

ELLA CECILIA GAMOLO-NALIPONGUIT, MD



Physician
 Director III, Bureau of Learner Support Services (BLSS), Department of Education
 Board Member, Philippine Indigenous and Traditional and Alternative Health Care
 Board Member, South East Asian Ministry of Education Organization, Regional
 Center for Food and Nutrition (SEAMEO RECFON)
 Research Fellow, Southeast Asia Ministry of Education Innovations in Teaching
 (SEAMEO INNOTECH)

Presentation Date: Thursday 10 May 2018 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Venue SMX CONVENTION CENTER MANILA Meeting Room 7, 8 & 9

Presentation Title: Rethinking Oral Health Promotion in Schools - Innovative Concepts and Evidence from the Asia-Pacific Region

Dental caries is the most common disease around the world, particularly in children. Oral health promotion has been part of school health programmes in many countries, though oftentimes not reaching significant coverage and lacking evidence-based interventions or rigorous impact evaluations. Existing conceptual frameworks to implement school oral health interventions often depend on health professionals delivering interventions focusing largely on health education and screening. The renewed international momentum for integrated school health programmes has put new emphasis on the intersectoral nature of school health under the leadership of the education sector.

Session objectives

The session consists of two parts, both aiming to highlight innovative concepts for school oral health, current evidence, as well as implementation experience from the Asia-Pacific region:

1. Building on recommendations published by the World Bank in the context of the third edition of its *Disease Control Priorities* publication (November 2017) the Fit for School concept will be presented. The program currently reaches about 3 million children in the Asia-Pacific region and combines oral health interventions with improvements in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in schools;
2. Results of a multi-country study evaluating the Fit for School program and its oral health impact in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR and the Philippines will be discussed.