



## UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES MANILA SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES

University of the Philippines  
Palo, Leyte

*Presidential Lingkod Bayan Awardee, 2008*  
*Group Category*



Mahatma Gandhi once said, "It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver". So believes this group awardee as it continues to produce world-class medical workers and ensure quality and accessible health care for the country.

The University of the Philippines-Manila School of Health Sciences (SHS) pioneered the use of ladderized education through its innovative step-ladder curriculum, created in the 1970s to address the prevailing brain drain and maldistribution of manpower in the medical profession. "When we started the program, there was great resistance in implementing it. But we persevered. We were willing to take a chance at doing something new," SHS Dean Jusie Lydia J. Siega-Sur said.

Using the step-ladder curriculum, students are trained to become a barangay health worker, midwife, nurse and doctor. Graduates are required to go on service leave and apply what they have learned in their communities before advancing to the next level of the program.

Since inception, the SHS has admitted and graduated more than 2,000 scholars who are now serving in depressed and remote areas, some of whom brave crossfire and dangerous terrain in the line of duty.

In the past five years, the group has maintained above average performance of its midwifery, nursing and medicine students in the National Licensure Examinations. Moreover, 100% of its midwifery and nursing alumni, and 99.6% of its doctors, have remained working in the country.

The SHS team offers no formula for doing a good job. Instead, Dean Siega-Sur has this to say, "Wherever you are, no matter how small the task given to you, make sure you do your best." •

