



Regional Advisory No. 63, s. 2021
June 3, 2021

In compliance with DepEd Order (DO) No. 8, s. 2001,
this advisory is issued not for endorsement per DO 28, s. 2001,
but only for information of DepEd officials,
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NATIONAL SUBSTANCE USE SCIENCE POLICY AND INFORMATION
FORUM ON JUNE 15, 2021 (8:30 AM TO 3:30 PM)

The National Academy of Science and Technology, Philippines (NAST PHL), in partnership with the Asian Center for Drug Policy (ACDP), and the University of the Philippines Manila, will be holding the National Substance Use Science Policy and Information Forum on June 15, 2021 (8:30 AM to 3:30 PM) via Zoom. The activity's theme is "Substance Use in the Philippines: Governance, Research, and Practice".

Anent to this, all Division Science Coordinators/Supervisors are encouraged to attend by registering at bit.ly/SubstanceUsePH2021. For more information, you may contact the NAST Secretariat at advisory@nast.dost.gov.ph.

CLM/khzs
06/03/2021



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INVITATION

FOR : REGIONAL DIRECTORS
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

FROM : 
LUNINGNING E. SAMARITA-DOMINGO, CESO III
Director IV

SUBJECT : National Substance Use Science Policy and Information Forum
on 15 June 2021 (8:30 AM to 3:30 PM)

The **National Academy of Science and Technology, Philippines (NAST PHL)**, the country's highest advisory body to the government on matters related to science and technology, in partnership with the **Asian Center for Drug Policy (ACDP)**, and the **University of the Philippines Manila**, will be holding the **National Substance Use Science Policy and Information Forum on 15 June 2021 (8:30 AM to 3:30 PM) via Zoom.**

With the theme, **"Substance Use in the Philippines: Governance, Research, and Practice"**, the National Substance Use Science Policy and Information Forum aims to (1) present existing evidence in the Philippines on health-centered effective strategies and interventions on the prevention, treatment, and care for people affected by drug use and drug use disorders, employing human rights-based approaches; (2) facilitate the discourse and agreement of the scientific community from different disciplines on a five-year research agenda; and (3) present the scientific community's evidence-based policy recommendations to national and local policymakers.

The forum is a consolidation of the outputs of the five consultative pre-conference webinars organized by the ACDP, a consortium of universities, professional organizations, and NGOs that advocates for an evidence and science-based approach to drug treatment, rehabilitation and drug policy.

With this, we are pleased to invite you and/or your staff (maximum of 10) to the science policy and information forum. **May we also request your assistance in disseminating this information to the network under your supervision.** Attached is the provisional program of the activity for your reference.

Kindly register online through this link bit.ly/SubstanceUsePH2021.

For more information, you may contact the NAST Secretariat at advisory@nast.dost.gov.ph.

Your positive response will be greatly appreciated. Thank you very much and stay safe.



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology
NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
in partnership with the
ASIAN CENTER FOR DRUG POLICY and
UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES MANILA

National Substance Use Science Policy and Information Forum
"Substance Use in the Philippines: Governance, Research, and Practice"
15 June 2021 via Zoom

Opening Program		
8:30 – 8:35	National Anthem Doxology	
8:35 – 8:40	Opening Remarks	Academician Rhodora V. Azanza President NAST Philippines
8:40 – 8:50	Message	DOST DOH Mr. Gustavo Gonzalez United Nations Resident Coordinator for the Philippines
8:50 – 9:00	Overview of the Conference	Dr. Armando C. Crisostomo <i>Conference Chair and Co-convenor, ACDP</i> <i>Vice Chancellor for Research and</i> <i>Chairperson, TWG on Addiction Science</i> University of the Philippines Manila
9: 00 – 9:20	Keynote Address	Mr. Olivier Lernet <i>Senior Policy Officer</i> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
9:20 – 9:30	Mentimeter Poll	Dr. Leslie Michelle M. Dalmacio, OYS 2012 <i>Professor, College of Medicine</i> University of the Philippines Manila

