2\textsuperscript{nd} Multipartite Regional Meeting on the Financial Security of Older Women in East and Southeast Asia 2016

October 10-11, 2016
Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel, Singapore
Introduction
The National Council of Women of the Philippines
Uniting Women through Empowerment
The National Council of Women of the Philippines (NCWP) is the umbrella organization of all women’s organization in the country. It supports the Philippine Commission of Women (PCW) by implementing policies and programs in promoting gender equality and women’s welfare.
Mission

To develop the capabilities of women’s NGO and consolidate their efforts and involvement towards the promotion of the well being of its constituents, communities and families.
1. To guide and support its members on cooperative planning, social mobilization and consciousness raising endeavors.
2. To promote and strengthen women’s leadership status, thereby enhancing regional (e.g. APEC, ACWO) and international (UN ECOSOC etc.) networking and linkages
3. To encourage unified action towards addressing the problems and issues affecting women, and their communities, as well as the nation.
Women's Health
The YWCA of the Philippines, specifically embarked into a two year project entitled “Empowering and Engendering Young Women to Promote SRHR Awareness and Prevent STI/HIV-AIDS Among the Youth”. Affiliate organization were invited to participate in some of the project activities like the Inter-Faith Conference held last October 5, 2015.
Medicines and medical supplies distributions have been undertaken by various affiliates like WRMP, YWCA etc. in partnership with the 3000 Club of the Philippines.
Education Program
• Book distribution in partnership with the Second Wind Foundation
Older Person in the Philippines
In the data provided to us by the Coalition of Senior Citizens (COSE) during the in-country meeting held in 2015, the need to address the concerns of older person particularly financial literacy and preparing for retirement is an important steps:
2010 Population

- Senior Citizen: 7%
- Non-Senior Citizen: 93%
Men: 43%
Women: 57%

Senior Citizen

Men: 43%
Women: 57%
The projection according to the National Statistics Office is it will grow to 11.5% of the total population by year 2030. A lot of factors may contribute to the increase. However, there is a need for increased programs and projects that would cater to their needs.
The need for care and support.
Like other countries in Asia i.e Japan, Singapore—an increase in the population of older person likewise increase the need for health services. They suffer from both degenerative and communicable diseases requiring specific attention and care. This affects the family members whom the older person rely for support (material, physical and financial).
In the Philippines, not much Elderly homes were established. Government run elderly homes caters to abandoned and neglected older person while private care homes charges large fees. Often times for average or middle class families they would end up sacrificing one member to take care of their aging parent or look for a relative who can do the work.
Poor Individuals Nationwide
Data as of July 1, 2011

- Indigent Senior Citizens: 4%
- Other: 96%
Listahanan – or the National Household Targeting System for poverty reduction is the national database developed by DSWD which identified who and where the poor are to effectively reach the intended recipient of social protection programs including indigent senior citizens.
Older People who are Employed in 2000

- Men: Employed in 2000
- Women: Employed in 2000
National Policy on Older People
Republic Act No. 344
The Accessibility Law of 1982

provides for the minimum requirements and standards to make buildings, facilities, and utilities for public use accessible to persons with disability, including older persons who are confined to wheelchairs and those who have difficulty in walking or climbing stairs, among others.
Republic Act No. 7876

“An Act Establishing a Senior Citizens Center in all Cities and Municipalities of the Philippines, and Appropriating Funds Therefore”

provides for the establishment of Senior Citizens Centers to cater to older persons’ socialisation and interaction needs as well as to serve as a venue for the conduct of other meaningful activities.
Republic Act No. 8425 provides for the institutionalization and enhancement of the social reform agenda by creating the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC). Through its multidimensional and cross-sectoral approach, NAPC provides a mechanism for older persons to participate in policy formulation and decision-making on matters concerning poverty alleviation.
under Section 28 mandates that all government agencies and instrumentalities should allocate one percent of their total agency budget to programs and projects for older persons and persons with disabilities.
Republic Act No. 9994

“Expanded Seniors Citizen Act of 2010”

an act granting additional benefits and privileges to senior citizens, further amending Republic Act No. 7432 and otherwise known as “an act to maximize the contribution of senior citizens to nation building, grant benefits and special privileges and for other purposes”.
Presidential Proclamations and Executive Orders
Presidential Proclamation No. 470
Series of 1994

declaring the first week of October of every year as “Elderly Filipino Week.”
Presidential Proclamation No. 1048
Series of 1999

