

COUNTRY PAPER:  
PHILIPPINES

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS  
IN THE  
PHILIPPINE STATISTICAL SYSTEM

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Prepared by the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) with inputs from the National Statistics Office, Bureau of Agricultural Statistics, Statistical Research and Training Center, and Department of Environment and Natural Resources and using available materials at the NSCB regarding recent developments in the Philippine Statistical System.

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## **COUNTRY PAPER: PHILIPPINES\***

### **RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICAL SYSTEM**

#### **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. The Philippine Statistical System (PSS) continues to undertake developmental activities and improvements to promote its responsiveness to current and new demands posed by its stakeholders. Albeit resource constraints continue to affect the operations of statistical agencies, the system has to implement new activities or improvements to uphold the quality and usefulness of its products and services.

2. This country paper elucidates recent developments initiated and the status of major activities started in past years on several areas, namely: (a) the Philippine System of National Accounts; (b) sectoral statistics; (c) statistical standard classification systems; (d) survey operations; (e) performance measurement for statistical agencies; (f) use of IT in statistical operations; (g) statistical education and training; and (h) statistical advocacy through the Eighth National Convention on Statistics.

#### **II. THE PHILIPPINE SYSTEM OF NATIONAL ACCOUNTS**

##### *A. Implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts*

3. The National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB), the policy-making and coordinating body of the PSS, is mandated to compile and maintain the Philippine System of National Accounts (PSNA). For more than forty years now, the PSNA has undergone changes in response to the increasing demands of users for new information and the growing complexity of economic transactions. While the existing compilation of the PSNA uses the 1968 SNA framework, some recommendations of the 1993 SNA have been implemented.

4. In 1997, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) granted technical assistance (TA) to the Philippines to assist the country in implementing and institutionalizing the 1993 SNA. The UN Statistics Division (UNSD) and the ESCAP also supported the Philippine TA by providing technical guidance to the project. The TA enabled the undertaking of improvements in the PSNA and the piloting of the 1993 SNA for the years 1994-1997 as a model for countries in the region. The specific activities under the ADB TA are listed in Box 1 on page 2.

5. The implementation of the 1993 SNA was initially focused on the compilation of the institutional sector accounts. The expansion of coverage and the treatment of transactions were not sufficiently taken up since the PSNA 1993 Pilot Study was focused on the operationalization of the institutional Sequence of Accounts and the development of the compilation software. Meanwhile, an assessment was undertaken by the ESCAP Regional Adviser to determine future work on the 1993 PSNA and several recommendations were provided.

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\* Prepared by the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) with inputs from the National Statistics Office, Bureau of Agricultural Statistics, Statistical Research and Training Center, and Department of Environment and Natural Resources and using available materials at the NSCB regarding recent developments in the Philippine Statistical System.

6. On the extension of the Asset Boundary, the recommendations cited the following: (a) need to update estimates based on agriculture census for cultivated assets (plant and forestry); (b) need to get benchmark estimates in the agriculture census 2000 for livestock; (c) data on literary and artistic original and intangible non-produced assets should be considered in long-term programme; (d) basic data on valuables need to be further studied; (e) need to consider data on computer software in future surveys; and (f) need to study the concept and estimation of transactions for financial derivatives.

7. There were also several recommendations provided on the classification and compilation of the supply and use tables (SUT). These are: (a) the CPC classification, while used only in the import and export of goods and services, should be fully adopted when the SUT have been compiled; (b) need to make representation for the consideration of COICOP in the next Family Income and Expenditure Survey since reclassification has not been done for all expenditures; and (c) revision of the accounts once the COFOG has been adopted in government finance statistics.

8. While most of the coverage and concepts of the 1993 SNA are being implemented, either fully or partially, other recommended inclusions are as follows: (a) transactions from illegal activities, i.e., illegal logging, should be considered in the long-term program; and (b) livestock data on population should be classified by type of animal, i.e., for meat or for means of production.

9. Several problems are encountered in the implementation of the 1993 SNA. One major drawback is the lack of/inadequate data that would support most of the requirements of the compilation. Another problem concerns the high turnover of SNA trained personnel who are involved in the compilation of the accounts.

10. Towards the full implementation of the 1993 SNA, the NSCB developed an Integrated PSNA Improvement Program which covers the implementation of the 1993 SNA and improvements in the coverage, concepts, classifications, estimation procedures and parameters. The program is consistent with the progressive approach of developing the 1993 SNA according to the statistical system's capabilities to provide the data requirements. In view of this, a decision will be have to done later as to which accounts/tables should be compiled quarterly, annually, triennially, quinquennially, etc. based on the capacity of the PSS.

