1ST WORLD STATISTICS DAY

20.10.2010 Forum

Improving Awareness and Trust in Government Statistics:
Users' and Producers' Perspectives

20 October 2010

PSSC Auditorium
Philippine Social Science Center
Commonwealth Avenue, Diliman
Quezon City

<h1 style="text-align:center">WELCOME REMARKS [1]</h1>

<p style="text-align:center">Dr. Vicente B. Valdepeñas, Jr.
President Philippine Statistical Association</p>

For the first time in its history, the United Nations has declared today, 20 October 2010, as the World Statistics Day. In so doing, it is highlighting the continuing need for service, professionalism and integrity in the collection and use of statistics. For statistics to be serviceable to the community, they must be accurate and timely. To ensure their quality, statistics have to be gathered with the highest degree of professionalism that the science of statistics and the rules of statistical inference require. To keep their integrity, those who practice statistics have to be diligent that the way they are collected can stand the standards of international scrutiny.

When statistics are characterized by service, professionalism and integrity, they become a wealth of evidence for policy formulation and implementation. Evidence-based policy formulation and implementation are the prerequisites of good governance, of accountability and responsibility. In the public sector, this is of the utmost importance because the funds that it deploys grow out of the taxes paid by the governed, the people. People need to know that the public expenditure of their taxes promotes their welfare and those conditions that make for equal opportunities, the expansion of output, and the creation of more jobs.

It is in this context that the Philippine Statistical Association has responded to the request of the National Statistical Coordination Board to mount today's forum among the producers and the users of statistics. It has been fortunate to count among its membership many of you who are attending today's forum.

It is my great pleasure to welcome all of you in behalf of the Board of Directors of the Philippine Statistical Association to this Forum in celebration of the 1st World Statistics Day. It is an opportunity for all of us to have a better appreciation of the statistical system of the Philippines.

Thank you.

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[1] At The World Statistics Day Forum, hosted by the Philippine Statistical Association, PSSC Auditorium, Diliman, Quezon City, 20 October 2010.

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- 2007 Strategic Review and Evaluation of the Philippine Statistical System
- Code of Ethics for Statisticians, PSA
- Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, UN

I. Rationale

The local celebration of the 1st World Statistics Day, dubbed as the *WSD 20.10.2010* Forum, is spearheaded by the Philippine Statistical Association, Inc. in unison with counterparts in the international statistical community who are celebrating the many contributions and achievements of statistics in different settings on a global scale.   As envisioned by the Statistical Commission of the United Nations, the 1st World Statistics Day is hoped to raise awareness on the many achievements of official statistics premised on the core values of service, professionalism and integrity.

In a letter to World Leaders in July 2010, United Nations Secretary General BAN KI-MOON underscored the need to: (a) help strengthen the awareness and trust of the public in official statistics and its role in the social and economic development of our societies; and, (b) dedicate further efforts and resources to strengthen national statistical capacity.   It is in response to this call to instill greater awareness and appreciation of the importance of official statistics that the PSA, through Mr. Tomas P. Africa, WSD Forum Coordinator focused on the theme *"Improving Awareness and Trust in Government Statistics: Users' and Producers' Perspectives".*

The organizers are optimistic that this forum will go beyond its significance as an historic event, but more so as springboard for future actions/policy recommendations that will seek to further improve the production and utilization of official statistics in the spirit of service, professionalism, and integrity.

II.   Objectives

1. To join the community of nations in celebrating the importance and the relevance of statistics in all aspects of human endeavor;
2. To highlight the role of official statistics and the statistics profession in nation building;
3. To advocate for meaningful reforms that will further enhance the integrity of official statistics; and,
4. To advocate for programs that will raise the competencies of practitioners in the field.

III.   Programme of Activities

A copy of the Programme of Activities is attached as *Annex A*.

1. Mechanics of the Forum

    1.1 Two major topics were discussed: (a) how is government statistics serving society and how can it do better? and (b) how can government build its statistical capacity?

    1.2 Prior to the Forum, panelists were given copies of the presentation materials and relevant references, namely, Code of Ethics for Philippine Statisticians, UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, and, Executive Summary of the 2007 Strategic Review of the Philippine Statistical System.

    1.3 For each topic, a brief presentation was done to provide background for discussion.

    - The first topic dealt with the outputs and outcomes arising from government statistical activity. The panelists assessed these using as bases the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and the Code of Ethics for Philippine Statisticians.   The audience sought clarification and gave comments/recommendations on the discussion.

