

20
23

Annual Report



- Local Action 
- Regional Engagement 
- Global Impact 



 **Local Action** 
Regional Engagement 
 **Global Impact** 

OUR 2023 RECAP

A MESSAGE FROM

Ramon San Pascual, MPH

Executive Director
Health Care Without Harm
Southeast Asia



We began 2023 facing significant organizational challenges, yet we were determined to rebuild and strengthen our team cohesion while aligning our program work more effectively. By the end of the year, we had achieved substantial progress across our climate, sustainability, and GGHH network programs. With the guidance of the Board, we initiated several strategic and consolidating actions, including the establishment of sustainability funds, the creation of the Management Committee, staff regularization evaluation, and enhancements to staff well-being.

Our key accomplishments in 2023 were driven by the dedication and expertise of our program officers and managers. As detailed in this report, our climate program was relentless in pursuing strategic partnerships, forming key alliances with regional Ministries of Health and the WHO on a global scale. GGHH in Southeast Asia launched the region's first coordinating council, setting a precedent for the entire global network. The sustainability unit successfully secured a project to campaign for the Global Plastic Treaty within the healthcare sector.

Our communications team, after overcoming initial disruptions, delivered great work, while our administration and finance unit improved responsiveness with the addition of new staff. The most significant hire of the year was our Fundraising Manager, whose role will be pivotal in ensuring our organizational sustainability in the coming years.

Overall, 2023 was a remarkable year. We extend our deep gratitude to our partners in the healthcare sector, the leaders, and every individual in the institutions we collaborated with. It is with great pride that we present the recap of 2023 in this annual report.

A MESSAGE FROM

Sec. Esperanza Cabral, MD

Chair

Board of Trustees

Health Care Without Harm Southeast Asia



2023 was overall a good year for Health Care Without Harm Southeast Asia. As the Chair, I have seen how the organization managed with patience and kind consideration the human resource challenges encountered at the start of that year. From all the members of the Board, the staff, and even our Global Director for Program, everyone contributed in steering what potentially was a crisis situation to an opportunity to strengthen not only the work of the Secretariat but also the integrity of the office.

I saw with my own eyes the eagerness of the program staff to refocus on the sustainability and climate issues confronting the healthcare sector in our region, across countries, and to collaborate with our global network. It was reflected in the plans and budget that were submitted to the Board early in the year which was periodically reported to the Board. Indeed, the year-end gathering and celebration we had with the Board and the staff was an affirmation of the success that the year 2023 brought us.

I thank all my fellow healthcare workers/professionals in the public healthcare sector, and those in the private and non-profit hospitals in different countries who, through the Global Green and Healthy Hospital network, made the work of HCWH SEA meaningful. I salute my colleagues in the Ministries of Health and other government agencies in Asian countries who partnered with us in pushing for policies that will mitigate climate emission and plastic pollution coming off from healthcare operations, and who support resilience development in healthcare facilities.

I thank our Board members and the staff for sticking through our mission to do no harm in 2023 and the years ahead.

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About Health Care Without Harm

First, do no harm.

Health Care Without Harm (HCWH) is an international nongovernmental organization that works to transform health care worldwide so that it reduces its environmental footprint, becomes a community anchor for sustainability, and leads in the global movement for environmental health and justice.

Together with our partners around the world, we share a vision of a health care sector that does no harm, and instead promotes simultaneously the health of people and the planet. To that end, we are working to implement ecologically sound and healthy alternatives to health care practices that pollute the environment and contribute to disease.





About Health Care Without Harm Southeast Asia



Healthy Planet, Healthy People

In 2003, HCWH Southeast Asia (HCWH SEA) started with the commitment to improve health care systems in countries in the region. The group's first project in the area was the Philippine Measles Eradication Campaign (PMEC, which demonstrated the possibility of conducting a major immunization campaign without incinerating the resulting waste. The project set a global benchmark that was cited in international conferences. In 2006, the issue of mercury in medical and science equipment came into focus. The organization held the first mercury conference in Southeast Asia.

Today, HCWH SEA is focused on three major programs: Climate and Health, Sustainability in Healthcare, and the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals network. We steadfastly uphold the organization's mission to champion people's right to health and a healthy environment, leading healthcare sector transformation in the region towards climate resilience, decarbonization, and sustainability. HCWH SEA aims that by 2029, we will have accelerated the progress of health care transformation in the region, through partnerships, platform for collaboration, and policy advocacy.

The Year at a Glance

OUR 2023 TIMELINE

2023 was a pivotal year for us at HCWH SEA. Alongside our ongoing programmatic and secretarial efforts, our team has been diligently developing a five-year strategic plan. Early in the year, we initiated the conceptualization of a revamped strategy that will guide our work from 2024 to 2029.

JANUARY

REGION

MOU signing between HCWH SEA and Sunway Centre for Planetary Health (SCPH) to tackle the pressing issue of climate change and its impact on human health in Southeast Asia.

GLOBAL

Our team participated in the 2023 Prince Mahidol Award Conference in Bangkok. The global multi-stakeholder forum was co-hosted by the Prince Mahidol Award Foundation, the Government of Thailand, and other partners. Our Executive Director and Regional Climate Manager participated in UNDP's two parallel sessions: *"Multi-sectoral Policies and Practices: Mitigation"* and *"Multi-sectoral Policies and Practices: Adaptation."*





FEBRUARY

REGION

HCWH SEA Executive Director joined a panel organized by #BreakFreeFromPlastic (BFFP) and Climate Tracker Asia, which explored the relationship between plastic pollution and the climate crisis, the impacts of plastics on human health, and the need for corporate accountability and genuine solutions.

bit.ly/climatexplasticswebinar

INDONESIA

As a new organizational member of the Climate Action Network Southeast Asia (CANSEA) Node, our Regional Climate Manager participated in the Annual Strategy Meeting and General Assembly of the Climate Action Network (CAN), a global network of more than 1,900 civil society organizations in over 130 countries driving collective and sustainable action to fight the climate crisis and to achieve social justice.

