

PIDSP @ 20 squares off with HIV in Subic



By Marla Balao-Litam, MD

PIDSP celebrating its 20th year as of existence zeroed in on HIV as the topic for a 2-day symposium in Subic last May 19-20 2013. There were 2 excellent speakers. Dr Annie Ditangco, an HIV authority in the Philippines gave the HIV local experience: status, statistics and scenario for advocates. Issues on patient confidentiality and universal screening were adequately covered which covers the patients, doctors, nurses and students. She was glad to have PIDSP as an ally for to tackle the problems of HIV in children. Professor Usa Thisyakorn of Chulalongkorn University, President of The Thailand Pediatric Infectious Disease Society and International Society of Tropical Pediatrics talked on HIV management in children. She shared Thai success stories on advocacy concerns and breast-feeding issues encountered. Her advocacy breakthrough came in the form of an un-expected financial support from a relative after hearing Dr Usa talk on Thai HIV issues. In an unprecedented move, she also gave full support to the PIDSP HIV advocacy as she later donated her speaker's honorarium as seed money for PIDSP's HIV Advocacy.

Tackled also in this 2-day symposium was the final PIDSP strategic plan presented by incumbent President, Dr Betty Quiambao. Two new modules will also be cascades nationwide, Rational Antibiotics Use and Principles of Vaccinations. Watch out for this in the region where you practice.

