



Brief Report: Teaching trip to The Philippines November 27-December 3 2009

Professor Sue Turale, and A/Professor Kyoko Murakami, Nursing, and Mr Yoshiharu Tokuhisa, doctoral student in Laboratory Science, Faculty of Health Sciences, Graduate School of Medicine.

Acknowledgements:

We are indebted to Yamaguchi University for providing the financial support for us to go to the Philippines last week and to Dr Y. Hattori, Chair of International Committee in the Faculty of Health Sciences for helping to secure a grant for expenses.

Our learning outcomes:

In addition to providing teaching to a small group of educators in a developing country, we shared many ideas about culture, society, health, and other matters. This contributed to our learning and the dissemination of knowledge across the two countries. In particular I believe our doctoral student Mr Tokuhisa had an enriching cross-cultural experience, and exchanged ideas and knowledge in his topic area of HIV/AIDS prevention strategies. Dr Murakami was able to share knowledge about genetic nursing education, a area of specialty in our Faculty which the Phillipino nurses were not aware of. I learnt more about the health and social issues of The Philippines to inform my teaching in International Health and Medicine here, and Cross Cultural Health Care.

Background of Silliman University and the country

The main purpose of this trip was to teach a course, **N301 Perspectives on Global Health Care**, to 5 doctoral students in the College of Nursing & Allied Health Sciences at Silliman University in Dumagete. This University began as an institute in 1901, through funding by an American Christian, Dr HB Silliman. It is built on 64 hectares in Negros Oriental, around one hour flying time from the capital, Manilla. Silliman is a melting pot of cultures and religions. Of its overall population of 8,400, the Silliman has over 300 international students from 23 different countries. In keeping with most regions in the country, the population of Negros Oriental island is poor. There are health, economic and socio-cultural problems of a greater magnitude than that of Japan, including poverty, high rates of infant and maternal mortality, malnutrition, lower life expectancy, significant infectious and lifestyle diseases, and high rates of unemployment. Good education is highly prized and in recent years has been a source of attempts to gain good employment. However, the global economic crises, political and significant effects of recent typhoon damage and flood, and political instability have combined to increase poverty, health and socio-cultural problems in The Philippines, and displacement of populations, particularly in the north of the country. The CNAHS is in its second intake of doctoral students in nursing, but has only one member of faculty with a PhD (The Dean). The College is critically short of qualified faculty to develop health leaders for the future to work in this developing country. Moreover the University currently does not have funds to fly in experts from overseas to assist with developmental teaching, and relies heavily on assistance from other countries and professionals willing to support their endeavors to develop the profession and educate students and faculty.

TEACHING PROGRAM

Over 3 days we were engaged in the teaching of the Global Health course, with five highly interactive students who were all nurse educators. Four had travelled significant distances by boat and land to attend the course. Below is the program as well as other meetings we had:

Sunday November 29, 13:00-17.30

Session 1: Introductions. Discussion of syllabus, assignments, and availability of resources.

Session 2: The big picture: The state of world health. The World Health Organization Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Session 3: HIV/AIDS: International Trends and Health Promotion: Special lecture by Mr. Yoshiharu Tokuhisa, doctoral student, Yamaguchi University on HIV/AIDS prevention strategies.

Monday November 30, 09:00-18:00

Student homework for discussion: Gather the latest evidence from different areas to answer the following questions and bring your answers to class for discussion. Remember to keep full details of your references:

1. How many nurses and doctors are there in The Philippines?
2. What strategies are being used in The Philippines to fill gaps in any health professional shortages?
3. What is the mean life expectancy of men and women from your country? How does this compare with other countries?
4. What are the major causes of mortality and morbidity people in The Philippines?
5. What is the role and some of the activities of the WHO based in Manila?

Session 4: The role of international and national organizations in determining health policy and standards, including World Health Organization (WHO); United Nations (UN); World Medical Association (WMA); International Council of Nursing (ICN); Philippine Nurses Association.

Session 5: The effects of globalization on health care and nursing: What is globalization? And how does it affect health care in rich and poor nations? And how does it affect nursing and health care?

Session 6: Increasingly health care is being improved by technology, including genetic discoveries. Genetic nursing is a relatively new field of nursing, being developed extensively in a number of countries, including Japan at Yamaguchi University. This lecture by Dr Kyoko Murakami will give you an introduction to genetic nursing.

Session 7: Providing culturally appropriate care: What does it mean to be a competent health professional in international health? What are the important elements of providing appropriate cross-cultural care?

Session 8: The global shortage of health professionals: issues in recruitment, retention, and migration.

Tuesday December 1, 09:00-17:00

Session 9: World health: Ageing

Session 10: Improving global health through research: ethics of good scientific research.

Session 11: Writing for international publication in English: sharing research, opinions and practices to a global

readership to high international standards.

Session 12: Disasters and emergencies globally: the role of nurses. Disaster nursing. Gather information about the roles and responsibilities of nurses in The Philippines during the recent disasters of flooding/typhoons. Try to use credible sources. How can nurses be better prepared in the future to be prepared for disaster work?

Session 13: Conclusions/ questions/assignment writing/ preparation of powerpoint presentation.

A/Prof Murakami and Mr Tokuhisa also had the following meetings on this day:

9:30 am - Prof. Fred Cadeliña to discuss HIV/AIDS - SU campus **11:00 am - Dumagete City Health Office: Dr. Maria Sarah Talla (City Health Officer) 4:00 pm - Silliman Medical Center: Dr. Lourdes Ursos** and SUCN Reproductive Health Training Center

Other meetings outside of class time:

December 1: Prof Betsy Joy Tan, Vice President for Academic Affairs and **Prof Teresita Sy-Sinda**, Dean College of Nursing & Allied Sciences: Orientation to University mission. Sincere gratitude was extended to ourselves and Yamaguchi University for providing faculty to teach the program.

December 2: We flew back to Manila and visited the World Health Organization headquarters for the Western Pacific Region. Here we had meetings with:

Mr Julius Dizon, Library Administrative Officer, and **Mr Rolando Hernandez**, Publications Assistant to discuss the educative and practical processes involved in getting teaching resources to health professionals in the WHO Western Pacific region, including Japan. We received two sets of resource books for a number of topics integrating poverty and gender into health programs.

Dr Rodel Nodora, Technical Officer in Human Resource Development who added to our knowledge about the work of WHO, and global health problems, in particularly in the Asia-Pacific, and the Philippines. Mr Tokuhisa, our doctoral student specializing in HIV/AIDs strategies, was informed further about HIV/AIDS and other infectious disorders in The Philippines and elsewhere.

We then travelled to the University of The Philippines, Dilman campus for a meeting with Prof J. Tuazon, Dean of Nursing, to discuss issues around developing nursing education and research in The Philippines.

December 3 – return to Japan.

We would be pleased to answer any queries,

Sincere thanks

Sue Turale

Professor of International Nursing, YU Faculty of Health Sciences.

December 7, 2009.