5. Competency Standards on Tuina Massage
6. Competency Standards on Hilot
7. Competency Standards on Colonics Hydrotherapy
8. Guidelines for the National Certification/Accreditation on Tuina Massage
9. Guidelines for the National Certification/Accreditation on Naturopathy
10. Guidelines for the National Certification/Accreditation on Traditional Medicine/Complementary Alternative Medicine (TM/CAM) Health Care Devices
11. Acupuncture Syllabus for Medical and Non-Medical Practitioners

Social Advocacy and Training

PITAHC carried out promotion and advocacy activities on the use of safe, effective, cost effective and appropriately-validated and culturally acceptable herbal medicines and TAHC modalities. These are done through lectures/demonstrations, broadcast media, participation to exhibits/trade fairs, conventions and seminars in the different universities, academes, alternative clinics, government/private hospitals nationwide.

Likewise, PITAHC website and database are being updated with information on the Institute's programs and activities both local and international. PITAHC's "Well-being Library" consists of collection of books, health magazines, audio and video materials and other reference materials on TAHC that are made available and accessible to students, researchers, practitioners and the general public.

Since basic health care services are too expensive and is considered as one of the economic burdens among the poor, PITAHC conducted skill trainings on Acupuncture, Acupressure, and Tuina as alternative treatment on common ailments. These trainings were conducted in the different DOH-retained hospitals , Centers for Health Development and in the different Local Government Units nationwide. Medical as well as non-medical professionals attended and graduated from the said trainings. Those who completed the training can apply the skills they have acquired as these are equally effective to lessen the morbidity rate of hospital cases on common ailments.

A total of four (4) batches of training on Tuina Therapeutic Massage and Herbal Medicine Preparation for Barangay Health Workers (BHW) at CHD-CAR, Baguio City with a total of eighty five (85) BHWs were trained. Two (2) batches of Basic Acupuncture Training were also conducted at the Veterans Regional Hospital in Nueva Vizcaya and a total of thirty seven (37) medical doctors, nurses and allied professionals were trained.

Standards and Accreditation

To support the quality, safety and efficacy of Traditional Medicine and Complementary Alternative Medicine (TM/CAM), there must be appropriate standards for the practice and education and training of providers. Implementation of professional standards, when supported through regulation, enhances the learning base of practitioners, evokes confidence from patients and consumers in the health provider and enhances the stature of practitioners leading to improved health care.

This program aims to develop competency standards and Code of Ethics for the practice of TAHC modalities such as: Acupuncture, Chiropractic, Homeopathy, Naturopathy, Hilot and other WHO recognized TAHC modalities.

The competency standard defines the minimum required stock of knowledge and skills expected from the TAHC practitioners in their respective areas of specialization. The draft competency standard and code of ethics are presented in a series of public hearing/consultation prior to its finalization.

On the other hand, the Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR) for the practice of the respective TAHC modalities are formulated and subjected for review and deliberation through a series of public hearing/consultation. The final IRR for the respective TAHC modalities becomes the basis for the registration of the TAHC practitioners and accreditation of TAHC clinics and training centers. The registration and or accreditation of TAHC practitioners and facilities help regulate and professionalize the practice of TAHC modalities.

For the year, a total of one hundred two (102) certifications were issued to different TAHC practitioners and five (5) accreditations to TAHC clinics, one (1) training center and one (1) TAHC organization. The following were accomplished during the period.

1. Guidelines for National Certification of Naturopathy, Traditional Medicine & Complementary Alternative Medicine Health Care Devices and Tuina Massage.
2. Publication in the National Administrative Register of the College of Law, UP Law Center of the aforementioned Guidelines.
3. Review and Updating of competency standards for Hilot among TWG members.
4. Certification of Acupuncturists, Chiropractors, homeopaths/homotoxicologists and accreditation of TAHC Clinic, Training Center, and TAHC organization.
5. Conduct of 5th Acupuncture Convention in collaboration with the Philippine Academy of Acupuncture Inc. (PAAI).

Herbal Processing Plants

In support of the Department of Health's programs on providing medicines to the poor and in areas affected with different calamities, PITAHC ensured availability by supplying its requirements of low cost herbal medicines and herbal products manufactured by its four (4) Herbal Processing Plants (HPPs) located in Tuguegarao, Tacloban, Davao and Cotabato Cities. The herbal medicines that are currently produced are Lagundi tablet (anti-cough & anti-asthma), Sambong tablet (Diuretic and anti-urolithiasis) and Tsaang Gubat tablet (anti-colic & anti-spasmodic) and herbal soaps (Bayabas, Akapulko, Kamias, Papaya, Labanos, Calamansi, Cucumber, and Carrot). In Tacloban Herbal Processing Plant, the re-establishment and maintenance of its fifteen (15) hectares of herbal plantation is a major source of livelihood of farmers living in the area. These farmers are the contract growers of herbal plants that are used in the production of herbal medicines.

