

NARRATIVE REPORT OF GAD ACTIVITIES 2023

1. 2023 National Women's Month Celebration

A. Women's Health Seminar – March 22, 2023

B. Breast Exam Screening – April 3, 2023

For 2023, the PCW launches a new recurring theme for the celebration: WE for gender equality and inclusive society, along with the official hashtag #WEcanbeEquAll. The 2023-2028 theme is both a positive affirmation and a call to action. It is a testament to the milestones achieved in closing gender gaps in the country and in gathering more support to the advocacy.

Notably, the Philippines remains the best-performing country in Asia in terms of gender parity, according to the 2022 Global Gender Gap Report of the World Economic Forum. In a scale of 0 to 1, where 1 represents optimal gender parity, the country scored 0.783, a slight slip from the 2022 score of 0.784. This means that the Philippines still has a 21.7% gender gap to close. While the Report shows that the country dropped from the 17th to 19th spot in the general ranking out of 146 countries, the Philippines is still at the second place in the whole of East Asia and the Pacific, next to New Zealand (PCW official website, 2024).

Moreover, the country is still leading among its Asia counterparts, being the only Asian country in the top twenty, with Singapore and Lao PDR ranking 49th and 53rd, respectively. Hence, the campaign shows the urgency to strengthen efforts toward gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE).

In line with this, PNRI celebrates National Women's Month by raising awareness of various health issues among women. On March 22, 2023, the Institute held a seminar with gynecologists and experts who discussed infectious diseases prevention, pregnancy, and family planning, among others. As a related activity, PNRI also held on April 3, 2023, a free breast examination at the PNRI clinic through Dra. Macel Pagdanganan of St. Luke's Medical Center.

Leading these activities is the PNRI Gender and Development Committee as part of the celebration of National Women's Month 2023. A total of 73 attendees have participated in the seminar.

Photo Documentation:





2. Establishment of PNRI Lactation Room

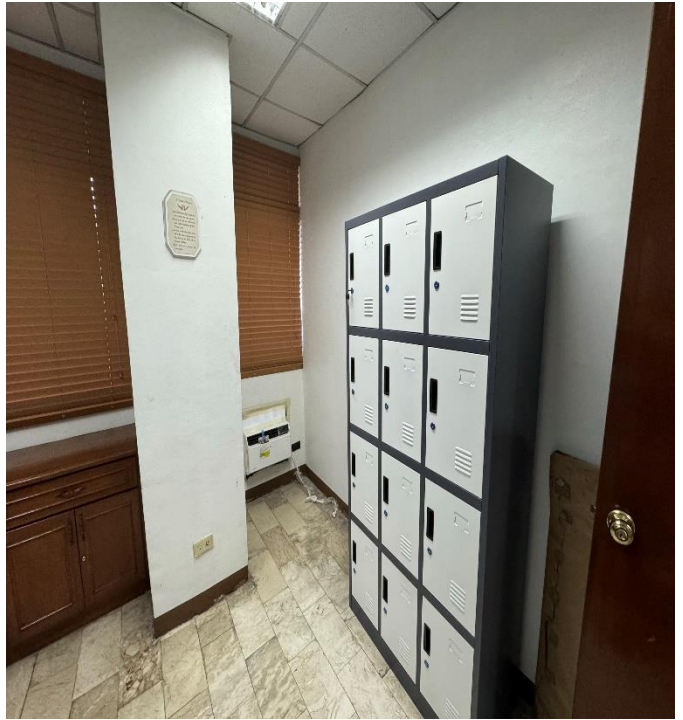
PNRI supports new parents in fulfilling additional duties and care responsibilities, ensuring the wellbeing of not only PNRI personnel but also their infants. In this regard, breastfeeding has been found to be a key factor of healthy early childhood development (UN Women, 2024). As per the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF recommendations, nurturing infants exclusively by breastfeeding ensures secure bonding and attachment between a mother and their newborn, an important foundation for healthy life (UN Women, 2024).