declaring a “Nationwide Observance in the Philippines of the International Year of Older Persons”.
approved and directed the implementation of the program providing for group homes and foster homes for neglected, abandoned, abused, detached, and poor older persons and persons with disabilities.
The Philippine Plan of Action for Senior Citizens (2011-2016)
This plan aims to ensure giving priority to community-based approaches which are gender-responsive, with effective leadership and meaningful participation of senior citizens in decision-making processes, both in the context of family and community.
This plan of action aims to ensure active aging for senior citizens where preventive and promotive aspects of health are emphasised in communities and where health services are accessible, affordable and available at all times.
Envisioning a population of senior citizens who are self-sufficient and self-reliant, this plan aims to promote financial security and financial independence of senior citizens by developing community-based local delivery systems to address their needs.
The Department of Social Welfare Development (DSWD) has issued Administrative Order No. 4 series of 2010, “Guidelines on the Home Care Support Services for Senior Citizens”, establishing community based health care services for older persons.
The RA 9994 provides health care services for poor older persons such as free medical services on government hospitals, discounted services on private hospitals and clinics, free vaccines, discounted medicines, and mandatory PhilHealth coverage.
Under the RA 9994, the Philippine Government provides a social pension of 12USD (Php500) per month to poor older persons aged 77 and over who are not yet receiving any government or private pension. The Department of Social Welfare and Development is the lead agency tasked with identifying and reviewing social pension beneficiaries.
In-Country Meeting
Philippine Experience
On January 15, 2015, Tsao Foundation—a Singapore based organization and the Citi Foundation collaborated and held the First Multipartite Regional Meeting on the Financial Security of Older Women in East and Southeast Asia.
In East and Southeast Asia there is a growing concern on its aging population especially among women who have the more high life expectancy rate than their men counterpart. And this includes the Philippines.
The meeting was an exchange of various information, studies and programs implemented by countries who participated which paved the way for us in NCWP to think about this sector of our society and how we could come up with programs for them.
• Conference on Financial Security of Older Person, June 16, 2015
Among Government agencies tapped were:

- Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP)
- Government Services Insurance System (GSIS)
- Social Security System (SSS)
- Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)
- Peso Sense
- Commission on Filipino Overseas
They discussed their organizations programs in promoting financial security in old age as well as programs that alleviate the lives of older persons as well as working people in general.
In general, working individuals have financial fall back in old age. For people working in the private sector and has the required number of years of contribution are entitled to retirement benefits under the SSS. It’s government counterpart is the GSIS. There are private companies who offer pension plans which an individual may get as needed (i.e. Sunlife Assurance, AIG etc.)
Under SSS and GSIS, men and women received similar benefits under the system.

SSS has recently include house-helpers to provide benefits to this group of workers for protection and financial security in old age. Housewives as well were allowed to become member on a voluntary basis.
2. The Philippines does not guarantee financial security in old-age to those who are in the informal sectors like vendors etc. Financial literacy is weak especially among the poor sectors of the society leading to no investment for old age.
3. There is a lack of institutional mechanisms that provides financial education for retirement for women to prepare them for retirement. Many financial institutions programs are directed towards men who generally decides for the family as far as investments are concerned. In most cases women are discouraged from working outside of home thus depends largely on financial sustenance from their husbands.
4. Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (Central Bank of the Philippines) and the Commission on Filipino Overseas existing financial literacy program cater to overseas Filipino workers.
5. Government specifically the Department of Social Welfare and Development has programs that caters to older persons needs regardless of status and living condition. DSWD is one of the implementing agencies for the Expanded Senior Citizen Act that provides tax relief and discounts to senior citizens.
Recommendations:

1. GO-NGO collaboration in educating women on preparing for retirement and security in old-age with specific concern on the non-working sectors of women – housewives, women with disability

2. Increased awareness on women’s participation in decision making specifically in access to investment opportunities etc.

3. Financial education/literacy should be started at young age inculcating in young boys and girls to be financially secure.
Youth Financial Literacy
Through the different affiliates, NCWP has included financial literacy of older persons as one of its key priority in the next biennium. Last January 11-16, 2016 the YWCA of the Philippines, one of the institutional director of NCWP actively participated in the Youth Financial Literacy Camp held in Seoul, Korea organized by the YWCA of Korea and Citibank.
Financial Literacy Camp
January 11-15, 2016
Seoul, Korea
Learnings from this camp will be included in the preparation of a Financial Literacy Training Modules which the YWCA will use to equip youth member in primary and secondary level thus inculcating in them the value of savings and preparing for retirement.

Once completed, these modules will be used in the different Local Associations of YWCA.
Health and Wellness for Older Person
National Council of Women of the Philippines (NCWP), Inc. in celebration of its 76th Founding Anniversary with the theme

NCWP @ 70: Onward to Women Empowerment and Gender Equality

in cooperation with Barangay Roxas District

“Alay kay Lolo, Alay kay Lola”

A wellness and financial literacy forum for the benefit of the Senior Citizen

Friday, September 30, 2016 /1:00 P.M.
Covered Court, Barangay Roxas District
In celebration of its year-long founding anniversary NCWP in partnership with the Women’s Rights Movement of the Philippines held an afternoon wellness and financial literacy forum last September 30, 2016 for the benefit of the senior citizens of Quezon City. Dubbed as “Alay Kay Lolo, Alay Kay Lola”.

The afternoon was highlighted with the topic on Osteoporosis and financial forum given by Security Bank which teaches senior citizens the value of savings and investment.