Reviewer’s report

Title: Suicide in the Philippines: time trends analysis of 30-year incidence and a systematic review of suicide behaviours

Version: 2 Date: 26 April 2011

Reviewer: Young Ran Chin

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

Comments to the Author

1. Dear author(s), You have taken on a large and complex task in analyzing this national database. I think your purposes are valid. This manuscript was was logical, consistent and clear. My problem with the manuscript relates to the interpretation and significance of your analysis and findings.

2. Please clarify the age groups stratified: 15-34, 35-54, 55-? The definition of age set by the World Health Organization’s (WHO) suicide prevention and special programs classified aged ‘15-24’ years as ‘youth’, 25 years and over as ‘adults’ and those 65 and over as ‘elderly’(WHO 1996). The age groups need to be justified why they had smaller and different groups from other standards such as WHO.

3. Move the all remarks(examples: Fig2. classification of ages, Fig3. years, Fig4. reasons) to right side of the line. That will be more convenient to read.

4. In Fig 2, there was a small peak in male and female rates in the mid-1990s. Are there any national economic problems or other reasons? You need to add the reasons in your discussion.

5. Complement the discussion on suicide trends and difference of suicide rates by age and sexs. "In most Western countries, downward trends were seen since the 1980s[9, 26]. In Asia, suicide rates have been decreasing in Singapore but were increasing in Thailand, South Korea, Japan and China and Philippines." What are the differences of their suicide related policies and social conditions?

6. Explicit the linkage of data, method of analysis and the results from data. That will be more clear to understand your writing.

Dr. Young Ran, Chin

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests