

Education System in Host Country

With the increasing globalization in the practice of medicine, there is an urgent need to institute constructive reforms in medical education to facilitate the development of the physician's capability to practice medicine worldwide particularly the ASEAN Region. Transformative education calls for making medical education relevant to health care needs and country-specific. There should be balance between global competitiveness and national relevance and social accountability.

The World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) states that such reforms are essential to achieve the following objectives: prepare the physicians for the needs and expectation of society; cope with the explosion in medical scientific knowledge and technology; inculcate physician's ability for lifelong learning; ensure training in new information technologies; adjust medical education to changing conditions in the health care delivery system.

It is enshrined in the constitution of the Philippines (Article 2, Section 155) that health is a fundamental human right. As the highest advisory body to the President of the Philippines in matters related to S&T, NAST PHL fully supports the advocacy on Universal Health Care (UHC) or Kalusugan Pangkalahatan, with one NAST member and UHC advocate, National Scientist Ernesto O. Domingo.

In providing quality healthcare for everyone, we should acknowledge the significance of having quality medical education that can produce skilled and competent health practitioners.

It is very timely to assess the current status of our country's basic medical education addressing the need for constructive reform in Philippine medical education. This assessment will enable us to analyze our medical education system in detail, which will be important in aligning it with international standards.

The last monograph on the status of Philippine medical education was produced ten years ago, in 2006. At that time, the prevailing curriculum was traditional and competency based. Needless to say, much has changed in the world since then and Philippine medical education is trying to keep up. Most urgently, we are now gearing towards full-fledged ASEAN integration which demands that we should be at par with our ASEAN neighbors in the quality of doctors that we are producing.

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