

*Organized by:*



DNA Analysis Laboratory,  
Natural Sciences Research Institute,  
University of the Philippines



University of Granada



UNIVERSITY of NORTH TEXAS  
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER at Fort Worth



*Supported by:*



University of the  
Philippines - Diliman



Natural Sciences  
Research Institute,  
University of the  
Philippines

*In collaboration with:*



Philippine Council for Advanced Science and  
Technology Research and Development -  
Department of Science and Technology

**Forum on**

**“DNA-PROKIDS:  
USING DNA TO HELP FIGHT  
CHILD-TRAFFICKING”**

**19 January 2010**

**7:30am to 1:00pm**

**Malcolm Theater**

**College of Law (Malcolm Hall)**

**University of the Philippines**

**Diliman , Quezon City**



## NOTES



*The DNA Analysis Laboratory of the Natural Sciences Research Institute, University of the Philippines Diliman, Quezon City ([www.dnaforensic.org](http://www.dnaforensic.org)) in collaboration with the Philippine Council for Advanced Science and Technology Research and Development (PCASTRD) is hosting the visit of two prominent forensic scientists, Dr. Jose Lorente and Dr. Arthur Eisenberg, as part of our participation in the DNA Program for Kids Identification with DNA Systems, DNA-PROKIDS ([www.dnapro-kids.org](http://www.dnapro-kids.org)) initiative of the University of Granada, Spain and the University of North Texas, USA. This initiative pushes for the use of DNA testing in the fight against all forms of child trafficking and seeks to establish an international network of forensic DNA laboratories that could share information, scientific expertise and resources.*

DNA Analysis Laboratory  
Natural Sciences Research Institute  
Miranda Hall  
cor. Quirino-Velasquez Sts.,  
University of the Philippines  
Diliman, Quezon City  
Philippines  
Telefax No.: 632-9252965  
Cellphone No.: 0918-9136284  
E-mail Addresses: [mariadeungria@gmail.com](mailto:mariadeungria@gmail.com);  
[updnalab@gmail.com](mailto:updnalab@gmail.com)

## PROGRAM

## NOTES

<b>7:30 am</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>8:00 am</b>	<b>National Anthem</b>
<b>8:05 am</b>	<b>Welcome Remarks</b> Dean Marvic M.V.F. Leonen - College of Law, UP Diliman
<b>8:10 am</b>	<b>Opening Remarks</b> Chancellor Sergio S. Cao - UP Diliman
<b>8:15 am</b>	<b>Introduction of Secretary Esperanza I. Cabral</b>
<b>8:20 am</b>	<b>Keynote Speaker 1: ‘Child Trafficking in the Philippines’</b> Hon. Esperanza I. Cabral - Department of Health
<b>8:35 am</b>	<b>Introduction of Undersecretary Ricardo R. Blancaflor</b>
<b>8:40 am</b>	<b>Keynote Speaker 2: ‘IACAT and the Issues in the Prosecution of Child Traffickers in the Philippines’</b> Hon. Ricardo R. Blancaflor - Department of Justice
<b>8:55 am</b>	<b>Introduction of Dr. Jose A. Lorente</b>
<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Lecture 1: ‘DNA-PROKIDS’</b> Dr. Jose A. Lorente - University of Granada
<b>9:45 am</b>	<b>Open Forum</b>
<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>10:25 am</b>	<b>Introduction of Dr. Arthur J. Eisenberg</b>
<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>Lecture 2: ‘How DNA-PROKIDS can support the fight against child trafficking’</b> Dr. Arthur J. Eisenberg - University of North Texas
<b>11:15 am</b>	<b>Open Forum</b>
<b>11:30 am</b>	<b>Introduction of Dr. Maria Corazon A. De Ungria</b>
<b>11:35 am</b>	<b>Lecture 3: ‘DNA testing in the Philippines—how science can assist the fight against child trafficking’</b> Dr. Maria Corazon A. De Ungria - DAL, NSRI, UP Diliman
<b>12:20 pm</b>	<b>Open Forum</b>
<b>12:35 pm</b>	<b>Reactors:</b> Justice Nimfa C. Vilches - Supreme Court Senior State Prosecutor Deana P. Perez - Department of Justice Ms. Amihan Abueva - Asia Against Child Trafficking
<b>1:00 pm</b>	<b>Closing Remarks</b> Director Reynaldo V. Eborá - PCASTRD-DOST
	<b>LUNCH</b>

## NOTES

## SPEAKERS PROFILE

### **Honorable Esperanza I. Cabral**

Dr. Esperanza I. Cabral has been recently appointed as Secretary of the Department of Health. As former Secretary of Department of Social Welfare and Development, she served as Co-Chairperson of the Philippines' Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT).