Moreover, the Institute's in-house research projects are carried out in the HPPs. Their research facilities were upgraded by acquiring the needed equipment in the conduct of their researches.

Marketing and Sales

With the presence of low-cost PITAHC's herbal medicines and herbal products, prices of herbal medicines decreased significantly in the market. The general public benefited from the government's efforts in providing affordable, effective and safe herbal medicines and products. Since there is an increase number of distribution outlets availing PITAHC's products, their availability and accessibility is assured to the general public at all times.

For this year, there is a significant increase in sales from P68.3M in 2012 to P95.7M in 2013 or by 40%. Income generated from sales is used to help augment the financial requirements needed to sustain the operation of the Institute.

As part of PITAHC's social responsibility, herbal products and herbal medicines were donated to the victims of earthquake in Bohol and typhoon Yolanda aftermaths in Tacloban City and neighboring provinces. Herbal soap were also given to the prisoners of the Bilibid Prisons in Mindanao and herbal medicines to the different organizations that were used during their medical missions.

Human Resource Development

In compliance with Civil Service Commission (CSC) Memorandum Circular No. 6 s.2012, on “Guidelines in the Establishment and Implementation of Agency Strategic Performance Management System (SPMS), all PITAHC Central Office employees and key staff of HPPs attended the orientation on SPMS. Likewise, PITAHC developed and submitted its first draft of SPMS to the CSC for final approval.

As part of human resource development program of the Institute, staff from the different units and HPPs attended/participated the following (local and international):

1. Training on the Use of the Agency Procurement Compliance and Performance Indicators System
2. Health Information Technology Forum
3. Training Course on the Chemical and Microbiological Analysis of Herbal Products
4. 5th Web Users Conference
5. Enhance Training on Appointment Processing
6. 2nd PAGBA Quarterly Seminar & Meeting
7. Research Orientation Seminar
8. 3rd Luzon Convention of Human Resource Management Practitioners
9. Philippine National Health Research System Forum
10. Workshop on Ensuring Safe & Quality Traditional Medicine Products
11. PHILGEPS Training for Phase I
12. Training on Plantation Standards Operating Procedures & Personal Hygiene
13. Seminar on Asilen’s Spectroscopic Solutions
14. 2013 Training Program and Field Study on Traditional Chinese Medicine for Asian Health Officials – Beijing, China
15. Consultative Workshop for Developing ASEAN Research Common Guidelines in TM/CAM – Jakarta, Indonesia
16. Second Workshop for the Preparation of Books of Herbal Medicines Used in Primary Health Care in ASEAN – Bangkok, Thailand
17. Workshop in Ensuring Safe and Quality Traditional Medicine Products – Seoul, South Korea
18. Fourth Meeting of the ASEAN Task Force on Traditional Medicine – Yanpan, Myanmar

For the Institute’s Gender and Development Program (GAD) , the following were accomplished:

A. Organization-Focused

1. Business & Livelihood Training on Basic Meat Processing
2. Sheng Zheng Orientation Seminar
3. Livelihood Training on Food Processing
4. Planning & Budgeting Team Building
5. Updating GAD-related rules, policies, event and activities

B. Client-Focused

1. Trainings on Herbal Medicine Preparation, Soap Making and Home Remedies

Financial Report

Results of Operations

Operations for the period January to December 2013 showed a significant improvement from that of last year's.

Net sales totaled to P87.310M, of which 38% or P33.437M represents the cost of sales, thereby registering a gross profit from sales of P53.873M.

Total expenses amounted to P79.137M consisting of Personal Services of P50.829M and Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses of P28.304M. Loss from operation therefore, amounted to P25.259M. However, after deducting other income of P7.075M, net loss before subsidy from the National Government amounted to P18.184M, lower than that of last year's by P10.026M or by 35%.

Financial Position

As of December 31, 2013, the Institute generated total assets of P338.922M, consisting mainly of property plant and equipment of P96.799M, receivables of P43.693M and inventories of P26.766M.

Total liabilities amounted to P22.338M, consisting mainly of payables to contractors.

Total equity as of December 31, 2013 amounted to P316.584M consisting mainly of government equity of P62.100M and retained earnings of P254.484M.

Future Directions

To embark on an organizational restructuring and conduct strategic planning on 2014 that are attuned with PITAHC's new mandate. Formulation and adoption of a new vision and mission will also be undertaken that will serve as the Institute's guideposts in achieving its goals and objectives for the coming years. Furthermore, implementation of redefined programs, activities and projects with a well crafted performance indicators and targets will be carried out in order to achieve PITAHC's mandated outputs and outcomes.