



Newsletter

Vol. 33
Nov. 12, 2021

A new collaborative research project has been launched in the Philippines

In 2021, the Asia-Africa Midwifery Research Center of St. Luke's International University in Tokyo established a new collaborative research project in the Philippines.

Aim and main goals of the collaborative research project

The research project **aims** to contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals using a global approach to human resource development for maternal care.

The research project focuses on the development of humanized care in adolescent pregnancy, which is one of the major health problems of women in poor settings.

The two main **goals** are to (1) understand the current situation of adolescent pregnancy in urban areas in the Philippines and (2) develop an educational program for improving the attitudes and behavior of midwives/nurses so that they can provide better support to pregnant adolescents or help prevent adolescent pregnancy.

Planned Activities (2021-2024) 2021

Kick-off and follow-up meetings

- To establish the research network and team
- To lay the groundwork and mechanics of the study

2022

Research 1

- Development of an International Educational Program on Mother and Child Health (Canossa)

Research 2

- Development of a Community Educational Program on Mother and Child Health for Midwives, Nurses, Instructors, Nursing Students, or Other Healthcare Professionals (UP Los Banos and UP Manila)

2023

Publications and presentations

An international collaboration with the University of the Philippines and Canossa Health & Social Center

We are happy to announce that we will be working with the University of the Philippine at Los Banos (**UPLB**), University of the Philippines Manila (**UPM**), and CANOSSA Health & Social Center (**CANOSSA**).

UPLB has a secondary general hospital that provides healthcare to all university constituents and surrounding communities, and is involved in research and education.

UPM has a nursing college and graduate school, and the faculty conducts research on adolescent pregnancy and supports young people with HIV.

CANOSSA has been working to improve the health of the poor in Manila for nearly 50 years, as well as in caring for mothers as their main activities.



JAPAN RESEARCH TEAM



SHIGEKO HORIUCHI,
RN, MW, PhD
President

St. Luke's International University



EDWARD BARROGA,
PhD
Professor

St. Luke's International University



SARAH NAGAMATSU,
RN, PhD
Associate Professor

St. Luke's International University



The University of the Philippines



The University of the Philippines (UP) is the country's national university. This premier institution of higher learning was established in 1908 and is now a university system composed of eight constituent universities spread throughout 17 campuses all over the archipelago.



University of the Philippines Los Baños

UP Los Baños in Laguna—roughly 65 kilometers south of Manila—is the country's recognized leader in agriculture, forestry, and environmental management. Because of its location at the foot of Mt. Makiling and its fields of expertise, it is host to two international research institutions: the International Rice Research Institute and the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture. As a pioneer in forest conservation, UP Los Baños has stewardship over the 4,244-hectare Mt. Makiling Forest Reserve.



SERLIE BARROGA-JAMIAS, BS, MS, PhD

*Former Vice Chancellor for Community Affairs, UP Los Baños
Professor, College of Development Communication
University of the Philippines Los Baños*



JESSIE FORONDA-WALDE, MD

*University Health Service Director
University of the Philippines Los Baños*

University of the Philippines Manila

UP Manila is the leading academic institution in the health sciences. It is home to the National Institutes of Health and the UP Philippine General Hospital, the country's largest government tertiary hospital. The UP Manila College of Nursing is the World Health Organization's Regional Collaborating Center in Nursing Development, while the College of Public Health is the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Network in Tropical Medicine and Public Health Regional Center for Public Health. It has also established extension campuses of its School of Health Sciences in Luzon (Baler, Aurora), Visayas (Palo, Leyte), and Mindanao (Koronadal, South Cotabato).



MELFLOR ATIENZA, MD, MHPed

*Professor, Dean, National Teacher Training Center
for the Health Professions
University of the Philippines Manila*



SHIELA R. BONITO, RN, DrPH

*Professor, Dean, College of Nursing
University of the Philippines Manila*



The CANOSSA Health & Social Center



The CANOSSA Health & Social Center

keeps the charismatic gift of St. Magdalene of Canossa to “make Jesus known and loved” through the ministry of caring for the sick and the dying among the poorest and deprived families in Tondo. The Center on its 49th year of existence continues its preventive and curative health care through various activities in a holist approach. It continues to respond to the basic health needs of the people through collaboration, networking and linkages with some government and non-governmental organizations.



Infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, malnutrition, non-communicable diseases and adolescent pregnancy are the major health problem in their area of care.

Sister Regina Balcelon (RN), the head of the center, is a nurse herself. Her nursing team, health professionals, technicians, and health volunteers provide people-centered care for people with tuberculosis, mothers, children and anyone who needs heartfelt care.



Kick-off Meeting 2021

Our first official meeting was held on October 27, 2021 via Zoom. The meeting was opened in prayer, followed by the introduction of team members. **President Horiuchi** then explained more about the Asia-Africa Midwifery Research Center and its vision. After sharing about the current health issues in the Philippines, especially among poor women, we agreed to focus on adolescent pregnancy, a major health problem among poor women in urban settings. **Dr. Nagamatsu** then explained the research plans which aimed to promote the development of human resources for maternal and child health services, help prevent adolescent pregnancy, and enhance support systems for young mothers. **Dr. Barroga** moderated the meeting.

In the kick-off meeting for the research project, knowledge and skills on people-centered maternal care in Japan were also shared in a video prepared by **Nanaho Nakamura** and **Keiko Hirayama**, Masteral students, under the guidance of **Professor Eto** from Nagasaki University, Japan.

Asia-Africa Midwifery Research Center at St. Luke's International University (Since 2011)

The center is supported by the **Japan Society for Promotion of Science (JSPS)**.

We applied for funding under the **JSPS Core-to-Core Program**.

This program promotes the development of a research center based in the university and encompasses the following areas:

1. Research (Development of young researchers)
2. Seminars
3. International exchange



Scholars of the Nation (Iskolar ng Bayan)

VISION
A leading regional and global university in an environment that sustains 21st century learning, knowledge creation, and public service for society and humanity (National development)

GUIDING PRINCIPLE
Honor and Excellence



Activities during The COVID-19 pandemic

