



**REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC
BUREAU RÉGIONAL DU PACIFIQUE OCCIDENTAL**

REGIONAL COMMITTEE

WPR/RC44/NGO/7

**Forty-fourth session
Manila
13-17 September 1993**

17 September 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Agenda item 25

**STATEMENT BY DR ROMEO V. FAJARDO
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE INTERNATIONAL
FEDERATION OF OPHTHALMOLOGICAL SOCIETIES**

In the name of our Federation may we thank you for inviting us in this important meeting in the Region.

We are very happy that WHO in recent years had taken active part in the blindness prevention programme in the Region. Because of the concerted efforts of the member countries the prevalence and major causes of blindness in the Region have been defined. National programme have now the imprimatur (even not priority) of the government.

In the Philippines, the significant steps in recent years are the following:

- (1) Department of Health Prevention of Blindness Master Plan of 1990. It primarily focused on the alleviation of the cataract backlog and Vitamin A deficiency blindness in children.
- (2) Department of Science and Technology Prevention of Blindness Action Plan of 1989. It is focusing on methods of fishing out eye patients, distributing eye service instead of eye doctors.
- (3) Philippine Board of Ophthalmology programme of modelling of appropriate eye residency training programme. At the moment there are five models.
- (4) Association of Philippine Ophthalmology Professors programme for undergraduate eye teaching. The following are being developed; relevant curriculum, standardized methodology and practical faculty development plan.

We look forward in the future that WHO will increase its support to the concentrated efforts of the Region's Member States in reducing avoidable and curable blindness to satisfactory levels by the year 2000.

Thank you very much.