PHILIPPINES

Our Regional Climate Manager, together with allies from the medical community, participated in a consultation with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Environmental Management Bureau to discuss updating air quality guideline values for additional hazardous pollutants in the country.



MARCH

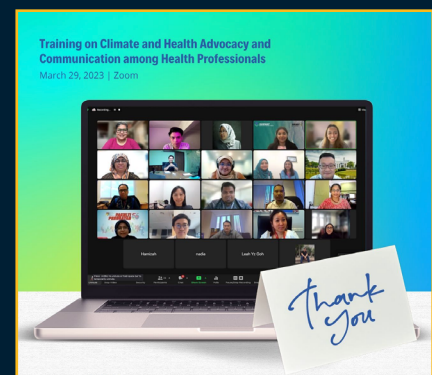
REGION

An exclusive interview with our Executive Director by GovInsider Asia about the “One Health” approach to greening hospitals – how public and environmental health are interconnected, paving the way for a healthier future.

Full article at bit.ly/HCWHSEA-GovInsider

MALAYSIA

We successfully completed our first ever virtual basic orientation for healthcare professionals on “*Climate and Health Advocacy and Communication*,” a joint collaboration with SCPH.



PHILIPPINES

HCWH SEA and Ecowaste Coalition conducted a Plastics Strategy Meeting in which outcomes were agreed upon, including: amplifying health voices, plastics and health leadership hub, and plastics and health articulation.

INDONESIA

As part of our collaboration with the Cities Finance Facility (CFF) of the C40 in Jakarta, we conducted a 2-day Carbon Footprint Café, a training on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions assessment using HCWH’s Climate Impact Checkup (CIC) tool with participants from the provincial government of Jakarta and its public hospitals.

APRIL



TAIWAN

We conducted our 5th country-based Carbon Footprint Café with representatives from 25 Taiwanese hospitals where they learned how to calculate their facility's carbon footprint and develop their mitigation action plan.

Race to Zero (RtZ) members from Southeast Asia also joined the first ever regional learning session that aims to provide a set of recommendations for the sector to guide RtZ participants on how to approach their net-zero commitment and be successful.

THAILAND

Our team participated and facilitated a weeklong training organized by Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Thai Ministry of Public Health (MOPH), *“Planning Workshop on Making Thailand’s Medical Excellence Centers Climate-Smart and Disaster-Resilient.”*

VIETNAM

Our staff participated in the Break Free From Plastics (BFFP) Global Assembly, and the Global Anti-Incinerator Alliance Asia (GAIA) Pacific Regional Meeting held in Hoi An. This also gave us the opportunity to initially meet with Health Environment Management Agency (VIHEMA) for potential hosting of the 6th Green Hospital Asia Conference in 2024.

MAY

REGION

The team gathered for a few days for a team retreat where an intensive feedbacking session and an interactive workshop on compassion and self-care were organized.

GLOBAL

Represented by our Regional Climate Manager, we joined representatives from Race to Zero hospitals including organizations part of Global Green and Healthy Hospitals (GGHH) and Practice Greenhealth network in Pittsburgh, USA for the global gathering for health care climate action and CleanMed US Conference.



JUNE

REGION

Together with the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, and the Global Health Program of St. Luke's Medical Center College of Medicine-College of Medicine, we launched the month-long Southeast Asia Climate and Health Responder Course, aiming to empower healthcare professionals and institutions to tackle the challenges at the crossroads of climate, environment, and health using a transdisciplinary approach.

Full article at bit.ly/SEAClimateandHealthResponders

TIMOR-LESTE

Our team went to Timor-Leste, a member of the Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health, to provide technical support to the Ministry of Health (MOH) and the World Health Organization (WHO) in assessing the climate vulnerability of healthcare facilities and co-develop policy priorities and strategies for improved climate resilience and environmental sustainability in healthcare.



PHILIPPINES

Our Executive Director, with colleagues from the Private Hospitals Association Philippines, participated at the Visayas Regional Management Seminar in Cebu City to present, “Zero Waste in Hospitals,” which focused on the impact of waste within the healthcare sector, common myths surrounding zero waste, and practical solutions for sustainable management of COVID-19 healthcare waste.

PHILIPPINES

Our Healthcare Waste Sustainability Officer was invited as a speaker by Panatag Luntian in their webinar entitled “Plastic, Not-So-Fantastic: A Webinar on Exploring Solutions to #BeatPlasticPollution,” and shared about the case studies of healthcare waste management in the health sector.

REGION

Together with SCPH, we organized a webinar on, “Transforming Healthcare Waste: Sustainable Practices for a Healthy Future,” delving into the importance of proper waste management in safeguarding the health of patients, health workers, and the general public.

The poster features a blue and white color scheme with a background image of a hospital hallway. At the top, it says "Live Webinar" in a red box. The main title is "TRANSFORMING HEALTHCARE WASTE: SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES FOR A HEALTHY FUTURE". Below the title are six circular portraits of speakers, each with their name and affiliation. The speakers are: Dr. Michelle Reyes (HCWH-SEA), Ms. Ruby Navarro (St. Paul's Hospital of Iloilo), Revan (TJ) Lim (Centre for Planetary Health, Sunway University), Prof. Agamutu Parlatamby (Jeffrey Sachs Center on Sustainable Development, Malaysia), Kathy June Fiel (HCWH-SEA), and Ramon San Pascual (HCWH-SEA). At the bottom, it provides the date and time: "03-04:30 PM Manila Time | Tuesday, June 13, 2023 | Via ZOOM". Logos for Sunway University, RISE, and Health Care Without Harm are also present, along with a QR code.