    - The second topic focused on the quality and quantity of resources available to the Philippine Statistical System (PSS). A presentation on the status quo based on the 2007 Strategic Review and Evaluation of the PSS preceded the assessments and recommendations of the panelists. Similarly a short open forum afforded participants to further contribute to the discussions. Comments and recommendations were likewise noted.

    1.4 A mini-SWOT analysis from the panel discussions was attempted.

2. Introduction of Speakers and Panelists

    A brief introduction of speakers and panelists is attached as *Annex B*.

3. Paper Presentation

    3.1 How Is Government Statistics Serving Society and How Can It Do Better?

    "Assessment of Official Statistics, Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, and Code of Ethics for Philippine Statisticians" – by Tomas P. Africa

- Assessment is based on the background material for the 3rd SIAP/UNESCAP Management Seminar for the Heads of National Statistical Offices in Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok, Thailand, from January 31 to February 2, 2005, prepared by Mr. Heinrich Brüngger, Director, Statistical Division, UN Economic Commission for Europe with inputs from Mrs. Carmelita N. Ericta, Executive Director of the Philippine National Statistics Office and Mr. Tomas P. Africa.

- Included material from the ADB Workshop on Challenges in Managing National Statistical Systems, under the Regional Technical Assistance (RETA) 6333: Statistical Capacity Building in the Asia and Pacific Region, held at the ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines from March 30 to April 03, 2009.

- Applied the Total Quality Management (TQM) process of assessment in the examination process.

- Noted the TQM Areas of Applicability in assessing the Output and Input sides of Official Statistics:

    OUTPUT-Side

    - Relevance
    - Timeliness
    - Coherence
    - Sufficient Detail
    - Comparability (time series and internationally)
    - Representativeness
    - User Orientation
    - Accessibility

    INPUT SIDE

    - Strategy Development
    - Multi-annual and Annual Planning
    - Obtaining data from different sources
    - Dissemination, Marketing, Public Relations
    - Human Resource Management and Development
    - Liaison with Government and international Donors
    - Budget planning, Cost Estimation, Controlling
    - IT-Planning and -Management

- Recognized the following as the foundation of the production process of official statistics:

    - **Code of Ethics for Philippine Statisticians [by the PSA]**
    - **Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics [by the UN Statistical Commission]**

3.1.1   The Code of Ethics for Philippine Statisticians (CEPS)

Guiding Principles

- Statistical practitioners should pay responsible attention to the following in their professional activities:

    – The **social value of their work and its consequences** on, among others, respect for the life, liberty, dignity, and property of other people.

    – The **use of statistical work in the pursuit of the truth** at all instances and not toward justifying predetermined outcomes.

    – The acceptance that **while statistics has a body of established knowledge, it also has many unresolved issues** that requires frank and open discussion.

    – The **constant upgrading of competence** in their work.

    – **Adherence to all applicable and ethically appropriate laws and regulations, as well as international covenants**

    – **Management of freely-provided information into data archives consistent with responsible protection of the safety and confidentiality of human beings and organizations involved.**

- In addition to ethical obligations, good professional citizenship encourages:

    – **Collegiality and civility** with fellow professionals.

    – **Support for improved public understanding** of **and respect** for statistics.

    – **Support for sound statistical practice**, especially when it is unfairly criticized.

    – **Exposure of dishonest or incompetent uses** of statistics.

    – **Service to one's profession** as a statistical editor, reviewer, or association official and service as an active participant in (formal or informal) ethical review panels.

Specific Sections

- Public interest
- Integrity and competence
- Obligation to funders and employers
- Obligation to respondents
- Duty to profession and obligation to colleagues

3.1.2   Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (FPOS)

- No principle is negotiable; the core meaning has to be fully observed in all activities of official statistics

- Temptation to trade off certain principles against additional financing of a survey by a ministry; make it clear in a written agreement with the funding agency that they accept the rules of the game

- Staff has to be trained in what each principle implies for their behaviour

- Fundamental Principles

    – Principle 1: Relevance, impartiality and equal access

    – Principle 2: Professional standards and ethics, professional independence

    – Principle 3: Accountability and transparency

    – Principle 4: Prevention of misuse, right to react

    – Principle 5: Sources for official statistics, cost-effectiveness

    – Principle 6: Confidentiality

    – Principle 7: Legislation

    – Principle 8: National coordination

    – Principle 9: International coordination, use of international standards

    – Principle 10: International cooperation, international community

FPOS	CEPS
• Relevance [P1] • Obligation to disseminate; equal access [P1]	• Public interest
• Impartiality [P1] • Professional independence [P2] • Professional standards & ethics [P2] • Accountability and transparency [P3] • Prevention of misuse and right to react [P4]	• Integrity and competence
• Sources for official statistics [P5] • Cost-effectiveness [P5] • Confidentiality [P6]	• Obligations to respondents
• Relevance [P1] • Impartiality [P1]	• Obligation to funders and employers
• Legislation [P7] • National coordination [P8] • International coordination, international standards [P9] • International cooperation, international community [P10]	• Guiding principles