The establishment of a lactation room at PNRI has been a commitment of GAD committee to support working mothers at the institute and to provide them a safe and comfortable space during their lactation period. The project was completed in 2023 and will be officially launched on March 12, 2024 in time for Women's Month celebration. The lactation room will be open not only to PNRI employees but also to visitors and guests. Logbook will be available at the lactation room to record the number of services delivered by the lactation room.

Promoting a better professional and personal like integration through ensured access to safe and user-friendly lactation room is indispensable for the working women at PNRI. GAD committee is dedicated to continuously enhance the lactation room for the benefit of employees and visiting public.

Photo Documentation:





3. Prostate Health Awareness Seminar with Free Ultrasound Screening of Kidneys and Prostate – June 8, 2023

In promoting gender fairness and equality, the GAD committee also implemented an activity for the reproductive health and well-being of PNRI male employees. To do so, an invited urologist served as a resource person in the Prostate Health Awareness Seminar with a free ultrasound screening for the male attendees. The activity did not only serve the PNRI male employees but also it was opened for the male relatives of employees. A total of 67 male employees at PNRI have attended the seminar and have undergone the free screening.

Prostate cancer is ranked as the second most frequent and the fifth-leading cause of cancer death in the male population. Globally, in 2018 alone, an estimated 1.3 million new cases and 359,000 prostate cancer-associated deaths were recorded (Assefa et al., 2022). Prostate cancer is a common cause of morbidity and mortality among men aged 40 years and older. Evidence has shown that awareness of prostate cancer plays a greater role in the early detection of prostate cancer (Assefa et al., 2022).

As such, health of men is also a priority of the GAD committee especially that they also play a vital role in fulfilling the mandate of the institute.

Photo Documentation:





4. GAD Focal Point Assembly – October 18-20, 2023

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) successfully conducted the DOST GAD Focal Point Assembly on October 18-20, 2023 at the Isabela Convention Center in Cauayan City, Isabela with the theme “Women Empowerment GAD Encounter of Resources for Innovation (WE GADER for Innovation).

Under PCW MC 2011-01, the Gender and Development Focal Point System (GFPS) is expected to coordinate the Gender and Development (GAD) efforts of the offices and units within the agency or LGU and advocate for the integration of GAD perspectives in all systems and processes. The GFPS is also responsible for strengthening external links with other organizations working on GAD to synchronize efforts at all levels of governance. It also promotes the participation of women and gender advocates, other civil society groups and private organizations in the various stages of the development and planning process.

For 2023, Mr. Daniel Del Rosario, GAD committee member has attended the GAD Assembly in Isabela. The GAD committee members will be attending the assembly alternately to further engage the members in the policies and programs of GAD.

Photo Documentation:





5. GAD Forum on Interdisciplinarity and Inclusivity in Science and Innovation – December 7, 2023

Gender and development topics, challenges and issues often remain to be on the sidelines of progress and are yet to be explored. Commonly, the public cognition on gender and development is about women, their domestic issues and their empowerment tools. But delving into the gender and development as a topic, it's a representation of nuances, it's a framework on how the sidelines can be mainstreamed and ultimately, a symbol on how we strive to hold on to the promise of inclusivity.

The forum was an attempt to mainstream the topics of gender and development into the mainstream science and could hopefully provide a framework for the various fields of nuclear science and technology.

The topics that were discussed during the forum are: 1) Mainstreaming gender in small scale mining industry, and 2) Mainstreaming gender on disaster preparedness. The forum was attended by 74 PNRI employees and had a livestream via PNRI facebook. This was organized for the 51st Atomic Energy Week.