JULY

PHILIPPINES

We organized a Policy Forum, “Addressing Plastic Waste Pollution in Healthcare Facilities,” with the Department of Health (DOH) Center for Health Development NCR and BFFP. Bringing together multi-sectoral stakeholders, the event follows the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee session in Paris, where efforts were made to develop a global, legally binding instrument on plastic pollution.



REGION

As we hit the midway point of the year, the team had an intensive week of discussions, reflecting on our achievements so far and planning for the months ahead. During this time, we also started the discussion on the establishment of our 5-year organizational strategic plan (2024-2029). Apart from the strategy meetings, it also presented an opportunity for the team to take a break from work and bond.



INDONESIA

In collaboration with the Indonesian Health Promoting Hospitals Network and funding from the TARA Climate Foundation in Indonesia, we officially launched Kesehatan Untuk Bumi (KEBUMI), an initiative through the RISE Southeast Asia Alliance for Health and Climate that aims to empower health professionals in the country to be at the forefront of the climate discourse.



REGION

We participated at the WHO South-East Asia Region (SEARO) in Bangkok where our Sustainability team conducted a session titled *“Waste prevention and reduction, recycling and reuse in health care facilities- Policies, Standards, and guidelines to promote a circular economy model.”*



THAILAND

Our Executive Director visited Bangkok as part of the climate adaptation consultant team for a project with the Asian Development Bank. Working closely with Thailand MOPH, this innovative project aims to build five Medical Excellence Center (MEC) hospitals across five provinces in the country.

AUGUST



PHILIPPINES

HCWH SEA launched the Health Alliance for Climate and Clean Air Philippines (HACCAP), a collaboration between health organizations (Philippine College of Chest Physicians, Philippine College of Physicians, Philippine Society of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, and Lung Center of the Philippines) committed to taking the lead in addressing climate change and air pollution, particularly in the healthcare industry.

REGION

We released a short animated video documentary titled *"We Need to Talk About Gloves,"* shedding light on a crucial yet often overlooked issue on single-use waste in the healthcare industry.

MALAYSIA

We organized the first ever Climate Change Campaign and Advocacy Training in Kuala Lumpur using the recently published *“Health Activism in the Age of the Climate Crisis: A guide to effective campaigning and advocacy for health professionals.”* Through the collaboration between the Ministry of Health, SCPH, and HCWH SEA, the goal was to equip health professionals in Malaysia with communication skills for climate and health campaigning.



Full article at bit.ly/HCWH-HealthActivismGuide

PHILIPPINES

Through our BFFP membership, we joined the in-person consultation with the Commission on Energy on the proposed bill on national energy policy and regulatory framework for facilities utilizing waste-to-energy technologies. Recalling the precautionary principle, and the health impacts of incineration technologies, HCWH SEA and local CSOs, opposed the bill to protect the health and the environment.

PHILIPPINES

We conducted a one-day healthcare waste management training and site assessment in one of our Global Green and Healthy Hospitals members, James L. Gordon Hospital.

SEPTEMBER

PHILIPPINES

During the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies, HACCAP brought its members, other medical organizations, climate and environmental groups, and government stakeholders together for a policy roundtable discussion, focusing on how the alliance can advocate and lobby for better policies, specifically centered around safeguarding public health through concerted efforts in clean air and climate action.

GLOBAL

Our Sustainability Officer delivered a statement on our journey towards achieving sound chemicals management in the health care sector during the International Conference on Chemicals Management's fifth session in Bonn, Germany. We participated in the ICCM-5 until the finalization of the Global Framework on Chemicals.



PHILIPPINES

We kicked off the series of activities under a pilot project with FHI 360, aimed to build resilience in the healthcare sector and reduce its climate impact. Guided by the Philippine Department of Health's Green and Safe Health Facility Manual and several HCWH resources, we worked closely with three facilities in the Philippines for weeks of training sessions, interviews and focused group discussions, and facility visits and assessment.

OCTOBER

THAILAND

Our Executive Director visited the five identified MEC hospitals to discuss plans under the ADB/MOPH partnership, which aims to build climate-smart and resilient MECs in five provinces of Thailand. The visit paved the way for three of the five hospitals to commit not only to the GGHH network but as well as to the Race to Zero initiative.

VIETNAM

Our team visited Hanoi to formally negotiate the hosting of the Health Environment Management Agency (VIHEMA) of the 6th Green Hospitals Asian Conference (GHAC) in the 4th quarter of 2024, and consolidate partnerships among other GHAC organizers.

PHILIPPINES

Sr. Arcelita Sarnillo, an active RISE ally representing our GGHH member St. Paul's Hospital in Iloilo won the 2023 Philippine Resilience Awards for Women, recognized for her unwavering dedication to climate-smart and green healthcare advocacy.

PHILIPPINES

We co-organized the 9th Population, Health, and Environment National Conference in Iloilo City. The 2023 leg of the conference aimed to explore how integrated PHE strategies can transform challenges into opportunities and promote resilience and economic growth in the new normal.



NOVEMBER

REGION

Our climate team organized the “*RISE Round Robin: regional updates and priority setting for South East Asia,*” a virtual event aimed at fostering an inclusive and interactive climate-health dialogue among members of the alliance.

REGION

HCWH SEA was invited to the CSO workshop for the Global Plastics Treaty in Jakarta, Indonesia. They were able to make their case on how health should be at the center of the Plastics Treaty, and how cross-cutting collaboration including the health sector is needed.

SINGAPORE

We organized another 2-day Carbon Footprint Café session this time with our GGHH members and partners in Singapore, strengthening their capacity to calculate their GHG emissions and implement low-carbon, sustainable, and climate-resilient initiatives at their facility or institution.