1.5.3   FPOS and CEPS

3.2   How Can Government Build its Statistical Capacity?

"Resources Available to the Philippine Statistical System: 2007 Strategic Review and Evaluation of the Philippine Statistical System" – Vicente B. Valdepeñas, Jr , Ph.D.

Summary Findings of the Special Committee to Review the Philippine Statistical System (May 2008)

3.2.1   Current organization, structure and leadership of PSS have led to difficulties hampering efficient statistical operations and effective coordination

3.2.2   Wide gaps in current mechanisms for inter-agency and multi-sectoral coordination

3.2.3   Existing laws and executive orders governing statistical operations including their penal provisions are outdated and limited in their scope

3.2.4   Perennial shortage of budgetary support for PSS, with no primary entity championing budget advocacy for statistics

3.2.5   Chronic shortage of fit and proper human resource for PSS, aggravated by its lack of capability to upgrade its existing personnel in statistical operations

3.2.6   Scarcity of R&D addressing data gaps and methodological issues in statistics

3.2.7   Lack of regular feedback from data users

3.2.8   Lack of long-term ICT complement

3.2.9   Staff of PSS work in inferior physical facilities that are not conducive to personnel and data security, staff retention, accessibility to data users

3.2.10   Significant inconsistencies and contradictions have been noted in national income accounts data *vis-à-vis* those of Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES) and Monthly Integrated Survey of Selected Industries (MISSI)

3.2.11   Persistence in the use of 1985 as base year for national income data and failure to implement 1993 UN System of National Accounts (SNA) chain-type measures of price and output movements which are more accurate

3.2.12   "About ½ of UN SNA 1993 standards have been met by Philippines as of mid-2010," Dr. Alex Korns, WB consultant on evaluation of PSDP 2005-2010

3.2.13   Tardiness, unsynchronized release of data, inadequate access to data have been noted at national and sub-national levels

3.2.14   Limited frequency and lower-level disaggregation of surveys and indicators have been noted by (LGUs); lack of statistical standards in data turned out by LGUs

3.2.15   The foregoing are the outcome of 10 months of national, regional consultations, research, and deliberations mandatd by NSCB in 2007 and funded by BSP and PIDS at an overall cost of P2.4 Million

3.2.16   Official statistics are a public good; they need to be accurate and timely to be of value to policymakers, public and private

3.2.17   Official statistics are the anchor in a democracy of evidence-based public policy that is transparent, responsible and accountable, a requisite of good governance

3.3   Government Resources Made Available to Philippine Statistical System: **Evidence**

   3.3.1 Real PSS Appropriations by Expense Class (Without Census): 1997-2010

Real PSS Appropriations by Expense Class (without Census), in billions of pesos 2000=100
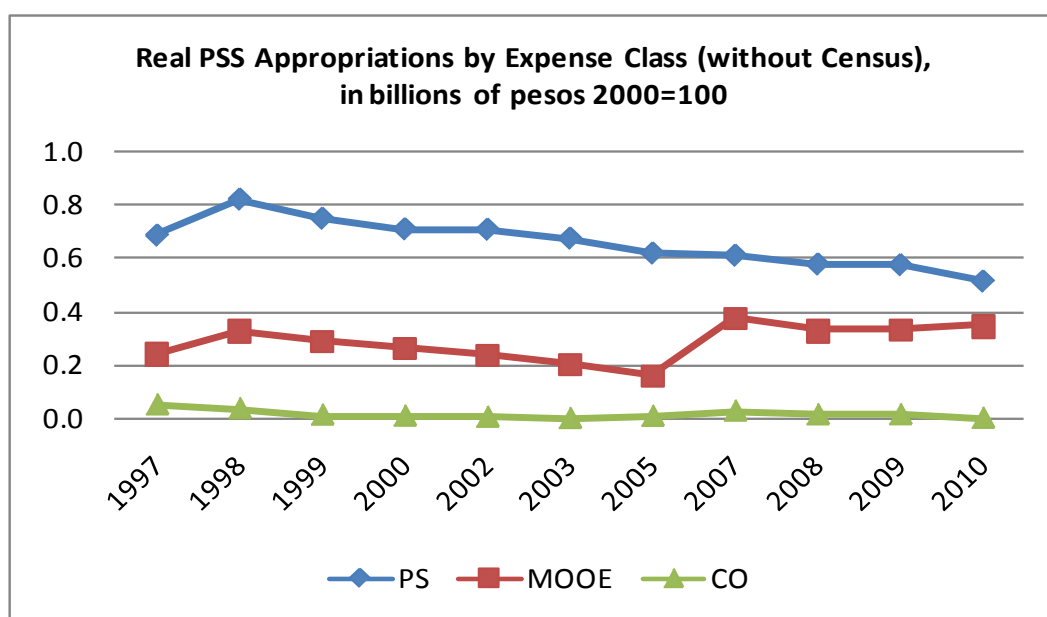
3.3.2 Staffing in Five Major Statistical Agencies: 2004-2010

