

**Acceptance Speech of Ernesto D. Garilao, ZFF Chairperson and President  
Xiong'An International Health Forum Global Health Impact Award  
China, October 17, 2019**

First, let me thank the organization and partners of the Xiong'An International Health Forum for this Award. I accept it with great honor, humility, and appreciation.

I believe this award is a recognition of what the Zuellig Family Foundation—with its principals, trustees, management, and staff—has done. It recognizes the importance of focusing on the accountability of local elected officials to improve their health systems that result in better health indicators, especially when primary health services are devolved to local governments.

This award is a recognition of the role the Zuellig Family Foundation plays as pathfinder of new approaches in public health leadership and governance that can also be scaled up and mainstreamed in the government.

These are the two main contributions of Zuellig Family Foundation in the never ending task of ensuring the vulnerable population enjoy better health. That mission, I believe, binds us all together in this forum.

In accepting this award, allow me to thank the following:

The late brothers Stephen and Gilbert Zuellig for their vision of improving the health of the Filipino poor;

Their sons, the cousins David and Daniel, for their encouragement and dedication, and most importantly, ensuring our foundation's intervention result in better health indicators;

Our chairperson, now chair emeritus Roberto Romulo whose leadership and tenacious efforts ensured ZFF remains relevant to its changing health environment;

Our partners in the government, the international agencies, the academic institutions, and private sectors, who collaborated in our work on health leadership and governance;

My co-workers in ZFF—the true recipients of this award—for keeping the foundation's relevance and leading edge in public health leadership and governance;

And finally, to my wife Pilar for her endless support; and to my daughters for their encouragement, which enabled me to do what I do, so that, in my own way, I leave a better world for their children and grandchildren.