REGION

HCWH SEA participated at the Asia-Pacific Climate Week in Johor Bahru. In collaboration with Melbourne Climate Futures of the University of Melbourne, FHI 360 Asia Pacific, and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, we hosted a session “*Resilient Health Systems: Localizing Climate Policies and Tools for Accelerated Action,*” to emphasize the cross-cutting nature of health and highlight strategies to address the climate crisis while underscoring the role of health as a driver for collective climate action. Plus, together with SCPH, we organized an Action Hub session, “*Climate and Health,*” where an interactive conversation with healthcare professionals, climate activists, and communities took place.



PHILIPPINES

We attended the 11th Better Air Quality Conference in Manila, where leaders, experts, and advocates united for clean air and a healthier climate. Our ED joined a panel on, *“Stakeholders Working Together to Achieve Clean Air for Health and Climate.”*



REGION

The *“Green Hospitals in Southeast Asia: Sustainability Best Practices in Healthcare”* compendium was launched. From reducing carbon footprints efforts to innovating waste management solutions, these case studies highlight the inspiring commendable work of various healthcare facilities in Southeast Asia.

REGION

Together with the University of the Philippines Manila College of Public Health (Department of Environmental and Occupational Health), our team co-organized the 6th Environmental and Occupational Health Forum, which focused on discussing how to accelerate the development of healthy and climate-smart hospitals in Southeast Asia, particularly supporting SDGs 3, 8, and 11.

REGION

Gearing up for COP28 and in celebration of the third anniversary of RISE South East Asia Alliance for Health and Climate, our climate team held the *“#Health4Climate RISE Celebration and COP28 Countdown.”* We partnered with Parabukas to capacitate RISE allies and stakeholders to understand and get involved in multinational events (e.g. COP) and give them access to opportunities in contributing to strengthening health’s voice. It also provided an avenue for them to learn about how health has been integrated in the Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans.

REGION

A week before COP28, we launched the “*Briefer for Health Professionals.*” Tailored for our health community in Southeast Asia, the document contains primary information about the annual conference; how health is integrated in the discussion and agreements made by the member states at these conferences; and, why/how the health sector needs to be aware and be part of these global climate negotiations.

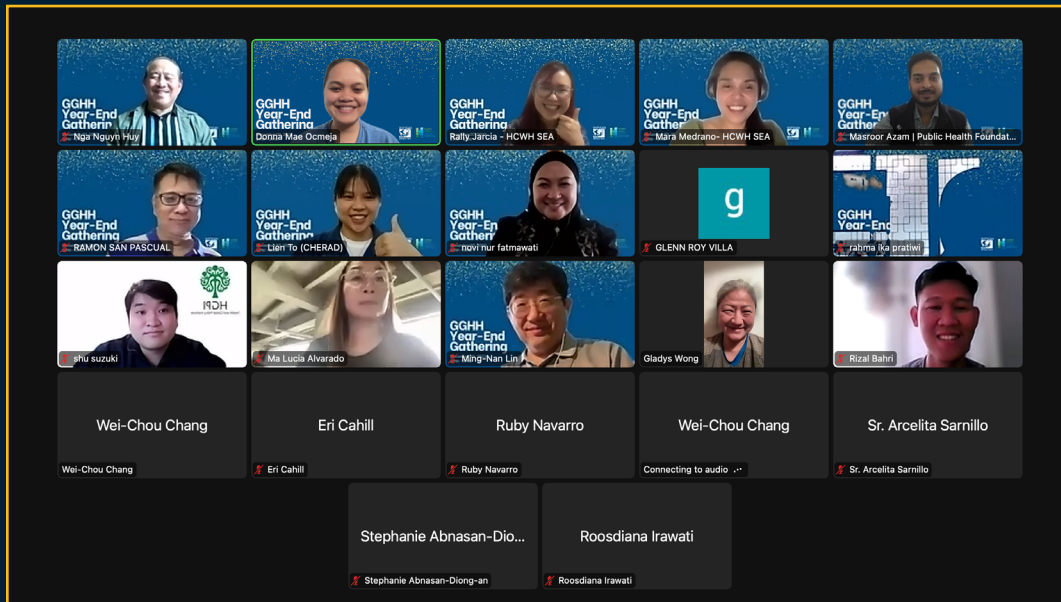
bit.ly/COP28HealthBriefer

PHILIPPINES

The Exit Conference for our productive project engagement with FHI 360, the Green and Safe Facility Initiative, took place. The event was a reunion with the three participating facilities and a moment for reflecting on our joint efforts — the months of training sessions, consultations, facility assessments, and reporting.



DECEMBER



REGION

Members of the GGHH network gathered for a year-end celebration. It was an interactive virtual event where attendees reflected on their 2023 sustainability achievements and challenges.

GLOBAL

Our climate team joined HCWH's 12-person global delegation at COP28. 2023 was a historic moment at the annual climate conference, hosting its inaugural Health Day. Organizations representing over 46 million health care professionals called for the phasing out of fossil fuels by signing the COP28 Health Open Letter. Here's what kept the HCWH delegation busy at COP28:

<https://healthcareclimateaction.org/COP28>



PHILIPPINES

Along with other CSOs, we met with the Mayor of Quezon City to bring the agenda of Zero Waste Cities. We also presented our position paper and our calls to action on the proposed bill related to waste-to-energy technologies.

REGION

The team concluded the year with a weeklong gathering in Baguio City, Philippines. The days were packed with a series of meetings, reflecting, and feedbacking on the 2023 work plan, and preparing for the following year. A mini Christmas party was organized as well.



Program Highlights



In 2023, our focus remained on furthering the progress of our core programs: Climate and Health, Sustainability in Healthcare, and the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals.