2004-2010 Staffing in 5 Major Statistical Agenices								
	BAS	BLES	NSCB	NSO	STRC	Total 5 MSA	Total NG	5 MSA/NG %
Before EO366 2004	1087	51	173	3020	25	4356	1118073	0.39
2005	1000	43	152	2796	25	4016	1117853	0.36
2006	987	42	152	2796	25	4002	1108513	0.36
2007	928	38	148	2783	25	3922	1115651	0.35
2008	901	39	141	2660	23	3764	1130772	0.33
2009	867	41	141	2535	21	3605	1139113	0.32
2010	767	44	112	2403	24	3350	1139116	0.29
%Change2004-10	-29	-14	-35	-20	-4	-23	2	

Source: BAS, BLES, Agency; NSCB, NSO, SRTC, General Appropriations Act; Total NG Staffing Summary, DBM

3.3.3 Number of Statistical Positions, SG 15-SG 24: 2010

Number of Statistical Positions SG15-SG24, 2010						
	BAS	BLES	NSCB	NSO	STRC	Total 5 MSA
Salary Grade 15/16	34	8	36	117	0	195
Salary Grade 18/19	28	9	29	42	5	113
Salary Grade 22	8	4	10	12	2	36
Salary Grade 24	9	4	10	78	2	103
Total	79	25	85	249	9	447
Total authorized for Agency	1087	44	173	2403	25	
% Share of Total	7.3	56.8	49.1	10.4	36.0	

Note: NSCB, Statistical Coordination Officer is classified under SG 11, 13, 16, 19, 22, and 24.

4. <u>Panel Discussion</u>

The comments, issues, concerns raised by the panelists are noted as follows:

4.1. Civil society organizations recognize NGOs' constructive engagements with government.

4.2. Need for good user orientation to address the following:

- o Misuse of data

- o Difficulty in understanding data/information contained in the website.

- o Poor user understanding of certain statistical concepts and definitions that advocates for change need in espousing causes towards meaningful reforms

- o Need for user orientation especially among journalists

4.3. Timeliness of data needs improvement; periodicity of releases needs to be looked into, e.g.

- o Monthly fiscal statistics are needed to check public expenditures

- o Quarterly tracking of government spending at the local level, e.g. spending and taxing patterns of 80 provinces, 138 cities, 1496 municipalities, and 42,025 barangays, if possible

- o Annual fiscal behavior of government, especially, LGUs to evaluate whether local governments are working or not

- o Monthly statistics on employment, underemployment, and non-formal employment but exclude unpaid family workers

- o Need to keep track of the behavior of decent jobs; unemployment/drop in employment may have been due to a job situation that has deteriorated

- o Timeliness of the measures of hunger and poverty must be improved

  - – FIES studies conducted every three (3) years with results released a year later e.g. Report on 2006 FIES released in October 2007

  - – Triennial reports of annual surveys on poverty indicators are too large, with huge expenses, but become white elephants

  - – Affordability of timely indicators is an issue; consider sacrificing local data, or outsource the production of local level data through the private sector

- Consider reducing sample size and do surveys more frequently

- Timeliness of hunger and poverty data, more important than wide geographical distribution

- Timely, up-to-date agricultural statistics are crucial especially during typhoon season, e.g. impact on economy of devastated rice producing areas

- Regularity of release of data

o Maximize use of available technology – google is coming out with google price index in real time

o Accessibility of data

- Move towards making interactive data system available to enable users to generate data they need

- Standardize access among various departments/producers of statistics

  ✓ Some departments need letters before granting access to data
  ✓ No facility for instant access