Provisional Program as of May 27, 2021

Topic 1 - Substance Use in the Philippines: Identifying Key Issues		
9:30 – 9:35	Introduction	Ms. Jo-Ann A. De Belen <i>Senior National Programme Officer</i> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
9:35 – 9:50	Substance Use in the Philippines: Identifying Key Issues	Usec. Benjamin P. Reyes <i>Permanent Member</i> Dangerous Drugs Board
9:50 – 10:00	Open Forum	Academician Carmencita D. Padilla <i>Member and Focal Person on Substance Use,</i> NAST Philippines <i>Chancellor, University of the Philippines Manila</i>
Topic 2 – Public Health Dimensions of Substance Use		
10:00 – 10:05	Introduction	Dr. Elmer S. Soriano <i>Co-convenor, ACDP</i> <i>Managing Director, Civika Asian Development Academy</i>
10:05 -10:20	Public Health Dimensions of Substance Use	Dr. Clara H. Fuderanan <i>Head, Health Systems Development and Management Support Unit, Dangerous Drugs Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program (DDAPTP)</i> Department of Health
10:20 – 10:30	Open Forum	Academician Carmencita D. Padilla <i>Member and Focal Person on Substance Use,</i> NAST Philippines <i>Chancellor, University of the Philippines Manila</i>
10:30 – 10:40	Health Break	
Topic 3 – Support Systems for Persons Who Use Drugs		
10:40 – 10:45	Introduction	Ms. Jo-Ann A. De Belen <i>Senior National Programme Officer</i> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
10:45 – 11:00	Support Systems for Persons Who Use Drugs	Mr. Rechi Cristobal <i>Executive Director & Addiction Specialist</i> Family Wellness Center Foundation
11:00 – 11:10	Open Forum	Academician Carmencita D. Padilla <i>Member and Focal Person on Substance Use,</i> NAST Philippines <i>Chancellor, University of the Philippines Manila</i>

Provisional Program as of May 27, 2021

Topic 4 – The Science of Substance Use		
11:10 – 11:15	Introduction	Dr. Elmer S. Soriano <i>Co-convenor, ACDP</i> <i>Managing Director, Civika Asian Development Academy</i>
11:15 – 11:30	Biopsychological Perspective	Dr. Gayle A. Gomez Psychological Association of the Philippines
11:30 – 11:45	Sociological Perspective	Dr. Leonardo R. Estacio <i>Professor, Department of Behavioral Sciences</i> <i>Dean, College of Arts and Sciences</i> University of the Philippines Manila
11:45 – 12:00	Open Forum	Academician Charlotte M. Chiong <i>Member, NAST Philippines</i> <i>Dean, College of Medicine</i> University of the Philippines Manila
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch	
Topic 5 – Public Health Policy and Interventions		
1:00 – 1:05	Introduction	Ms. Jo-Ann A. De Belen <i>Senior National Programme Officer</i> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
1:05 – 1:20	Health Science Perspective	Dr. Jose Bienvenido M. Leabres <i>Medical Specialist II and Program Manager,</i> Dangerous Drugs Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program (DDAAPT) Department of Health
1:20 – 1:35	Governance and Policy Perspective	Dr. Ador R. Torneo <i>Professor and Director,</i> Jesse Robredo Institute of Governance De La Salle University Manila
1:35 – 2:00	Open Forum	Academician Charlotte M. Chiong <i>Member, NAST Philippines</i> <i>Dean, College of Medicine</i> University of the Philippines Manila
Conference Synthesis		
2:00 – 2:15	Summary of Research and Policy Recommendations	Dr. Francisco A. Magno <i>Director, Social Development Research Center</i> De La Salle University Manila

Provisional Program as of May 27, 2021

2:15 - 2:55	Response	Research Agenda (DOST) National Health Programs and Policies (DOH) Local Government Implementation (DILG) Legislative Response
2:55 – 3:05	Synthesis	Acd. Edward H.M. Wang Member, Health Sciences Division, NAST Philippines Dr. Leslie Michelle M. Dalmacio, OYS 2012 Professor, College of Medicine University of the Philippines Manila Rapporteur
3:05 – 3:15	Closing Remarks	Academician Carmencita D. Padilla Member and Focal Person on Substance Use, NAST Philippines Chancellor, University of the Philippines Manila

Provisional Program as of May 27, 2021

NAST PHL, ACDP, UP Manila to hold National Substance Use Science Policy and Information Forum

On June 15, 2021, the National Academy of Science and Technology, Philippines (NAST PHL) will partner with the Asian Center for Drug Policy (ACDP) and the University of the Philippines Manila in hosting the very first **National Substance Use Science Policy and Information Forum** with the theme **"Substance Use in the Philippines: Governance, Research, and Practice"**.