For a small team working to advance an ambitious advocacy of leading the transformation of the healthcare sector in the region towards environmental health and justice, the past year has been challenging and fulfilling at the same time. From onboarding new team members and launching new partnerships, to wrapping up projects and adjusting our strategies – 2023 has been productive. Together with our support units (Administrative, Finance, Fundraising, and Communications), we ended the year optimistic about the year ahead.



Climate & Health

Milestones and Impact

In our Climate and Health program, we have made significant strides towards proactive engagement and cross-sectoral collaboration, from the community level with health professionals, to the facility level with health organizations, and up to the national and global level with government institutions in Southeast Asia.

At the facility level, we have supported the implementation of climate initiatives under our GGHH network, developing the capacity of our members to conduct a baseline of their GHG emissions and supporting our Race to Zero (RTZ) participants in the development and implementation of their action plan. Our training of trainers (TOT) approach has proven to be an effective capacity development strategy where learning and collaboration between members are encouraged and supported.

Our engagement with Ministries of Health significantly strengthened in 2023. With our influence, we witnessed a 100% increase in country-level commitments to the COP26 Health Programme and membership to the Alliance for Action on Climate Change and Health (ATAACH) from Southeast Asia compared to 2023. By the end of 2024, Brunei, Philippines, and Vietnam joined Lao PDR, Indonesia, and Timor-Leste in the list of member countries from the region, committed to building climate-resilient, low-carbon, and sustainable health systems.

Another evident manifestation of our influence at the country-level, was when nine ministries from our region endorsed the inaugural Climate and Health declaration at COP28 – we helped secure six of them (Philippines, Vietnam, Lao PDR, Indonesia, Brunei, and Timor-Leste).

At the beginning of the year, we started working with MOH Timor-Leste and WHO Timor-Leste, supporting them in their commitment to develop climate-resilient and environmentally-sustainable health facilities in the country. By the end of the year, our team kicked-off another official collaboration, this time with the Department of Health in the Philippines. This project aims to provide capacity development support to their health facilities and regional offices of GHG emissions assessment, potentially integrating HCWH's Climate Impact Checkup (CIC) tool into the required reporting requirements of public hospitals in the country.

For our work with health professionals, the creation of the Regional Committee of the RISE Southeast Asia Alliance for Health and Climate marked a strategic shift towards a more proactive and tailored collaboration with health professionals in the region. Through establishing two health-climate alliances in Indonesia (Kesehatan Untuk Bumi or KEBUMI) and the Philippines (Health Alliance for Climate Clean Air Philippines or HACCAP), we were able to build health professional leadership in advocating for key climate and health issues, whilst expanding our partnerships with environmental organizations and government bodies in Southeast Asia.

In the last quarter of the year, we participated at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28), which marked a historic milestone with the inaugural Health Day at the annual Conference of Parties. Alongside HCWH's 12-person international delegation, our regional climate team organized and participated in numerous events in collaboration with partners from governments, private institutions, and other NGOs. The core message of our COP28 work revolved around the COP28 Health Open Letter.

Key partnerships with regional bodies like WHO Western Pacific Region (WPPRO) and South-East Asia Region (SEARO), Climate Action Network Southeast Asia (CANSEA), as well as collaborations with organizations like the Sunway Centre for Planetary Health (SCPH), Parabukas, the Indonesian Health Promoting Hospital Network (IHPH-Net), Cities Finance Facility (CFF), among others enhanced the impact of our work in the region.

The expansion of our team, through the hiring of our Climate Officer based in Indonesia, was a key factor in furthering our 2023 Climate-Health work in the region.

Key Figures



1,000+

healthcare professionals engaged in RISE-led and co-led activities



60+

health facilities trained on carbon footprinting, addressing their emissions by first understanding them

2



country-based health professional initiatives established, leading the national fight for clean air and climate justice



4



new Race to Zero members, contributing to the growing momentum of net-zero healthcare in the region

3

new Southeast Asian MOHs, Philippines, Vietnam, and Brunei join Lao PDR, Indonesia, and Timor-Leste as members of ATACH



9

Southeast Asian MOH endorsed the Climate and Health declaration at COP28





Sustainability in Healthcare

Milestones and Impact

Over the past year, we have achieved significant milestones in our efforts to address sustainability challenges within the healthcare sector.

As part of our intensive three-year project with the #BreakFreeFromPlastic in partnership with fifteen hospitals in the Philippines, we successfully conducted the “Protecting Health, Protecting Our Planet: Addressing Plastic Waste Solution in Healthcare Facilities” policy forum. The event marked the conclusion of our collaborative project that aimed at engaging the country’s healthcare sector in advocating for public policies that prevent plastic pollution and discourage false solutions.

Collaborating with the GGHH and Climate programs, we launched the “Green and Safe Health Facilities Initiative” project in partnership with FHI 360, emphasizing sustainability practices in healthcare facilities in the Philippines. Working with three facilities in the National Capital Region, we were able to provide capacity-building sessions, site assessments and data collection, and reporting and evaluation support. Additionally, we resumed work on a proposal to address healthcare waste and mercury waste in collaboration with GEF UNIDO.



The “Philippines COVID-19 Response Project: Third-Party Audit on Healthcare Waste Management Compliance of Selected Healthcare Facilities” confirmed the findings of the pilot implementation of the “COVID-19 Waste Management Self-Assessment - Compliance Audit Checklist.” Subsequently, a Third-Party Compliance Audit (TPCA) on healthcare waste management systems of selected healthcare facilities was initiated. This project aimed to offer an insight into the healthcare waste management systems in the Philippines and their alignment with DOH policies.