- Empower citizens to advocate policies, to engage their participation

- Archive historical data; there is no shelf-life for data –

  ✓ Journalists and other researches always find use for them as background in their studies
  ✓ Facts and figures are used as reality check to support stories told
  ✓ Data are not used in isolation; need to relate to a bigger picture

4.4. State of statistical manpower and financial resources are progressively diminishing

4.5. The PSS should find out what can be done with existing resources instead of lamenting on the lack of it.

o Privatize some government surveys/activities
o Let the business sector pay for surveys used by the private sector
o Private research agencies like the Social Weather Stations are recognized as alternative producers of data/ information that producers of official statistics are unable to generate

4.6. Decreasing enrolment in statistics, fewer students in statistics

  o Offer incentives for students to stay on
  o Offer schools more incentives that will attract students

4.7. Closure of schools offering statistics

  o Lack of qualified teachers
  o Commission on Higher Education (CHED) does not allow schools to offer statistics program without teachers who are graduates of statistics

4.8. Put emphasis on social accountability. Social value of official statistics and the work of the producers of official statistics is a pre-requisite to good governance.

5. Open Forum: Issues/Concerns/Other Comments

5.1 PSA as organizer was congratulated for the choice of topic in this 20.10.2010 forum of historical significance.

5.2 Communication between producers and users of statistics is crucial.

  o Discrepancies can be explained with a careful look at the definition of terms, concepts, methodology.

5.3 The issue of timeliness is partially addressed with the NSCB publication of the Philippine Statistical Development Program (PSDP). Data producers are motivated to meet their commitment to produce official statistics as published.

5.3 The NSO recognize the need to balance timeliness and accuracy in conducting surveys.

5.4 The problem of accessibility is partly addressed with the availability of micro data access centers.

5.5 Problem of diminution of statistical manpower in the PSS

  o Unable to deal with prohibitions in the filling-up of positions due to EO 366/ Rationalization Plan

    – Positions left vacant become unfunded at some point in time

  o Arrest disparities in the pay scales of statisticians in the PSS as compared with counterparts in the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and other government corporations

    – Inequality in the pay scales among statisticians contribute to the diminution of the corps of statisticians in the five (5) major statistical agencies, (NSCB, NSO, BLES, SRTC, BAS)

- Revisit salary standardization policies to seriously address unfair compensation/pay scales between statisticians in line agencies of government and counterparts in government corporations;

- Institute policies to address continuing shift/transfer of statistical manpower to more lucrative jobs, other disciplines

o Professionalize the statistics career system in government, just like the Scientific Career System for Statisticians

o Make career in the PSS attractive to students/graduates in statistics

o Require graduates of statistics from state universities and colleges(SUCs) to first serve government before joining the private sector, since their studies are subsidized by the government/taxpayers' money

o Increase scholarship in statistics to encourage more students to pursue the course

- Scholarship programs in MS and PhDs in Statistics were put up but there are not enough takers

o The Philippine Statistics Quizz (PSQ), jointly conducted by the NSO and the PSA, is held annually for the last two (2) decades to encourage schools and students to take up statistics.

o The UP School of Statistics has student associations/programs that encourage high school students to pursue a course in statistics.

o The UPLB is moving towards a General Education Program with GE course in Statistics to promote statistical literacy.

5.6 The challenge to the producers of official statistics is how to manage conflicting expectations.

V.   Awarding of Plaques of Appreciation/Closing Remarks

In behalf of the Board of Directors and the general membership of the Philippine Statistical Association, Inc., Dr. Vicente B. Valdepenas, Jr. thanked the organizers, panelists, participants, and participating institutions for the success of the celebration of the 1st World Statistics Day 20.10.2010 Forum.

1. Plaques of appreciation were awarded to Mr. Tomas P. Africa, Forum Coordinator and the Panelists made up of Ms. Nieves L. Osorio, Dr. Benjamin E. Diokno represented by Ms. Justine Diokno-Sicat, Dr. Mahar K. Mangahas and Mr. Roel R. Landingin.

    - Mr. Tomas P. Africa, Forum Coordinator for agreeing to mount and coordinate the 1st World Statistics Day despite short notice and for bringing his wealth of experience into a most fruitful discussion of the issues and concerns that the producers and users of official statistics need to address;

    - The distinguished panelists whose time and expertise were unselfishly shared to identify issues that concern users of official statistics from the standpoints of practitioners from the public and private sectors, research institutions, academe, and the media.

2. He thanked all participants to the Forum for a very interesting and equally stimulating discussion that helped bring to the fore issues of critical concerns to both producers and users of statistics.