### **Honorable Ricardo R. Blancaflor**

Hon. Blancaflor is one of the Undersecretaries of the Department of Justice and is currently the Acting Chairman of IACAT . IACAT is the body through Republic Act No. 9208, also known as the `Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003`. It conducts many different projects geared towards the elimination of trafficking in persons in the Philippines, prevention of the occurrence of trafficking, the protection and rehabilitation of victims and the conviction of trafficking offenders.

(rrb@doj.gov.ph)

### **Dr. Jose A. Lorente**

Dr. Jose A. Lorente is Professor of Legal and Forensic Medicine at the University of Granada (UGR), Spain. He is currently the Director of the Laboratory for Genetic Identification. He established DNA-PROKIDS to help return children to their families after seeing countless numbers of children wandering the streets in different cities across the world.

(jlorente@ugr.es)

### **Dr. Arthur J. Eisenberg**

Dr. Arthur Eisenberg is a Professor and Chairman of the Department of Forensic and Investigative Genetics and Co-Director of the UNT Center for Human Identification at the University of North Texas (UNT) Health Science Center. Dr. Eisenberg is collaborating with Dr. Lorente to help establish a worldwide DNA database to help reunite children with their parents and ultimately deter the trafficking of children.

(eisenber@hsc.unt.edu )

### **Dr. Maria Corazon A. De Ungria**

Dr. Maria Corazon A. De Ungria is the Head of the DNA Analysis Laboratory, Natural Sciences Research Institute, University of the Philippines-Diliman. Dr. De Ungria actively participated in the forerunner meeting of DNA-PROKIDS in Granada, Spain last October where plans of implementation of this initiative in participating countries were discussed. Through her efforts, a Memorandum of Agreement was signed between the University of the Philippines - Diliman and the University of Granada thus paving the way for DNA-PROKIDS Philippines.

(mariadeungria@gmail.com)

# REACTORS PROFILE

## **Justice Nimfa C. Vilches**

Justice Nimfa C. Vilches is currently the Acting Court Administrator at of the Supreme Court of the Philippines, and a Professorial Lecturer of the Philippine Judicial Academy (PhilJA), Supreme Court. Justice Vilches has been awarded Outstanding Judge by the Society for Judicial Excellence for advancing the rights of women and children.

## **Senior State Prosecutor Deana P. Perez**

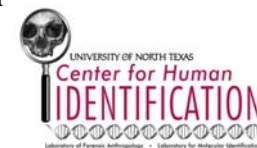
Atty. Deana P. Perez is a Senior State Prosecutor of the Department of Justice and currently the Head of the Secretariat of the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT).  
(deanprez@yahoo.com)

## **Ms. Amihan Abueva**

Ms. Amihan Abueva is a child rights activist and advocate. She has initiated local and international advocacy campaigns and lobbied extensively to fight against child sexual exploitation and child trafficking and for the protection of children affected by armed conflict and trafficking in human organs. She is the Regional Coordinator of Asia Against Child Trafficking (ACTS) and a former president of End Child Prostitution, Pornography and Trafficking (ECPAT) International.



**University of North Texas Center for Human Identification**  
**University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth**  
**(www.unthumanid.org)**



The Center for Human Identification Laboratory at the University of North Texas Health Sciences Center at Fort Worth is a state of the art facility using the latest DNA technology for human identification. The Center also maintains the Texas Missing Persons DNA Database. The database provides a very powerful tool for investigations trying to locate missing persons or identify remains by allowing federal, state, and local crime laboratories to electronically exchange and compare DNA profiles. The UNT Center for Human Identification Laboratory has provided scientific and technical support for Texas law enforcement agencies and crime laboratories for more than 10 years.



**Philippine Council for Advanced Science and Technology Research and Development - Department of Science and Technology**  
**(www.pcastrd.dost.gov.ph)**

The Philippine Council for Advanced Science and Technology Research and Development (PCASTRD) is one of the five sectoral councils of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) tasked to develop, integrate and coordinate the national research systems for advanced science and technology (S&T) sector in the country. The PCASTRD-DOST actively supports the numerous research projects and initiatives of different institutions including the DNA Analysis Laboratory, Natural Sciences Research Institute, University of the Philippines.



