



Manila Declaration: **Universities as Centers of Health & Wellness**

We, participants of the 2nd International Health Promotion Conference, organized by the ASEAN University Network Health Promotion Network (AUN-HPN) and hosted by the University of the Philippines, declare:

Globalization, as a major phenomenon witnessed by and impacting on the world's population, has significantly affected the state of global health. The rapid advancements in science, digital technology and transportation have altered human behaviors and relationships, natural and social environments, and politics and governance, resulting in the rise of non-communicable, lifestyle and chronic diseases, injuries, mental health issues and climate change. The existence of borderless economies causing increased movement of peoples, goods and services has also contributed to the spread of infectious diseases like - HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and emerging infectious diseases, and antimicrobial drug resistance.¹

Global health's changing landscape has taken center stage as a priority concern of the community of nations like the ASEAN, and as a goal and indicator of sustainable development, the state of global health requires collaboration, coordination, and collective actions of States and non-state actors, parties, and organizations. It has called for the development of innovative approaches, methods and technologies to effectively address the various health conditions, risks and challenges. The AUN-HPN has formulated the Healthy University Framework to address these concerns for our society using the 22 principal determinants of a Healthy University.

As centers of learning, research and service, universities play a crucial and strategic role in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases. Universities can also serve as hubs for health promotion, health literacy and culture, adoption of healthy lifestyles, and creation of safe and healthy teaching and learning environments.

1 De Cock, Kevin M., Simone, Patricia M., Davison, Veronica, and Slutsky, Laurence. The New Global Health.
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3739536/pdf/13-0121.pdf>



Healthy universities contribute significantly to the generation, dissemination and utilization of knowledge, valuable skills and creative technologies dictated by their mandates, and determined by their role in translating knowledge and resources to relevant policies, programs, curricula, mechanisms and structures. Consequently, these are expected to lead to better health outcomes for students, faculty, staff and the general population. We, the member universities declare support and commitment to the implementation of the AUN-HPN Healthy University Framework to contribute to human development and healthy societies of the future.

Universities have the capacity to develop among its constituents and the general public a broader and deeper understanding and appreciation of the dialectics of health, society and the environment, emphasizing the role of transdisciplinary, multisectoral and collective actions in the promotion of health and well-being.

Universities possess the resources, tools and technologies to support the delivery of essential public health programs and services that will contribute to improved health awareness, attitudes, skills, and lifestyles, leading to the molding of peoples and communities with sound minds, bodies and spirits.

Even as the university is composed of experts from varying disciplines, we recognize and commit to our task and obligation of creating nurturing, healthy and safe universities and environments necessary for the promotion of the health and wellness of our constituents and the general population.

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