3.   He also expressed thanks and appreciation to all cooperating institutions, especially the Statistical Research and Training Center for making available the requisite IT facilities and technical staff that made possible the documentation of this historical event.

Programme of Activities
20 October 2010

8:00   Registration
9:00   Opening
        Invocation
        Lupang Hinirang
        Introduction of the Speakers - **Ms. Lina V. Castro**
                                    Secretary, Philippine Statistical Association, Inc.
        Welcome Remarks – **Dr. Vicente B. Valdepeñas, Jr.**
                        President, Philippine Statistical Association, Inc.

        Format and Mechanics of the Forum – **Mr. Tomas P. Africa**
                                Moderator
                                Regional Consultant, PARIS 21

A. How Is Government Statistics Serving Society and How Can It Do Better?

9:30   Brief Presentation:
        Assessment of Official Statistics, Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics,
        and Code of Ethics for Philippine Statisticians – **Mr. Tomas P. Africa**
9:45   Assessments *[products, services, public image....]*: Panel Discussion by
        **Ms. Nieves L. Osorio-PSSC/PSA, Dr. Mahar K. Mangahas-SWS,
        Dr. Benjamin E. Diokno-UP, Mr. Roel R. Landingin-Newsbreak**

10:15   Open Forum

Working Break / Refreshments

B. How Can Government Build its Statistical Capacity?

10:30   Brief Presentation:
        Resources Available to the Philippine Statistical System:
        2007 Strategic Review and Evaluation of the Philippine Statistical System –
        Dr. Vicente B. Valdepeñas, Jr.
10:45   Recommendations [*budgeting, HRM, programming and planning, legislation,
        coordination....*]: Panel Discussion by **Ms. Nieves L. Osorio-PSSC/PSA,
        Dr. Mahar K. Mangahas-SWS, Dr. Benjamin E. Diokno-UP,
        Mr. Roel R. Landingin-Newsbreak**

11:15   Open Forum

        Summation [SWOT – Strengths, Weaknesses, Threats, and Opportunities]

11:30   Closing Remarks   - **Mr. Tomas P. Africa**

        End of Forum

Ms. Lina V. Castro
Master of Ceremonies

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INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS

Tomas P. Africa is the Regional Consultant for Asia and the Pacific of the OECD/PARIS21, which stands for Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development/ Partnership in Statistics for the 21st Century, and which advocates for strategic planning of the National Statistical Systems.

He was a former Director of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, based in Chiba, Japan, and under the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. He was also the former Administrator of the Philippine National Statistics Office and the Civil Registrar General of the Philippines.

He held various positions in the Philippine Statistical Association.

Benjamin E. Diokno, **Ph. D.,** Professor of Economics at the University of the Philippines, was Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management of the Philippines during the administration of President Joseph Estrada and Undersecretary for Budget Operations at the Department of Budget and Management during the administration of President Corazon Aquino. Professor Diokno provides policy advice and conducts research in the following areas: public economics (with focus on structure and scope of government tax policies and tax reform; government expenditure analysis; national budget, deficit and debt; and decentralization and intergovernmental relations), public expenditure management, resource economics (with focus on public policy on water and oil), and economic development (with focus on ASEAN transitional economies).

He is also a columnist for Business World and Malaya.

Dr. Benjamin Diokno was represented in the Forum by his daughter, Professor Justine Diokno-Sicat of the University of the Philippines.

Roel Landingin has extensive involvement and earned recognition in the following:

Work

Manila Correspondent, Financial Times
Trustee and Contributor, Newsbreak Magazine
Fellow, Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism
Former Manila Bureau Chief, Bloomberg News, 2000-2001
Former Research Editor and Business Editor, Manila Times, 1997-2000
Former Business Reporter (covered banking, finance and energy beats), Philippine Daily Globe and Manila Times, 1988 -1997
Researcher for various non-government organizations, including Ibon Databank, 1982-1988

Awards

- o 1st National Statistics Month Media Awards for his article "The Hidden Job Crisis" published in the May-July 2009 issue of the Newsbreak Magazine

- o Grand Prize Winner, Jaime V. Ongpin Investigative Journalism Award in 2009 for article for the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism on the scandals and debt woes brought about by overseas development assistance

- o Grand Prize Winner, Jaime V. Ongpin Investigative Journalism Award in 2008 for article in Newsbreak magazine on the corruption scandal surrounding the new international airport terminal

- o Runner-up, Best Infrastructure Story, 2008 Developing Asia Journalism Awards sponsored by the Asian Development Bank Institute in Tokyo, Japan for Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism piece on the lopsided relationship between the Philippines and international lenders and suppliers in foreign funded infrastructure projects

- o Economic Journalist of the Year and Banking Reporter of the Year in 1994, Economic Journalists Association of the Philippines

Mahar K. Mangahas, Ph.D. has pioneered in promoting quality public opinion research in Southeast Asia and successfully battled against legal and political restrictions on opinion polls. He received his PhD in Economics from the University of Chicago in 1970. In 1985 he co-founded with colleagues the independent institute Social Weather Stations of which he is currently President and Chief Executive.

