



*1957 - 2017, 60 Years of Diplomatic Relations.*  
**PHILIPPINES.**

## **Universal Health Coverage and Access to Quality Healthcare: Aspirations in the Philippines and Switzerland"**

Organized by the Embassy of Switzerland in the Philippines and the Asian Development Bank  
20 March 2017  
9:00 to 12:30

**Asian Development Bank Auditorium A and B**

As the Philippines (and other ADB DMCs) pursue universal health coverage (UHC) and grow more economically robust, they are facing new health system challenges from aging and increasing prevalence of non-communicable diseases; increasing demand for quality health care services and strained supply of health care providers; system inefficiencies and financial resource constraints; and increasing mobility of health care providers and increasing costs of new health technologies.

The Philippine health care system, similar with other Asian DMC health care systems, is evolving to respond to these challenges by shifting national government focus to health purchasing rather than service provision, earmarking funds to health from sin taxes, increased harnessing of the private sector, digital health innovations, and other interventions. Innovations and interventions that will be improved and enhanced with learnings and lessons from the experiences of countries that have achieved and sustained universal health coverage for their people.

It has been globally acknowledged that Switzerland has one of the outstanding health care systems in the world. A system informed by democratic consultations and social solidarity. A health care delivery system integrated from primary care to specialized hospital care.

However, despite its unique characteristics and a total health spending per capita that is far higher than the Philippines, it is a health system that can inform the Philippines and other Asian DMCs who are pursuing UHC and addressing new health system challenges. There are elements in how Switzerland has designed and implemented its health system that can be applied immediately to inform ongoing reform efforts. There are also best practices that can be looked upon as aspirational benchmarks which can trigger and drive transformational reforms.

Elements of the Swiss health system that can be studied and discussed in depth is its insistence on quality at all level of care; its sustained investment in research and development to continuously come out with new and disruptive innovations; and its harnessing of the private sector to ensure UHC. The forum will intensively discuss these elements. In addition, the Swiss health system is a highly decentralized system and ongoing work in the Philippines in strengthening local government delivery of health care services will also be tackled.

In the end, the forum will present and discuss innovative Swiss and Philippine health policies and programs and explore how these innovations would inform and help enable the universal health coverage efforts and the strengthening of local government health care systems of the Philippines, and similarly guide the UHC efforts on other ADB developing member countries (DMCs).

### Agenda

8:45-9:00	Registration
9:00-9:15	<p><b>Welcome Remarks</b>  <b>H.E. Andrea Reichlin</b>  Ambassador and Head of Mission  Embassy of Switzerland in the Philippines, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, and Palau</p> <p><b>Overview and Rationale</b>  <b>Eduardo Banzon</b>  Principal Health Specialist  Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department  Asian Development Bank</p>
9:15-9:45	<p><b>Swiss Health System: Lessons and Learnings for the Philippines</b>  <b>Kaspar Wyss</b>  Professor and Head of Department  Swiss Centre for International Health</p>
9:45-10:15	<p><b>Investing in Local Government Accountability and Performance for Universal Health Coverage</b>  <b>Ernesto Garilao</b>  President  Zuellig Family Foundation</p>
10:15-10:35	Open Forum
10:35-10:55	Networking Break
10:55-11:25	<p><b>Investing in Research &amp; Development for Universal Health Coverage</b>  <b>Juergen Brokatzky-Geiger</b>  Global Head of Corporate Responsibility  Novartis</p>
11:25-11:55	<p><b>Harnessing Research &amp; Development for Universal Health Coverage</b>  <b>Louise Abbott</b>  APAC Regional Health Policy Lead  Roche</p>
11:55-12:15	Open Forum
12:15-12:30	<b>Summary and Next Steps</b>
12:30	Lunch at Oakwood Premier Joy-Nostalg Center Manila (Hotel is located across ADB)