THE BIRTH OF A NATIONAL NETWORK IN THE PHILIPPINES FOR INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION (IPE) AND COLLABORATION

Results from an inter-university collaboration and implementation of IPE mechanisms

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The Philippine Interprofessional Education and Collaboration (PHIPEC) Conference 2018 is the first-ever national conference held in the Philippines on Interprofessional Education and Collaboration (IPEC). It was initiated through an inter-university partnership between Angeles University Foundation and the University of Santo Tomas to facilitate a uniform understanding of IPEC across higher education institutions and health facilities as well as instigate IPEC trainings, research, and curriculum development towards improving health outcomes for the Filipino population.

We applied the IPE educator and curricular mechanisms proposed by the World Health Organization (2010) and modified them to befit our intended purpose, which is to create a national network on IPEC for the Philippines. Our approach is visually presented in the images below with descriptions; each image represents a step.

**BACKGROUND**

**APPROACH**

**MARCH 2018**

Step 1: Identified champions of IPEC with formal IPE training to form the steering committee.

**APRIL 2018**

Step 2: Secured institutional support from the two universities who will be co-hosting the event.

**MAY-JULY 2018**

Step 3: Communication strategies were employed: (a) video conferencing, (b) structured and unstructured meetings (face-to-face), (c) online recruitment of conference volunteers.

**OUTCOMES**

Last August 11-12, 2018, the two-day PHIPEC Conference 2018 successfully gathered over 80 participants (local and foreign) from more than 10 health and social care professions. Furthermore, this initiative has also gathered more than 500 members in our official Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/phipecnet/) and 161 subscribers in our mailing list. The event was featured in two local newspapers and in the Centre for the Advancement of Interprofessional Education (CAIPE) newsletter. We also organized a post-conference workshop where we gathered prospective IPEC champions from different Philippine institutions and discussed future plans including the establishment of a formal organization.

**FUTURE PLANS**

The positive turn-out of the PHIPEC Conference 2018 and the outputs in the post-conference led the steering committee to co-create the PHIPEC Network (see Figures 1 & 2). This informal network has been agreed upon to serve as the entity that will represent Filipino health and social care professionals who advocate for IPEC initiatives in the Philippines and in the Interprofessional Global Confederation. In 2019, we will bring PHIPEC Network activities in the Visayas and Mindanao regions (Central and South Philippines) and in 2020, we aim to hold the 2nd PHIPEC Conference.

**PHIPEC NETWORK**

Philippine Interprofessional Education and Collaboration Network

**Figure 1. Official logo of the PHIPEC Network**

**Figure 2. 1st PHIPEC Conference 2018 Delegates from 10 professions**

**COLLABORATE WITH US**

https://www.phipec2018.com/

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