Substance use (and substance use disorder) is a complicated issue that should preferably be viewed from a public health perspective placing priority on the needs of the individual. Only a small proportion of PWUDs (persons who use drugs) develop a clinical dependence and this is also dependent on the type of substance. Furthermore, the varying motivations for drug use and its effect within a community requires careful consideration in order to develop informed policy. Despite the growing body of evidence supporting the efficacy of some interventions, there is still a lack of harmonized policy supporting these efforts.

The war on drugs also exposed critical institutional gaps and a need for policy reform. In 2016, after the launch of the drug war in the Philippines, stakeholders have begun acting independently or in small groups implementing their own programs or conducting research. However, the drug recovery journey -- prevention, identification, voluntary intake, treatment and management, and finally aftercare and reintegration -- requires coordination from multiple government agencies, civil society organizations, and other sectors. Also highlighted by the recent activities surrounding drugs is still a need for policy reform.

At the same time, new modalities of community-based rehabilitation programs are being implemented around the country. As a result of the multiple streams of independent activity, the ecosystem has become fragmented. While there have been clear moves to harmonize efforts in recent two years, a gap still exists in the harmonization of policies both in terms of time (new policies are created that are duplicative or in conflict with older ones) and structurally (between government agencies, and levels of government).

The collaborative national forum is organized to achieve the following objectives:

1. Present existing evidence in the Philippines on health-centered effective strategies and interventions on the prevention, treatment, and care for people affected by drug use and drug use disorders, employing human rights-based approaches;
2. Facilitate the discourse and agreement of the scientific community from different disciplines on a five-year research agenda; and,
3. **Present the scientific community's evidence-based policy recommendations to national and local policymakers through policy briefs.**

Prior of the main conference on June 15, the ACDP organized a series of **weekly pre-conference webinars** that focused on the following major topics/themes:

1. The Global and Local Situation on Substance Abuse: Identifying Key Issues – April 21
2. Public Health Dimensions of Substance Abuse – April 28
3. Support Systems for Persons Who Use Drugs – May 5
4. The Science of Substance Abuse – May 12
5. Public Health Policy and Interventions – May 19

Teams of experts from the various ACDP partners organized the five-part webinar series which facilitated the survey and review of literature and policy implications, identification of research gaps, and preparation of policy briefs.

The major highlights and recommendations for each topic area will then be presented in the national forum. Expected to attend the conference are more than 2000 participants representing the academe (faculty and students), public health advocates, health researchers, national government agencies, non-government organizations, professional organizations, and, significantly, national and local policy makers who may be guided and advised on crafting legislation and policy that is science and evidence based.

At the end of the national forum, a harmonized research agenda and policy framework on substance use is envisioned to be achieved.

ABOUT NAST PHL AND ACDP



National Academy of Science and Technology, Philippines

<https://www.nast.ph/>

NAST PHL is the symbol of the nation's commitment to science. The Academy serves as the country's highest advisory body to the government and the science community on matters related to science and technology. It is also mandated to recognize outstanding achievement in science and technology made by Filipino scientists in all fields of science. NAST PHL is an attached agency of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).



Asian Center for Drug Policy

<https://www1.acdp.asia/>

The ACDP is a consortium of universities, professional organizations and NGOs, that advocates for an evidence and science-based approach to drug treatment, rehabilitation and drug policy.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For inquiries, please contact:

DR. ELMER SORIANO

Designated Spokesperson

Co-convenor, Asian Center for Drug Policy

Managing Director, Civika Asian Development Academy

elmer.soriano@civika.com

MS. WINA PUANGCO

Secretariat and Program Associate for Consortium Strengthening

secretariat@acdps.asia