While the program’s 2023 work mainly focused in the Philippines, we also extended our effort to the rest of the region. We went to the WHO SEARO Regional Meeting and the CSO Workshop for Global Plastics Treaty, where we contributed to developing a proposal to tackle the issue of single-use plastics. Moreover, we collaborated with key partners in the region such as SCPH in Malaysia for a webinar on the importance of proper waste management in safeguarding the health of patients, health workers, and the general public. At the international level, we joined global conferences such as the SAICM International Conference for Chemicals Management.

Throughout the year, we produce publications to strengthen our Sustainability in Healthcare voice on public platforms including [a video documentary on gloves](#) and policy papers on [single use plastics](#), [incineration technology](#), [the Waste to Energy \(WTE\) bill in the Philippines](#), and the [Global Plastics Treaty](#).

Key Figures



3 Hospitals from the Philippines' Department of Health were provided support on Green Viability Assessment prioritization and action planning



2 Policy Compliance Audit on Healthcare Waste Management



- 23** hospitals
- 3** vaccination sites
- 3** treatment, disposal and storage facilities



3 international engagements attended (WHO SEARO Regional Meeting, International Conference for Chemicals Management, CSO workshop for Global Plastics Treaty)



Global Green and Healthy Hospitals

Milestones and Impact

2023 was a progressive year in network building for the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals (GGHH) in the region. Our GGHH community continued to grow in countries within and outside Southeast Asia. Eleven healthcare institutions committed and joined the network last year:

1. St. Camillus Medical Center, Philippines
2. University of the Philippines College of Medicine, Philippines
3. James L. Gordon Hospital, Philippines
4. Douliou Tzu Chi Hospital, Taiwan
5. Maharat Nakhon Ratchasima Hospital, Thailand
6. Makarak Hospital, Thailand
7. Propakklao Hospital, Thailand
8. Ramsay Sime Darby Health, CAH Medical Centres Sdn Bhd., Malaysia
9. Tancock Seng Hospital, Singapore
10. Health and Global Policy Institute Medical, Japan
11. COOP Kousei Ekimae Clinic, Japan

Active membership engagement has been another focus throughout the year, with targeted efforts to reactivate and involve dormant members, notably in Taiwan and the Philippines.

We expanded our reach through successful initiatives in key countries like Taiwan, Vietnam, and Thailand. In Vietnam for instance, our collaborations with the Vietnam MOH through its Health Environment Management Agency (CHERAD), has set the stage for increased influence in the Mekong Region. Meanwhile, our reconnecting efforts in Thailand continued to be underway, leveraging relationships with new Race to Zero members in the country.

Leadership development has also been a top priority in 2023. One major highlight is the convening of the Regional Coordination Council of the network and the start of their involvement in setting strategic directions. The creation of a 5-year Strategic Plan, guided by GGHH leaders, underscores our commitment to consistent growth and impact. Also in 2023, we published the “Green Hospitals in Southeast Asia: Sustainability Best Practices in Healthcare,” a compendium of case studies highlighting the commendable efforts of healthcare facilities in Southeast Asia.

Throughout the year, we celebrated the numerous awards received by many of our GGHH members in Southeast Asia and the broader Asia region from prominent national, regional, and international awarding bodies. These recognitions highlighted their various initiatives and best practices within their respective healthcare settings and communities, many of which align with the network’s 10 Sustainability Agenda: leadership, chemicals, waste, energy, water, transportation, food, pharmaceuticals, buildings, and purchasing.

MEMBER FEATURE

Sr. Arcelita Sarnillo

St. Paul’s Hospital, Iloilo

Sr. Arcelita Sarnillo, the administrator of St. Paul’s Hospital in Iloilo, a highly engaged member of our GGHH community in the Philippines, was selected in the “2023 Philippine Resilience Awards for Women.”





Secretariat Highlights

Behind the scenes, support units have been providing assistance to our programs, ensuring that our administrative, financial, fundraising, and communications efforts remain updated and productive. The secretariat consistently played a key role in our organization's 2023 objectives.

A significant achievement of the year was the establishment of our Management Committee. Consisting of permanent program heads and the Executive Director, the committee plays a crucial role in steering the organization towards the direction and objectives outlined in the annual work plan. Additionally, it focuses on fostering staff development and organizational growth while promoting our core values.

Administrative and Finance

Milestones and Impact

In 2023, we strengthened our team by welcoming several new members, bringing our total staff to eleven by end of the year. This added manpower has boosted all our program units, enhancing our overall capacity.

In May, our team participated in a team building workshop that focused on key human resource topics such as compassion and communication. In July, we conducted a midyear assessment and strategic planning session to set the course for the remainder of the year. We concluded the year in December with a year-end assessment and a 2024 Work Plan workshop, recognizing our achievements and planning for the year ahead.

To ensure our Board of Trustees (BOT) remained engaged and informed, the team organized three meetings with them during the last three quarters of 2023. These meetings served to keep the board updated on our ongoing and upcoming projects and to seek their feedback, ensuring their insights help guide our overarching goal.

To achieve better financial stability, the BOT approved the establishment of three funds: the Reserve Fund, the Program Support Fund, and the Staff Welfare Fund. These funds are designed to strengthen and secure finances against unexpected events, provide a source of funding for resource mobilization and program costs, and ensure the well-being and development of staff to maintain high-quality service. The implementation of these funds aims to be completed within ten years.



Finance Report 2023

Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Fund Balances

As of December 31, 2023 and 2022
(In US Dollars)

	2023	2022
Assets		
Total current assets	149,725.86	134,884.29
Total non-current assets	7,201.21	10,299.19
TOTAL ASSETS	156,927.07	145,183.48
Liabilities and Fund Balances		
Total Liabilities	17,326.19	10,722.15
Total fund balances	139,600.88	134,461.34
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	156,927.07	145,183.48

Note: This financial report is based on the Audited Financial Statement and converted from PHP to USD using Oanda (<https://www.oanda.com/currency-converter/en/?from=PHP&to=USD&amount=1>) as of December 31, 2023.

