

Unmasking the Silent Epidemic: Addressing the Global Surge of Type 2 Diabetes

📅 2 April 2025 • 9:00-10:00am Manila Time

📍 Live on [Microsoft Teams](#) | Password: gU7BX3ud

Overview

Type 2 diabetes is a growing global health crisis, with alarming increases in prevalence across all regions. Despite extensive knowledge of its causes and treatments, health systems worldwide have struggled to effectively combat this non-communicable disease.

Mr. Abdo Yazbeck, former World Bank Lead Health Economist and now faculty at the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health, and **Dr. Melanie Santillan**, Senior Manager at PhilHealth, will delve into the systemic failures that have contributed to the rise of type 2 diabetes, along with perspectives on the Philippine experience. The discussion will include shortcomings in early detection, understanding lifestyle drivers, and policy missteps that inadvertently exacerbate the problem. Through a health systems lens, they will share actionable steps and strategies that can be implemented to slow the growth of this disease.

Join us on **2 April 2025**, from **9:00-10:00 AM (GMT+8)** via Teams to learn how multi-disciplinary approaches and strategic interventions can help turn the tide against type 2 diabetes and improve health outcomes globally.

Agenda

Welcome Remarks	• Eduardo Banzon, <i>ADB</i>
How Health Systems Worldwide Fail Type 2 Diabetics	• Abdo Yazbeck, <i>Johns Hopkins University</i>
Perspective from the Philippines	• Melanie Santillan, <i>PhilHealth</i>
Q and A	

Meet the Speakers



Abdo Yazbeck, *Johns Hopkins University*

He is a retired World Bank Lead Health Economist and Manager. An Associate Editor of Health Systems and Reform and faculty at the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health. Works as an independent consultant supporting USAID, World Bank, WHO, Global Fund, ADB.



Melanie Santillan, *PhilHealth*

She is a pharmacist and a licensed physician, board-certified in Pediatric Medicine. She has a background in clinical epidemiology and public management development. In the early 2000s, she joined the Quality Assurance Department of PhilHealth, where she focused on health technology assessment, clinical practice guidelines, standards development for quality improvement in healthcare, and projects that studied healthcare providers' practices and prescribing behaviors. With over 20 years of experience in the National Health Insurance Program, Mel has spearheaded the building block initiatives for developing and costing benefit packages for catastrophic conditions and negotiation and contracting processes. Currently, her work centers on health systems management focused on healthcare financing, leading efforts to expand PhilHealth's coverage for high-burden and catastrophic conditions to improve financial risk protection and achieve universal health coverage



Eduardo Banzon, *Asian Development Bank*

He is the Director of ADB's Human and Social Development Sectors Office who champions Universal Health Coverage and has long provided technical support to countries in Asia and the Pacific in their pursuit of this goal. Before joining ADB in 2014, he was President and CEO of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation, World Health Organization (WHO) regional adviser for health financing for the Eastern Mediterranean region and WHO health economist in Bangladesh, and World Bank senior health specialist for the East Asia and Pacific region. He was also a faculty member of the University of the Philippines' College of Medicine and Ateneo Graduate School of Business and was an honorary visiting associate professor at the National University of Singapore Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health.



How to Join

Scan the QR code or join the session live on [Teams](#).
Use the password: gU7BX3ud