



# Health Implications of Energy Choices and the Co-Benefits of Climate Change Mitigation

*A special lecture by*

## **Professor Paul Wilkinson**

Professor of Environmental Epidemiology  
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

*in celebration of the 50th Anniversary  
of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO)*

Wednesday, November 11, 2015

3:00 – 5:00 pm

CPH Auditorium, College of Public Health  
University of the Philippines Manila

### **ORGANIZERS**

Department of Environmental and Occupational Health,  
College of Public Health, University of the Philippines Manila  
*(SEAMEO-Tropmed Regional Centre for Public Health,  
Hospital Administration, Environmental and Occupational Health)*

British Embassy Manila

Healthy Energy Initiative  
Health Care Without Harm-Asia



## ABSTRACT

In 2009, the medical journal *The Lancet* declared climate change as the “biggest global health threat of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.” Indeed, the health impacts of climate change are vast and serious, and some of these effects are already experienced by people in different parts of the globe, including the Philippines. In turn, it is already established that climate change is a result of human activity, particularly the burning of coal and other fossil fuels, which drive greenhouse gas emissions and lead to global warming. Therefore, in order to prevent further climate change and protect people’s health, there is a need to enforce climate mitigation measures, one of which is the promotion of climate-friendly renewable energy. Mitigating climate change through healthy energy choices is good not only for the climate, but also for health, as these lead to what are referred to as “public health co-benefits” such as reduction in respiratory diseases due to better air quality and prevention of obesity due to active transport. This lecture will examine all these interlinkages between climate change, energy, and health – and what the health sector can do in this collective pursuit towards shifting to healthy renewable energy and protecting both human and planetary health.

## OBJECTIVES

- Present the links between climate change, energy, and health – the health impacts of climate change, the climate- and non-climate-related health effects of energy, the need for public health engagement in climate mitigation and energy transformation
- Explain the public health implications of energy choices and climate mitigation strategies, including some reference to methods for estimating health impacts
- Present recommendations and the way forward, including the role of the health sector and public health research

## ABOUT THE SPEAKER

**Paul Wilkinson** is Professor of Environmental Epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. He trained in medicine and public health in Oxford and London. He began epidemiology research post at the National Heart and Lung Institute before moving to the London School in 1995. His primary research interests are climate change, environmental pollution, and urban development, including housing and health. He is a member of the UK Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants and has worked for many years as an adviser to the World Health Organization on matters relating to climate change and urban health.

