

**AIDE Memoire
The Philippine Candidate**

**for Regional Director for the World Health Organization – Western
Pacific Regional Office (WHO-WPRO)**

Dr. Susan Pineda Mercado MD, MPH

Ethical Leader | Visionary | Trust Builder



The Philippines is honored to nominate Dr. Susan Pineda Mercado, a distinguished medical doctor and public health expert with over 30 years of experience public health practice, policies, systems and field operations. Our candidate is a foremost authority in public health and has worked internationally and served the World Health Organization for 15 years from (2001-2017) and was Director for Noncommunicable Disease and Health through the Life Course, in the Western Pacific. Her diverse portfolio at WHO included maternal and child health, nutrition, mental health, violence and injury prevention, environmental health, tobacco control, urban health and healthy cities, healthy islands, health-promoting schools, health promotion, diet and physical activity and chronic disease prevention (diabetes, hypertension, cancer).

Dr. Mercado's unwavering commitment to public service, professionalism, integrity and strong work ethic have earned the respect and admiration of peers, colleagues, the medical community and governments at large. In 2018, she was designated as Special Envoy of the President for Global Health Initiatives, Office of the President by His Excellency Rodrigo Duterte and was nominated by the Philippines as the first Philippine female candidate for Regional Director of WHO, Western Pacific Region.

At the start of the COVID19 pandemic she was Strategic Adviser for COVID19 at the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Asia Pacific Region. In 2020, she was recruited as Director for Food Systems and Resiliency at the Hawai'i Public Health Institute – where she has developed expertise in food security in island settings. Recently, she was nominated to be regional advisory board member and co-chair for the British Medical Journal (BMJ) for Asia and the Pacific.

Dr Mercado has served in different senior level positions in the Philippine Government as:

- Co-Chair of the National Panel of Technical Experts, Climate Change Commission
- Board Member, Expert Panel of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation
- Undersecretary and Chief of Staff, Department of Health

She has received numerous awards including Distinguished Alumni in Global Health by the University of the Philippines in 2017. In 2018, she was recognized as one of the 100 most influential Filipina women in world in the category of Innovator and Thought Leader by the US-based Filipina Women's Network

Dr Mercado has degrees of A.B. Philosophy with a second major in psychology (*magna cum laude*), Doctor of Medicine and Master of Public Health from the University of the Philippines.

If elected, Dr. Mercado, will be the first woman WPRO Director-General and commits to dedicate her technical and management skills to help the organization address its current operational challenges and make it more efficient and dynamic. Her remarkable acts of multilateral public service and profound impact on the lives of others make her an ideal candidate.

The Philippines strongly believes that Dr. Mercado is the Philippines' finest choice to contribute, as WPRO Regional Director, in translating global health initiatives into regional plans that respond to the needs and challenges of countries in the region.