**DNA Analysis Laboratory**  
**Natural Sciences Research Institute**  
**University of the Philippines**  
([www.dnaforensic.org](http://www.dnaforensic.org))

The DNA Analysis Laboratory is one of the four research and extension laboratories at the Natural Sciences Research Institute, University of the Philippines-Diliman (UP-NSRI-DAL). The UP-NSRI-DAL is primarily a research, training and service facility with functions that include validation and development of DNA typing procedures, generation of genetic databases, development and implementation of a personnel training, and conducts DNA testing for human identification, paternity/kinship analysis, and crime and mass disaster investigations. The Philippine Supreme Court has recognized in several decisions, the work of the laboratory and the expertise of its personnel in forensic DNA identification.

## WHAT IS?



DNA-PROKIDS is an international project humanitarian initiative aimed at fighting against traffic in human beings using genetic identification of victims and their families, especially of children.

Upon suggestion of the UGR Genetic Identification Laboratory, an international project for genetic identification of missing children and their families was set up in 2004. The goal was to not limit the scope of research to domestic crimes, but to spread results worldwide with the aim of boosting the international fight against human trafficking.

### Mission

To identify the victims and return them to their families (reunification); to hamper traffic in human beings thanks to identification of victims, and to gather information on the origins, the routes and the means of this crime (police intelligence), key elements for the work of police forces and judicial systems.

### Objectives

Promoting international and systematic collaboration, creating a worldwide database with genetic information in order to achieve:

- reintegration of missing children into their families using DNA comparison with families of human trafficking victims .
- prevention of illegal adoptions of kidnapped, stolen or trafficked children, by checking the biological link between children and their relatives (mother, father, grandparents) who put them up for adoption.



**Laboratory of Genetic Identification**  
**University of Granada (UGR)**  
(Unibersidad de Granada)  
([www.ugr.es](http://www.ugr.es))

The Laboratory of Genetic Identification at the University of Granada is one of the leading DNA analysis laboratories in Spain. The laboratory carries out forensic studies commissioned by the court in cases of paternity tests, for the identification of possible criminals, for the identification of people killed by Latin American dictatorships, and for the establishment of DNA databases (such as in the case of missing relatives). In 2004, the UGR Genetic Identification Laboratory initiated the DNA-PROKIDS Project with the support of financial entities such as the BBVA, Santander or Caja Granada, Department of Justice of the Andalusian Council, and the US Company Life Technologies,

Studying and applying improvements to enable police and judicial systems to fight more effectively against traffic in human beings, especially in children and women.

- Analysing and suggesting common legislative frameworks to solve the problem.
- Assessing and solving social and communication problems that hamper an effective fight against traffic in human beings.
- Providing collaboration for the coordination and training of specialists in genetic identification from different countries.

*([http://www.dna-prokids.org/?page\\_id=3](http://www.dna-prokids.org/?page_id=3))*

Work guidelines established in Granada might help to deter this crime in a short and long term, developing and maintaining a National Quick Response Database (QD) with DNA samples obtained from children found outside their families, victims of prostitution, forced labour, militants activities, illegal adoptions, etc., as well as a second Relational or familiar Database (RD) containing the information of missing children, possible victims of the mentioned crimes.

Experts of the participant's countries agreed in the necessity of developing two databases in each country, according to their means and legal framework. They considered it was a priority to start working on it as soon as possible and to coordinate their actions. The DNA-Prokids Programme will provide altruistic collaboration on the following aspects:

1. Use of shared protocols for DNA sample collection and custody;
2. Design and development of database software adapted to DNA - PROKIDS requirements and data, to be used national and internationally;
3. Offer collaboration to national governments and international bodies, implementing agreements through expert training, sample collection kits distribution (donated by Life Technologies Foundation) and data analysis; and
4. Commitment to work locally defining needs for implementation of DNA-Prokids programme. This includes: supply of technical equipment, training, design of databases, sample collection and analysis.

Those present are summoned to present their respective works next April in an International Conference to be held in Granada. The Conference will be attended by scientists, international organizations, NGOs, heads of security forces and judicial experts.

*(Source: <http://www.dna-prokids.org/?p=627>)*

1. To identify the human trafficking victims and return them to their families (reunification), or to the place where they are best protected.
2. To hamper traffic in human beings thanks to identification of victims.
3. To gather information on the origins, the routes and the means of this crime (police intelligence), key elements for the work of police forces and judicial systems.