Fundraising

Midway through 2023, we hired a new Fundraising and Development Manager. One of the first objectives was to develop a fundraising strategy aimed at enhancing our financial sustainability and expanding our donor base.

The initial phase of this strategy included two key initiatives:



Fundraising Workshop

A workshop was conducted for the staff to equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge for effective fundraising. This session covered various fundraising techniques, communication strategies, and best practices.



Donor Mapping

A donor mapping exercise was undertaken to identify potential donors and funding sources. This process involved analyzing potential donor landscapes, identifying gaps, and researching new donors who align with our mission and goals.

Although HCWH SEA did not have a historical donor base, we reached out to past project funders and partners from related initiatives, providing them with updates on our progress and exploring opportunities for renewed support. Another significant focus of our fundraising efforts for the year was directed towards securing sponsors for the 6th Green Hospitals Asian Conference (GHAC), scheduled for October 2024 in Vietnam.

As the year progressed, the fundraising strategy evolved to include more targeted approaches including outreach to new prospective donors and engagement with past project funders. By next year, the focus will be fully on fundraising for GHAC and the entire HCWH SEA.

Communications

After some time of being vacated, the communications unit of the organization was finally filled midyear. The new team started with reviewing and revamping existing communication platforms, most especially social media. On top of this, the communication needs of the programs have finally continued to progress.

At the international level, the team participated in the ongoing renovation of the organization's website, collaborating with the global communications team. Regionally, efforts were directed towards re-establishing ties with communication units in allied organizations across Southeast Asia. Additionally, media engagement was reignited as we reached out to press outlets for increased media coverage.



Social Media Figures

January-December 2023



Facebook

515

new follows

9.7K

page visits

68.2K

audience reach

2.2K

content interactions

Instagram

212

new follows

2.3K

profile visits

8.2K

audience reach

700+

content interactions

LinkedIn

327

new follows

1.1K

page visits

576

post interactions



Twitter

29

new follows

899

page visits

18K

post interactions





Media Outreach



International Federation of Journalists:

UAE: IFJ Climate Action Team signs letter by world groups condemning the announcement of oil executive as COP28 president



GovInsider Asia:

Why hospitals need to jump on board the sustainability bandwagon



The Jakarta Post:

Health and damage: Responsibility with accountability



The Philippine STAR:

Healthcare sector urged to 'take up leadership' in managing medical waste



Jurnalis Warga:

KEBUMI: Para Tenaga Ahli Kesehatan bersatu untuk Indonesia yang lebih hijau dan lebih sehat 2023



The Manila Times:

WATCH: Medical groups sign agreement to fight air pollution, climate change



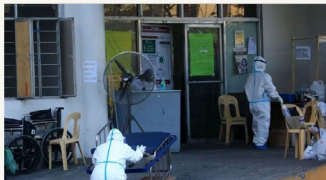
Eco-Business:

Southeast Asia’s healthcare sustainability struggle lingers post-Covid



The Philippine STAR:

Active participation in COP28 urged as Asia-Pacific Climate Week wraps up



The Philippine STAR:

Climate change threatens shutdown of hundreds of Philippine hospitals — report

Video Production



We Need to Talk About Gloves



GSHF Training Highlights



Message from Asia’s Health Community to COP28



COP28 Debrief with HCWH SEA and Parabukas



COP28 insights from HCWH Southeast Asia

Publication



Compendium: “Green Hospitals in Southeast Asia: Sustainability Best Practices in Healthcare”



COP28 Briefer for Health Professionals



Position Paper on Plastics, WTE, Incineration, and Calls for Action



Blog
HCWH SEA call for holistic and innovative actions to tackle interlinked challenges of health, climate, and biodiversity at PMAC 2023



Blog
Equipping Healthcare Professionals to Combat Climate Change – the Success of the Climate and Health Responders Course



Blog
Philippine health organizations launch groundbreaking alliance for climate and clean air



Blog
Policy Forum on Sustainability: Addressing Medical Plastic Waste Pollution in Healthcare Facilities



Blog
Empowering Health Professionals in Southeast Asia: Climate and Health Campaign and Advocacy Training in Malaysia



Blog

Health professionals unite for greener, healthier Indonesia



Statement of Commitment

Breathing for a Brighter Tomorrow: Health and Climate Advocates Unite for Clean Air in the Philippines

Challenges and Lessons Learned

Across our primary programs and support units, we have encountered common challenges and lessons in various initiatives. Manpower limitations, financial constraints, and changes in project delivery due to external factors have been part of our challenges in 2023. Nevertheless, we remained flexible and adjusted our strategy as needed to maintain a smooth workflow.

Furthermore, in 2023, we observed limited participation from some members of our networks due to competing priorities. We recognize that climate and sustainability are just a fraction of the challenges our members face, both at the health facility and health professional level. This highlights an opportunity to explore strategies that streamline engagement in our network and save time for members. For example, in the upcoming year, we plan to leverage the newly launched online course for the CIC tool to streamline our Carbon Footprint Café training for health facilities.

Consequently, we agreed that there is a need for the organization to establish more hands-on monitoring strategies and systematic recruitment techniques. Reflecting on our 2023 highlights, we have come to acknowledge the importance of more critical engagement in externally funded projects as well as the need for heightened transparency and accountability in maintaining partnerships.

TESTIMONIAL

Prof. Tan Sri Dr. Jemilah Mahmood

Executive Director
Sunway Centre for Planetary Health
Sunway University
Selangor, Malaysia



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HCWH SEA has been an invaluable partner in our mission at the Sunway Centre for Planetary Health. Their unwavering commitment to promoting sustainable healthcare practices aligns seamlessly with our vision for a healthier planet and populace.

