Planetary Health
Perspectives & Experiences from the Philippines

Renzo Guinto, MD DrPH
Chief Planetary Doctor
My patients?

PEOPLE and PLANET
Theory of Change:
3D for $(PH)^3$

Diagnostics → Philippine Health
Design → Public Health
Delivery → Planetary Health
PHILIPPINES

Silicon Islands of Planetary Health
Philippines
– at the heart of Planetary Health
CLIMATE CHANGE
THE BIGGEST GLOBAL HEALTH THREAT OF THE 21ST CENTURY

"Tackling climate change could be the greatest global health opportunity of the 21st century."

A Commission by The Lancet
Worst disaster to hit PH
CLIMATE CHANGE

ENVIRONMENTAL
- Tropical climate
- Remote & rural
- Isolated islands
- Agriculture & fisheries

SOCIAL
- Limited municipal resources
- Few economic opportunities
- Low literacy

HEALTH SYSTEM
- Inadequate workforce
- Limited supplies
- Underequipped facilities
- Moderate health baseline

EXPOSURE PATHWAYS

DIRECT
- Physical contact with flood
- Intense heat exposure

NATURAL SYSTEM-MEDIATED/INDIRECT
- Change in mosquito behavior
- Drinking water contamination

HUMAN SYSTEM-MEDIATED
- Potential crop failure
- Forced displacement

HEALTH IMPACTS

CURRENT/KNOWN
- Undernutrition
- Mosquito-borne diseases
- Water-borne diseases
- Direct injury from disasters

ANTICIPATED
- Resurgence of neglected tropical diseases
- Hypertension from salt intake
- Mental stress

LONG-TERM CHANGE
- Temperature rise
- Heavy rainfall
- Erratic rainfall
- Sea level rise

VARIABILITY & EXTREME WEATHER
- Typhoons
- Flooding
- Storm surge
- Long droughts

(Guinto, 2019)
Ocean levels in the Philippines rising at 5 times the global average

Globally, sea levels are going up, but there are big regional differences.
Are we ready to build health systems that consider the climate?

(Mayhew, et al., 2013)
“The health sector must lift its gaze to bigger, ecological horizons. This will require a radical extension of the public health agenda, new forms of professional training in environmental health, a preparedness to base policy advice upon predictions and best guesses (as opposed to empirical data), and an ability to collaborate with unfamiliar disciplines (e.g. climatology and ecology).”

Anthony McMichael
Climate and Health Pioneer
21st century planetary health-oriented health systems

Universal
Leaving no one behind
Beyond borders & citizenship

High-value
Good outcomes, quality & safe
Affordable & responsive

Climate-smart
Climate-resilient, disaster-ready
Low carbon, green sustainable

Pandemic-resistant
Detects early, responds quickly
Resources ready, better recovery
Planetary Health Education

Planetary health lens

Urgency and scale

Inequality and inequity

Bias

Policy

Organizing and movement building

Governance

Unintended consequences

Communication

Systems thinking and transdisciplinarity

Global citizenship and cultural identity

Historical and current global values

(Stone, et al., 2018)
Planetary Health Practice

Inspiration

Implementation

Institutionalization

Innovation

Integration

Information

Investment

(Guinto, under development)
COVID-19: Reimagining the political economy of planetary health

Posted on April 22, 2020 by BMJ GH Blogs

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5Ds of COVID-19
The Path Towards a Planetary Health Future?

degrowth
decarbonization
deglobalization
decolonization
democratization

From “COVID-19: Reimagining the political economy of planetary health”
By Renzo Guinto, BMJ Global Health, April 22, 2020
LET'S FLATTEN THIS CURVE TOO

Business as usual

When sustainability is a priority

THE EARTH'S CAPACITY
I'll be happy when this is over...

Be sure to wash your hands and all will be well.
Advancing the health of people and planet

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