REFINEMENT OF THE PHILIPPINE FOOD CONSUMPTION DATA TOOLS FOR COUNTRY, REGIONAL AND GLOBAL DIETARY EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT: USING THE FOODEX2 CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

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Background:
Dietary exposure assessment is an important step in the risk assessment process to evaluate the exposure of a population to dietary hazards. There is a need for constant updating, enhancing and harmonizing of food consumption information to provide the latest exposure estimates and risk characterization of a population from hazards in food. The FoodEx2 classification system was developed by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) to be used in harmonizing food consumption databases that will help ease the process of data collection and exchange across countries. The Food and Agriculture Organization and World Health Organization (FAO/WHO) created the FAO/WHO Chronic Individual Food Consumption database – Summary Statistics (CIFOCOss) template to support chronic dietary exposure assessment and international risk assessment.

Objective:
This project aimed to harmonize the Philippine food consumption database for dietary exposure assessment with the FAO/WHO CIFOCOss template using FoodEx2 classification system.

Materials and Methods:
The list of food items from the 2008 National Nutrition Survey (NNS) were coded and categorized using FoodEx2 classification system. The coded food items were verified and validated. After verification, the food items were mapped following the data requirements of the FAO/WHO CIFOCOss template.

Results and Findings:
A total of 1,240 food items from 2008 NNS were coded and verified using the new FoodEx2 catalog browser released on October 2018. After verification, 132 out of 1,240 food items were re-coded. The verified food items were mapped into each group in the CIFOCOss template.

Recommendations:
The mapped food items will be used to process food consumption data that will be submitted to FAO/WHO for incorporation into their international food consumption database. The harmonized Philippine food consumption database will help support local and international policy makers, risk assessors, and other stakeholders in making decisions at country, regional, and global level in the area of nutrition and food safety.