During 2023, in partnership with HCWH SEA, the Centre has undertaken engagements to build the capacity of health professionals on climate and health advocacy and communication. We also conducted a webinar on identifying the challenges and opportunities of biomedical waste management. With joint efforts, a case study is in progress focusing on Sunway Medical Centre Velocity's journey towards a net-zero healthcare system.

In collaboration with HCWH SEA, we are working with Malaysia's Ministry of Health to decarbonize the country's healthcare sector.

We are grateful for the collaborative relationship we have forged with HCWH SEA under the leadership of Ramon San Pascual, and we look forward to continuing our journey together towards building a healthier, more sustainable world for generations to come.

TESTIMONIAL

Dr. Wiwat Chatwongwan

Deputy Director

Maharat Nakhon Ratchasima Hospital
Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand



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Our decision to join the GGHH network was driven by our commitment to enhancing health care sustainability and safety, aligning closely with the network’s objectives. In 2023, our collaborative efforts with HCWH SEA have been highlighted by several key initiatives, which have significantly contributed to our waste management and reduction strategies at Maharat Nakhon Ratchasima Hospital here in Thailand.

The membership has been instrumental in reinforcing our hospital’s mission to not only provide top-tier health services but also to do so responsibly, with a reduced environmental footprint. It has empowered our staff with the knowledge and practices needed to advance in this direction, further embedding sustainability into our organizational culture.

We are glad to continue working with HCWH SEA in advancing our environmental health programs. Here’s to exploring new initiatives that promise to enhance both patient care and environmental stewardship!

TESTIMONIAL

Anup Kumar

Strategic Information Advisor
FHI 360



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On behalf of FHI 360, it is evident that our 2023 collaboration with HCWH SEA on the Green and Safe Health Facility Initiative (GSHFI) has been truly transformative. Working with them and other key stakeholders, such as the USAID and local health departments, we embarked on a journey to integrate climate resilience and environmental sustainability into tertiary health facilities in the Philippines. We aimed not only to enhance the quality of healthcare but also to address pressing environmental concerns in the face of a worsening climate crisis.

The project's success was marked by significant achievements, including the Green Viability Assessment and Climate Vulnerability Assessment of major hospitals in Metro Manila. These assessments provided valuable insights into the strengths and weaknesses of healthcare facilities in adapting to and mitigating climate change. We are committed to implementing the recommendations outlined in the GSHFI report, including improved healthcare waste management, energy consumption reduction, and sustainable procurement practices.

Indeed, our partnership has not only contributed to FHI 360's goal of promoting climate smart healthcare but has also demonstrated the power of collective action in addressing complex global challenges. We are excited about future collaborations with HCWH SEA and remain dedicated to promoting climate resilience and sustainability in healthcare systems worldwide.

Local Action



Regional E





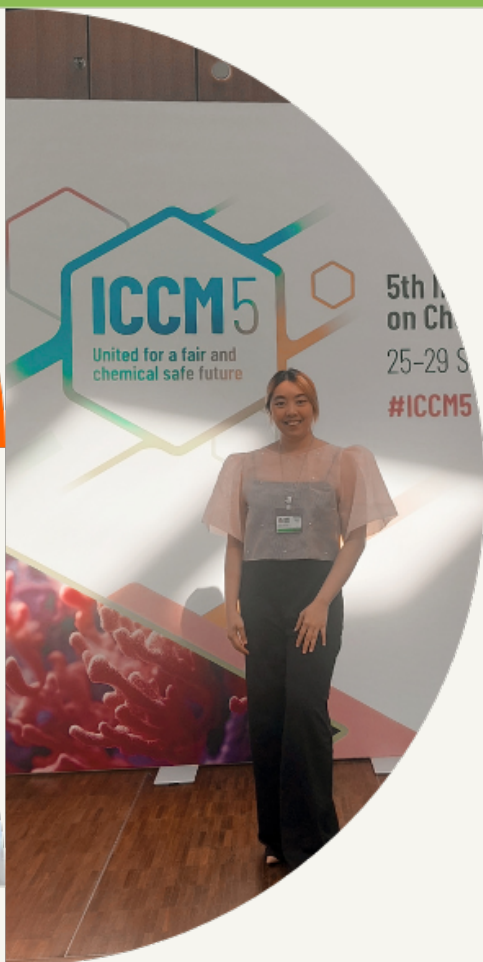
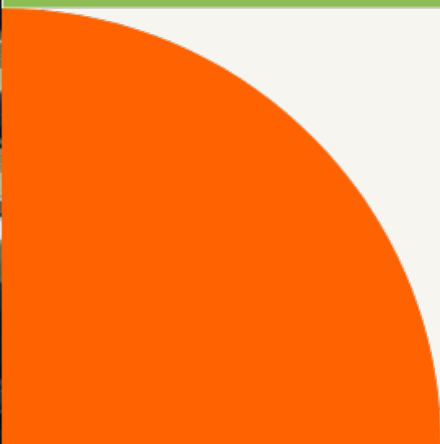
ngagement



Global Impact



In 2023, despite significant internal and external challenges, we succeeded in ensuring the effectiveness and efficiency of our work. Throughout the year, we focused on strengthening our networks and advocacies – from local facilities and national governments to regional organizations and global bodies.





Across all department units, both programmatic and secretariat, we aimed for consistent productivity. The team worked together all year round to continue advancing our mission of leading the healthcare sector transformation in the region toward climate resilience, decarbonization, and sustainability.



Connect with Health Care Without Harm Southeast Asia!

Stay updated on our ongoing initiatives and upcoming projects.

