



## **Towards Healthy Energy Choices in the Philippines: Promoting the Use of Health Impact Assessments for Energy Policies and Projects**

March 7-9, 2016  
Cocoon Boutique Hotel  
Quezon City, Philippines

### **Background**

A **Health Impact Assessment (HIA)** is a “combination of procedures, methods and tools to systematically evaluate the potential effects of a policy, program or project on the health of a population (positive or negative, direct or indirect) and the distribution of those effects within the population.”

In the Philippines, the HIA is not widely utilized, and it is not yet institutionalized as a requirement for policies and projects in other sectors. Furthermore, there is dearth of health professionals with capacity to design, conduct, and evaluate an HIA.

**Energy** is one of the areas where HIA can be a very useful instrument for promoting and protecting health. It is known that energy policies and projects can have unintended health consequences, and therefore the HIA can be used to assess their potential health impacts and inform decision-makers, planners, and implementers even prior to, for instance, constructing an energy facility.

### **Objectives**

Therefore, in order to address this gap, the Healthy Energy Initiative of Health Care Without Harm-Asia will be holding a three-day workshop on HIAs and how they can be used for energy policies and projects. The workshop specifically aims to enable participants to:

- Familiarize with the principles and process of HIA
- Learn about the different steps in conducting an HIA for a specific energy policy or project
- Discuss about challenges, opportunities and the way forward for the use, mainstreaming, and institutionalization of HIA in the Philippines

## Curriculum

The three-day workshop will cover the following topics:

- Links between climate change, energy, and health
- Energy situation in the Philippines
- Principles and history of HIA
- Essential steps of the HIA process
- Challenges and barriers in conducting an HIA
- Using HIA for advocacy
- The future of HIA in the Philippines

## Faculty

- Linda Rudolph, MD, MPH, *Public Health Institute, California*
- Jonathan Buonocore, ScD, *Center for Health and the Global Environment, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health*
- Other guest speakers from the World Health Organization, Department of Health, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Energy, etc.
- Course Co-Directors: Renzo Guinto, MD and Jennifer Wang, MSc, *Healthy Energy Initiative, Health Care Without Harm*

## Participants

Participants will come from a wide range of sectors such as the Department of Health, academia, environment and/or health civil society organizations, private sector, and communities where new energy projects are proposed, or existing energy facilities are to be expanded. Participants are either invited/pre-selected from HCWH-Asia's partner organizations or selected through an open application process.

## About the Healthy Energy Initiative

In 2014, Health Care Without Harm-Asia launched the Healthy Energy Initiative, which aims to mobilize the health sector to play a central role in advocating for a move away from fossil fuel-based power generation—particularly coal—and toward clean, renewable healthy energy options. This campaign hopes to protect both the global climate and human health through education, network-building, collaborative research, and advocacy. At present, the Initiative is comprised of a network of health professionals, health organizations, and academic research institutions from five countries – Australia, China, India, Philippines, and South Africa – and the European region. Prior to the 2015 United Nations Climate Conference (COP21) in Paris, the Initiative launched the *Paris Platform for Healthy Energy*, which reflects the global health sector's growing consensus that shifting to clean, renewable energy will protect public health from both global climate change and the impacts of local pollution. For more information, please visit <http://www.healthyenergyinitiative.org/>.

## About Health Care Without Harm-Asia

An international environmental and health organization, Health Care Without Harm (HCWH)-Asia is part of an international coalition with over 500 member organizations in 53 countries, working to transform the health care sector worldwide, without compromising patient safety or care, so that it becomes ecologically sustainable and a leading advocate for environmental health and justice. For nearly two decades, HCWH has been collaborating with health professionals, health care institutions, governments, and intergovernmental organizations such as the World Health Organization in helping eliminate harmful practices such as improper waste management and use of toxic chemicals like mercury, and in promoting safer and healthier alternatives such as renewable energy. HCWH-Asia's presence in the Philippines and Asia for more than a decade now has paved the way for major campaigns on environmental responsibility in health care such as Medical Waste and Safer Chemicals and the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals (GGHH). For more information, please visit <https://noharm-asia.org/>.