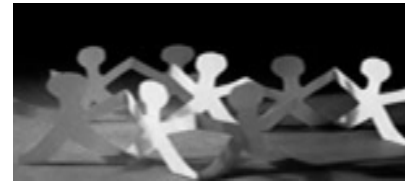
### **Expert Meeting and Agreements**

Experts in genetic identification from

- Brazil,
- China,
- Guatemala,
- India,
- Indonesia,
- Mexico,
- Nepal,
- Philippines,
- Spain,
- Sri Lanka,
- Thailand,
- United Arab Emirates,
- USA, and
- United Nations (UNODC)

had met in Granada (Spain 26th and 27th October 2009) to first Forerunner DNA - Prokids Scientific Group Meeting.

The Group Meeting, supported by the Counsellor of Regional Department for Justice and Public Administrations of Andalusia, has agreed a series of commitments to foster international partnerships for joint action against human trafficking, especially in children.



## **DNA Helps Reunite Children With Their Families**

FORT WORTH, Texas, Aug. 4 — Of the 600,000-800,000 people trafficked across international borders each year, 50 percent are under 17. It is estimated that by 2010, human trafficking will be the No. 1 crime worldwide.

Arthur Eisenberg, Ph.D., professor and chairman of the department of forensic and investigative Genetics and co-director of the UNT Center for Human Identification at the University of North Texas (UNT) Health Science Center, is on a mission to stop this horrific industry through a \$500,000 grant from The Life Technologies Foundation to develop the DNA-PROKIDS Project (Program for Kids Identification with DNA Systems ). PROKIDS is an international humanitarian effort using DNA testing to deter human trafficking of children and help reunite abducted and homeless children with their parents.

Through the DNA-PROKIDS program, DNA samples will be obtained from children associated with human trafficking whether through prostitution, forced labor, militant activities, or illegal adoptions, or homeless children found living on the street. Their DNA profiles will be stored in an international database where they can be searched against the DNA profiles provided by families who have had their children kidnapped or lost.

Eisenberg is collaborating with Jose Lorente, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of legal and forensic medicine at the University of Granada-Spain, to help establish a worldwide DNA database to help reunite children with their parents and ultimately deter the trafficking of children. Lorente was inspired to establish DNA-PROKIDS to help return children to their parents after seeing countless numbers of children wandering the streets in cities across the world. He wondered, were their families looking for them? Without a way to identify them, it would be impossible to bring them home. Perhaps an international DNA database would help reunite these children with their families.

Lorente chose to collaborate with the UNT Health Science Center because of its reputation as a world-renowned center for human identification. The Center has been responsible for the development of DNA technologies and systems for parentage testing, forensic testing and for the identification of missing persons and human remains.

Eisenberg and Lorente hope all countries throughout the world will develop national databases that will link to an international repository of these DNA profiles. Then DNA- PROKIDS will become a deterrent and prevent criminals from kidnapping and trafficking children, the most vulnerable of all victims.

(Source: <http://www.dna-prokids.org/?p=360>)

## **Geneticists coordinate action to fight against traffic in human beings**



- One of the keys is to gain agreement on genetic data collection and treatment. Work guidelines established in Granada might help to deter human trafficking.
- Commitments undertaken in the First DNA - Prokids meeting (DNA-Program for Kids Identification with DNA Systems) will allow having standard techniques to fight against this crime: Use of shared protocols for DNA sample collection, supply of technical equipment, genetic experts' training and development of databases.

Figures are impressive and, at the same time, shameful for the civilized world of 21st century: according to data from the United Nations through the UN-GIFT programme managed by UNODC/UNDD (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime), 161 countries are reported to be affected by human trafficking by being a source, transit and/or destination country. The majority of trafficking victims are between 18 and 24 years of age but an estimated of 1.2 million children are trafficked each year. During the time they are victims of trafficking the 95% experience physical or sexual violence, the 79% are trafficked for sexual exploitation and the 18% are trafficked for forced labour.

Traffic in human beings is a serious and complex problem. It is estimated that by 2010, human trafficking will be the No. 1 crime worldwide, ahead of arms trade and drug trafficking. That is the reason why it requires international collaboration, but specially needs effective measures to combat and deter it, to achieve its final eradication.

DNA - Prokids Programme was set up in 2004 by the University of Granada (Spain) to fight against human trafficking in cooperation with the University of North Texas Center for Human Identification, in the USA, and with the contributions of financial institutions such as BBVA, Fundación Botín (Banco Santander) or Caja GRANADA. Its objectives are: