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<http://tinyurl.com/aawup9p>

Language and Cultural Differences: Roadblocks to Quality Healthcare for Asian Migrants in Europe

“Linguistic barrier and varying cultural perceptions are the most serious obstacles to quality public health service provision for Asian migrants in Europe. This is the major case for Chinese and Philippine migrants in Spain and Italy,” said Dr Trinidad Osteria, President of Yuchengco Center at De La Salle University in the Philippines.

Dr Osteria was one of the keynote speakers at the Public Briefing “Facing the Public Health Challenges: Southeast Asian Migrants in Europe” on 28 November 2012 in Makati City, The Philippines. The briefing was organised by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) and the Yuchengco Center. Mr Junichi Nitta, Second Secretary of the Embassy of Japan in the Philippines, was the guest of honour for the event.

During the briefing, a Summary of the Research Report on “The Health Dimension of Southeast Asian Migration to Europe” was launched by the ASEF Public Health Network. The sharing from Dr Osteria was one of the findings of this research, which was undertaken by the Yuchengco Center in the Philippines and the Fondazione ISMU in Italy.

The other keynote speaker during the Makati Briefing was Dr Daniela Carrillo, Researcher of Health and Welfare Sector at Fondazione ISMU in Italy. She highlighted: “Even though linguistic and cultural mediation is available within the health service in Italy, it is available only in facilities devoted to maternal and child health. Elsewhere, a healthcare provider in case of necessity can use the mediation service, but most of the time the service is delivered at an inopportune moment and the result is ineffective.”

The sharing of research findings by Dr Osteria and Dr Carrillo was followed by a panel discussion moderated by Dr Maruja M.B. Asis, Director of Research and Publications, Scalabrini Migration Center, The Philippines. Attendees at the event took part actively during the discussion sessions.

Since 2011, ASEF, with the funding support from the Government of Japan, has worked on migrant health issues by supporting joint research and a series of research exchange workshops. This led to in-depth research and data that can provide evidence for migrants’ vulnerabilities.

For more information please visit <http://tinyurl.com/aawup9p>

Summary of Research Report enclosed.

ABOUT THE ORGANISERS



The **Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)** promotes greater mutual understanding between Asia and Europe through intellectual, cultural and people-to-people exchanges. Through ASEF, civil society concerns are included as a vital component of deliberations of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), which currently comprises 49 member states plus the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat (www.aseminfoboard.org). ASEF was established in February 1997 by the participating governments of ASEM and has since engaged over 17,000 direct participants through more than 600 projects in the realms of governance and human rights, economy and society, sustainable development and environment, public health, arts and culture and academic co-operation and education. In 2012, ASEF is commemorating its 15th Anniversary and invites everyone to take part in celebrating 'Connected Histories, Shared Future'.

For more information, please visit: www.asef.org



The **Yuchengco Center** of De La Salle University in the Philippines has for its mission the contribution to public knowledge and awareness on political, economic and social policy concerns in the Philippines and the Asian region; and the enhancement of its roles as a think tank where research results are regularly transmitted to the end users for evidence-based legislation, policy-making and programming. Therefore, its activities include: research; conference and seminar organization; publication; program and project evaluation; and capacity-building of educators, planners and policymakers in four thematic areas of globalization; regional security and foreign relations; governance and democratization; and human security, particularly health and education. Through the years, it has undertaken studies on Philippine-Japan relations, international migration, regional economic integration, aging, health, gender issues, climate change, poverty alleviation, social policy, governance, regional cooperation, political economy, corruption, transnational crimes, agriculture, and free trade agreements.