The World Association for Public Opinion Research (WAPOR) awarded him the Helen Dinerman, the WAPOR's highest award, and is specified for career contributions to innovative research and to research methodology. It went to a non-Westerner for the first time since 1981, when the annual award was created in honor of the late Helen Dinerman, a pioneering promoter of international research on public opinion.

The WAPOR award recognized Dr. Mangahas's persistence in promoting freedom in survey research, which led to the successful SWS-Manila Standard petition to the Supreme Court to declare unconstitutional a section of the Fair Election Practices Act (R.A. 9006) which would ban publication of election surveys in the last 15 days before a national election or 7 days before a local election.

His expertise made him a well-received ambassador for public opinion research in other countries like Bangladesh, Malaysia and Sri Lanka.

He is also a columnist of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, and previously of Manila Standard (1995-2002), Evening Paper (1996-97) and Manila Chronicle (1988-93).

Nieves L. Osorio is presently the Project Lead, Philippine National Budget Monitoring Project, INCITEGov, 2010, and Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Philippine Social Science Council. She is also the Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Mary Johnston Hospital from 2008 and the Vice President of the Board of Trustees of the Center for Developmental Intervention Foundation, Inc. since 2007.

From July 28, 2005 to February 28, 2007, she was at the helm of the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation (PSALM) as President and Chief Executive Officer. PSALM is a government corporation tasked to privatize state-owned generation, the national transmission company and related assets, including real estate in line with the restructuring of the electric power industry.

Prior to her appointment as PSALM President and CEO, she served as Undersecretary of the Department of Finance, overseeing both the Corporate Affairs Group and the Policy and Development Management Services Group. She was the alternate of the Secretary of Finance in cabinet level inter-agency committees and Councils. This was complemented by her five-year service in the Philippine National Oil Company as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. Prior to PNOC, she served as the Chief Operating Officer for almost a year (March 1995-January 1996) of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

During her two-year term (2008 - 2009) as President of the Philippine Statistical Association (PSA), the Code of Ethics for Statisticians was formulated and adopted by the General Assembly of the Association.

Vicente B. Valdepeñas, Jr., Ph.D. is consultant at Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. He was Member of the Monetary Board in 1983-1986, and in 1997-2008. He also served as member of the Central Bank Board of Liquidators in 2004-2008. He had been Executive Director (1987-1996) of the South East Asian Central Banks (SEACEN) Research and Training Centre at Kuala Lumpur.

He had served the Philippine government as Minister of Economic Planning and Director-General of the National Economic and Development Authority; member of Batasang Pambansa and Chairman of its Committee on Socio-Economic Planning and Development; Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry for trade policy and negotiations, and Administrator of the National Cottage Industries Development Authority. He was the Philippine and ASEAN Representative to the GATT Textiles Surveillance Body on the Multi-Fibre Arrangement.

Prior to doing government service, Dr. Valdepeñas had been Chairman and Professor in the Department of Economics at the Ateneo de Manila University, where he had earned his A.B. degree in economics with honors. He also taught economics at Cornell University which had awarded him the South East Asia Program Fellowship and where he earned his Master's and Ph.D. degrees in economics.

