ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS (EMF) AND ULTRAVIOLET (UV) REPORT FROM THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES for the World Health Organization’s (WHO) International Advisory Committee Meeting on Non-ionizing Radiation on 11-13 June 2024

1. General Research Activities regarding Electromagnetic Health (EMF)
   a. Research institutions, such as the University of Santo Tomas and the University of the Philippines continues to produce research in EMF exposure protection and safety across different fields (e.g., environmental, medical, and industrial)
   b. The Center for Device Regulation, Radiation Health, and Research of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA-CDRRHR) reviews and considers such research in aid of regulation and policymaking.

2. New Policies in relation to EMF exposure
   a. CDRRHR continues to actively participate in the national efforts to streamline regulations for the telecommunications sector. The 2021 Joint ARTA Memorandum Circular for Passive Telecommunications Infrastructure has been consolidated and adopted as Executive Order No. 32 s. 2023 entitled, Streamlining the Permitting Process for the Construction of Telecommunications and Internet Infrastructure. The FDA, through CDRRHR, is part of the Technical Working Group (TWG) which drafted the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the EO, which was signed on 25 September 2023 as the NTC-DICT-ARTA-OP-DILG-DPWH Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2023-01. Relevant provisions include:
      i. Inclusion of stakeholder engagement mechanisms for the construction of telecommunications infrastructure.
      ii. Formal designation of DOH-FDA as the assigned agency for dispute resolution on issues on health and safety risks relative to radiofrequency radiation emitting devices.
   b. The draft Rules and Regulations for Establishment and Operation of Medical Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Facilities in the Philippines has been open for public comments last July 18, 2023, and is estimated to be issued and implemented this year.

3. Areas of Public Concern and National Response
   a. Continued misinformation and widespread public anxiety in EMF exposure risks and hazards. This intensifies locally on areas where telecommunications projects are being rolled out. This also happens when news regarding new technology like 6G is announced or issued.
b. Availability of commercially produced, unreliable, and easily available “EMF Meters” has fed public anxiety towards EMF exposure. Public awareness activities must be exponentially increased to combat misinformation through the use of simple terminologies and minimizing technical jargon.

4. New Public Information Activities

a. FDA ramped up its Information, Communication, and Educational (IEC) campaign and materials. We have increased our social media presence to bring accurate and relevant information to the public through easily understandable posts available also in the local language. Some of which you may check by visiting our website and social media handles at https://www.fda.gov.ph/ or https://bit.ly/450BTtrf.

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INTERNAL ROUTING DETAILS

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