

In April of 2008, the Pain & Policy Studies Group (PPSG) sponsored a 3-day opioid availability workshop for Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand on Boracay Island, Philippines. Funded by the Open Society Institute (OSI) and hosted by the Pain Society of the Philippines, healthcare practitioners and government drug regulatory officials from the three countries gathered to learn about the global epidemic of untreated pain, the causes of under-treatment, the role of regulatory and system barriers that interfere in opioid availability and patient access to pain relief, and methods to address these barriers. Each team created an Action Plan for progress in their country. Philippine healthcare experts, officials from the World Health Organization's Western Pacific Regional Office and the Department of Medicines Policy and Standards, and policy experts from OSI and PPSG served as faculty for the program.

- You can find the final report of the workshop, including the Action Plans, on the PPSG website at <http://www.painpolicy.wisc.edu/internat/WPRO/Philippines/2008workshop.pdf>.
- For more information about opioid availability in Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand, see <http://www.painpolicy.wisc.edu/publicat/monograp/philippines08.pdf>.
- The Philippine Daily Enquirer published a series of 3 articles regarding this workshop and the status of unrelieved pain in the Philippines. A PDF version of these articles can be found at http://www.painpolicy.wisc.edu/internat/WPRO/Philippines/news_articles.pdf.

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