CURRENT POPULATION-BASED CANCER REGISTRATION IN THE PHILIPPINES (2013)

BACKGROUNDS: There was no organized national population-based cancer registration system in the Philippines until late 2011 when the Department of Health requested the assistance of the Philippine Cancer Society.

METHODS: An Organizational/Training Workshop was held in Manila on December 2011 and a consensus was reached among 5 existing registries to adopt common methods of active registration that conform to IARC/IACR recommendations. All 5 Registries will limit the items of information to be obtained to those that are essential for calculating incidence, for period 2003-2007. Case finding sites and steps were limited to high-yield ones, and low-yield, time consuming ones discontinued.

RESULTS: Only 3 registries had finished 2003-2007 incidence data. Both the Manila and Rizal registries were accepted for publication in IARC Cancer Incidence in Five Continents Volume X. The Cebu registry was not able to make it to the deadline for inclusion in CIFC X, but their 2003-2007 data base is finished and may be included in future GLOBOCAN and other IARC/ACR publications.

Conclusions and Recommendations: The 2003-2007 incidence data reported by the three Philippine population-based registries seem to be consistent with the Age-standardized Rates (ASRs) reported by the same registries for 1998-2002, and the previously published 1980-2002 trends using joinpoint regression analysis. These, together with published local cancer survival studies, are more than sufficient for government to formulate a local Cancer Action Plan for these 3 catchment areas. Healthcare had been, by law, devolved to Local Government Units (LGUs), so that future population-based cancer registries ought to be started in areas (cities/provinces/regions) wherein a local Cancer Action Plan is to be implemented.