Bridging the gap, Upgrading the technical Know-hows and leveraging research Outputs and its Dissemination within the Philippines and Germany (BUKLOD)

Project Report

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LMIC Partner: Research Institute for Tropical Medicine – Department of Health, Philippines

Countries: Philippines & Germany
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BUKLOD is a Filipino term that means “to bind the union” or “reinforce the existing fellowship” to achieve a long-lasting collaboration. BUKLOD is also part of the Filipino tradition of emphasizing the need to integrate and be inclusive of different perspectives within and outside the community for sustainable progress. In using this project moniker, we aim to emphasize our goal to ensure a deep, eye-level exchange of knowledge, skills and ideas between partners in the Global North and the Global South.

Our project completed three envisioned training components and one networking activity in the Philippines.

The Workshop on AI and Machine Learning led by Prof. Joachim Rocklov and Dr. Marina Treskova (50 participants: 49 early career researchers, 33 female participants, and 1 non-binary participant) took place on February 20-21, 2020, in Alabang.
A “networking activity” with the division heads, department heads and research unit representatives of RITM, led by Dr. Mark Rehosa, Prof. Joacim Rocklöv and Dr. Marina Treskova which was held on February 22, 2023 at the RITM Conference Room in Alabang (25 participants: 13 early career researchers, 16 female participants).

The Mixed Methods Research training, led by Dr. Shannon McMahon, Dr. Kate Bärnighausen, Dr. Mark Rehosa, Dr. Marianne Inobaya, Mr. Jonas Wachinger and Ms. Chona Daga, was held June 12-24, 2023, in Tagaytay (20 participants: 20 early career researchers, 14 female participants, and 2 non-binary participants).

The training on academic writing and results dissemination was held by Dr. Shannon McMahon, Dr. Kerry Scott, Dr. Mark Rehosa, and Mr. Jonas Wachinger from June 26-30, 2023, also in Tagaytay (21 participants: 21 early career researchers, 14 female participants, and 1 non-binary participant).
Three RITM early career researchers attended a two-week-long mentoring and shadowing program from October 2 to November 3, 2023, on Qualitative Research in Global Health. They led workshops for HIGH and GLOHRA members, doctoral and post-docs on graphic design, illustrations, and data communication with policymakers and stakeholders.

Two RITM early career researchers attended a 2-week practical hands-on experience with data science at HIGH from October 29 to November 11, 2023.

Overall, Project BUKLOD enhanced the current collaboration between RITM and HIGH and extended it to encompass more organizations beyond RITM and HIGH. (See Project Summary Video).

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