Photo Documentation:





6. 2023 Observance of the 18-day Campaign to End Violence Against Women (VAW) Activity

Seminar: Why Won't She Just Leave? A Primer on Domestic Abuse – December 12, 2023

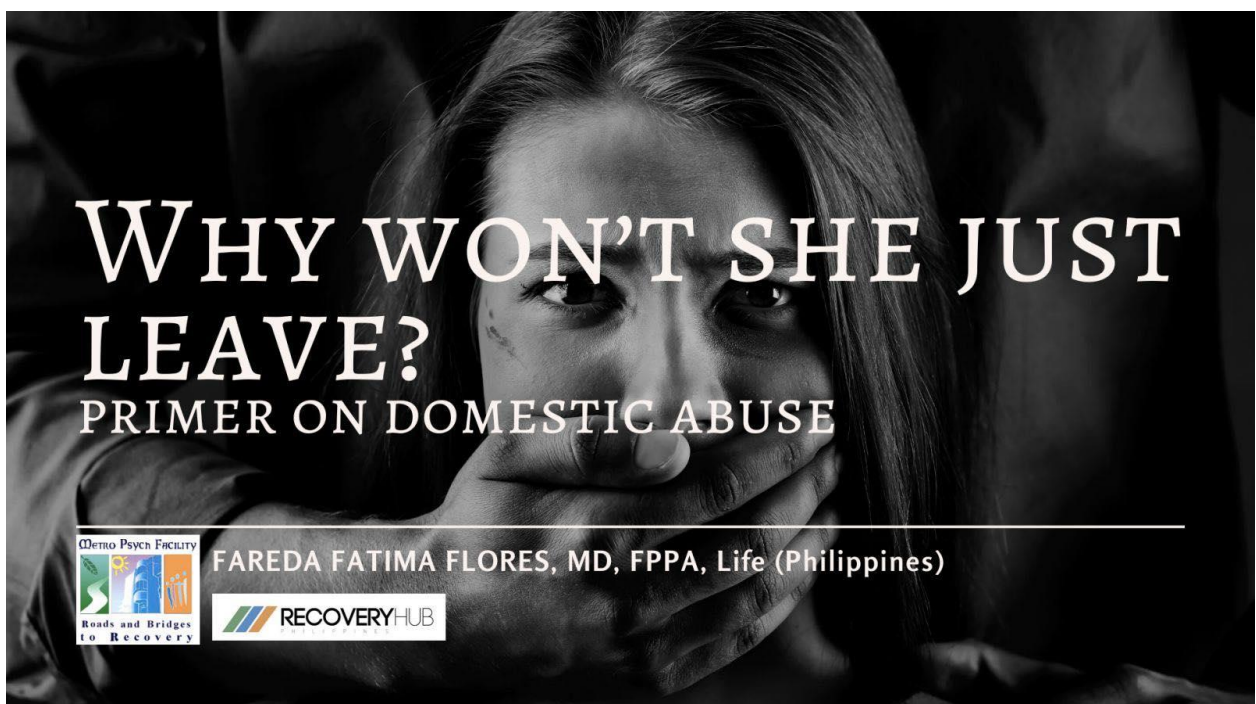
Despite significant and continuing efforts of the government in bridging the gender gap, violence against women (VAW) is still pervasive and entrenched in Philippine society. The 2022 National Demographic Health Survey (NDHS) released by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) showed that 1 in 5 women (18%) aged 15-49 had experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence from their husband or intimate partner. Globally, about 1 in 3 women (30%) had experienced either physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner or non-partner in their lifetime as indicated by estimates published by the World Health Organization (WHO) (PCW official website, 2024)

In addition to being an offshoot of gender bias and a severe violation of women's rights and fundamental freedoms, VAW is considered a major public health problem as it:

- affects a woman's attitudes, behaviors, and sense of self;
- limits her potential, growth, and personal development;
- jeopardizes her health, safety, and welfare; and
- impacts not only her family but even her community.

Hence, united efforts are highly needed to address, prevent, and eventually stop VAW worldwide. To support this campaign, PNRI conducted a seminar on December 12, 2023 entitled: Why Won't She Just Leave? A Primer on Domestic Abuse which was attended by both women and men of the institute to discuss about domestic abuse, its prevention and approaches on coping mechanisms. A total of 59 attendees have participated in the seminar.

Photo Documentation







This narrative report on gender and development includes the activities implemented directly by GAD committee for 2023.

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