LIST OF RESOURCE SPEAKERS AND PARTICIPANTS

	Name	Agency
1	Africa, Tomas P.	PARIS21/OECD, PSA
2	Landingin, Roel	NEWSBREAK
3	Mangahas, Mahar K.	SWS
4	Osorio, Nieves L.	INCITE Gov, PSSC, PSA
5	Sicat, Justine D.	UPSE
6	Valdepeñas, Vicente Jr., B.	BSP, PSA
7	Abaya, Aurora	PSA
8	Abellon, Ruben N.	SRTC
9	Abitona, Ester	RETIRED
10	Adlawan, Daisy	NSO
11	Aga, Ryan	STRAND-ASIA
12	Albacea, Zita VJ	INSTAT
13	Alforja, Hazel Ann	BAS
14	Amora, Johnny	
15	Astrologo Jr., Candido J.	NSCB
16	Awit, Melanie	
17	Bautista, Rosalinda P.	NSO IV-A
18	Bayala, Aura	FMB
19	Baylon, Bernadette	UST
20	Bello, Alma S.	FMB-DENR
21	Betia, Cristine	NEDA IV-A
22	Blanco, Carole	NSO
23	Bonitee, Ted	NYC
24	Buenaventura, Angeles R.	PSA
25	Canillas, Fe	BSP
26	Castro, Lina V.	NSCB
27	Chaluangco, Eleanor	BSP
28	Cochon, Kim	UPM
29	Collado, Roselle V.	INSTAT
30	Comia, Liza N.	INSTAT
31	Daantos, Agnes A.	NEDA IV-A
32	Daguidi, Elena M.	BLES
33	Dayco, Maria Fe S.	GSIS
34	De Costo, Severa B.	NSCB
35	De Guzman, Estela T.	NSO

	Name	Agency
36	De Guzman, Necita L.	BAS
37	De Mesa, Imelda E.	DLSU
38	Dela Peña, Geraldine H.	SRTC
39	Dueñas, Ruby Ann	BSP
40	Dumaua, Madeline B.	SRTC
41	Duque, Marissa	BSP
42	Duran, Maria Carol G.	BAS
43	Erum, Cynthia DM.	OWWA
44	Evangelista, Maria Clarinda M.	BAS
45	Fajardo, Nestor	NSO
46	Fajardo, Rosario G.	BLES
47	Floirendo, Jean	NSO
48	Fontanilla, Mychal	STRAND-ASIA
49	Gador, Ludivinia	BSP
50	Garcia, Juvelinda	BSP
51	Ignacio, Redencion M.	NSCB
52	Ilarina, Vivian R.	NSCB
53	Jacob, Liberty	BLES
54	Javier, Editha V.	BAS
55	Lebanan, May Antonnette D.	UPM
56	Lim, Leah	BSP
57	Lim, Reveillex M.	NYC
58	Litan, Ruben V.	NSCB
59	Lizarondo, Maura S.	BAS
60	Loayon, Danilo T.	SRTC
61	Lopez-Dee, Edward P.	NSCB
62	Macaraeg, Ana Julia S.	SRTC
63	Magtulis, Mary Ann	SRTC
64	Manalang, Teresita	BSP
65	Marasigan, Grace Sharon F.	INFORMATICS
66	Marquez, Nelia R.	PRIVATE
67	Mercado, Chris	UPM
68	Miralao, Virginia	PSSC
69	Mistal, Dennis N.	BAS
70	Molejon, Jonyper	NSO-MANILA
71	Monteza, Jayne	NSCB
72	Morales, Lyndon	UP MANILA
73	Mota, Alegria	BAS
74	Nara, Yolanda L.	BLES
75	Nepomuceno, Noel S.	NSCB

		Name	Agency
76		Oblea, Apolinar	NSO
77		Ogbinar, Evelyn	NSO
78		Oribello, Gilby	SSS
79		Paiso, Ma. Minerva	OWWA
80		Pangan, Theresita N.	BLES
81		Paule, Fatima	BSP
82		Pe Benito, Jesusa	SRTC
83		Peña, Maria Praxedes R.	SRTC
84		Peralta, Teresa V.	BLES
85		Pick, Jocelyn R.	PROFILES ASIA
86		Regalado, Cynthia S.	NSCB
87		Reyes, Beng G.	SRTC
88		Reyes, Regina S.	NSCB
89		Rivera, Editha B.	BLES
90		Rivera, Patricia Anne L.	NSCB
91		Rotairo, Lea E.	INSTAT
92		Sanchez, Elizabeth	BSP
93		Selda, Gervacio Jr. G.	SRTC
94		Sta. Barbara, Jade B.	UP DILIMAN
95		Sy, Ma. Criselda R.	
96		Tabu, Panfilo C.	TESDA
97		Tabunda, Ana	UPSS
98		Tambasen, Ma. Erlina	DENR-MGB
99		Tandang, Nancy A.	INSTAT
100		Tengco, Eden	BSP
101		Uy, Christine Jewel	UPM
102		Vallesteros, Cynthia C.	BAS
103		Virola, Romulo A.	NSCB
104		Abad, Teresita G.	PSA
105		Castillo, Jennifer M.	PSA
106		Andres, Stephanie Rae C.	PSA
107		Brillo, Bernard	Metasystem

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