11. The program includes the development of chain volume measures and compilation softwares (annual and quarterly). The 1994-1997 estimates under the

**Box 1.** Activities Undertaken Under the 1993 SNA ADB-TA to the Philippines

- completion of the 1994-1997 sequence of accounts (partial) for the five institutional sectors—non-financial corporations, financial corporations, government, households and non-profit institutions serving households at current prices;
- estimation of the volume series (1994-1997) for selected sectors using chain volume measure;
- conduct of special studies on specific problem areas in the PSNA, e.g., FISIM, IISC, taxes, capital formation, change in stocks, and imports of non-factor services;
- study visits to UNSD, Statistics Canada and Australian Bureau of Statistics to observe practices in these institutions;
- conduct of a series of fora for the users and producers of the PSNA and also with the compilers of the Balance of Payments and government financial statistics;
- documentation of the sources of data and methods used in implementing the 1993 SNA including problems encountered in the compilation of the accounts; and
- development of a compilation software for the 1993 SNA based on Philippine conditions.

1993 SNA will also continue to undergo revisions/updating to incorporate improvements covered by the program until its full implementation in 2004. And starting 2004, the constant price estimates and chain volume series will be compiled until the latter has been fully established. Further, activities to address the 1993 SNA recommendations will continue as part of the long-term programme. As regards the compilation software, it is deemed as a prerequisite to the successful implementation of the 1993 SNA and in the development of satellite accounts.

12. While work on the 1993 SNA is ongoing, the 1968 UN SNA-based estimates will still be compiled to provide a parallel series until the former series has been fully implemented. To promote better understanding and utilization of the 1993 SNA series, advocacy work will commence this year.

13. In July 2001, the NSCB signed an agreement with the Philippine-Australia Governance Facility (PAGF) to develop the capacity of NSCB in implementing the improvements in the current PSNA in line with the 1993 SNA. [1] Specifically, the project will undertake several activities, as follows: (a) training on the adoption of the 1993 SNA and chain volume measure; (b) revision of annual estimates for 1991-1998 at current prices; (c) revision of the annual estimates of volume measure for 1991-1998; (d) establishment of NSCB IT Team; (e) conduct of workshop with expert group for the presentation of results; (f) preparation of PSNA information papers; and (g) documentation of results as inputs to the final report. The project will be implemented for a period of one year.

#### **B. Development and Implementation of Satellite Accounts of the PSNA**

14. The 1993 SNA enables the compilation of satellite accounts such as the coverage of national expenditures in various fields like environment and natural resources, health, tourism, education, etc. Towards this end, the NSCB, as the compiler of the PSNA, has embarked on the development and institutionalization of a number of satellite accounts.

##### **B.1 Philippine Economic-Environmental and Natural Resources Accounting**

15. The NSCB, being the compiler of the PSNA, is also the lead agency in the institutionalization of the satellite account, **Philippine Economic-Environmental and Natural Resources Accounting (PEENRA)**. Until September 2001, the implementation of the accounts was done as a project with funding assistance from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Under this project and prior to its completion, several activities on the compilation of environmental accounts, filling up of data requirements and gaps and preparation of publications were completed.

16. On the compilation of environmental accounts, the resource/activity account estimates at the national level and in two pilot areas, e.g., the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) and the Province of Palawan, were updated/revised/expanded. Specifically, the resource accounts at the national level were updated to 1998 except for the fishery resource which was updated to 1999. On the other hand, the new resource accounts generated with coverage year from 1988 to 1998 include forestland, non-metallic (coal), plantation forest, freshwater fishery and energy (coal) while the new activity account completed was for poultry with the same

coverage period. Meanwhile, the accounts for the pilot areas include the CAR Resource Account covering the period 1990 to 1998 and the Palawan Resource Account which had 1988 to 1999 as coverage. The asset and activity accounts of these two pilot areas were presented in a forum attended by heads of local government agencies.

17. To address data gaps and ultimately improve the provision of data needed in the compilation of the accounts, the conduct of the Benchmark Survey on Environmental Protection Expenditures (SEPE) and data producers workshop were completed. The SEPE, which had 1998 as reference period, was undertaken as a rider to the Annual Survey of Establishments of the National Statistics Office. It was administered to a sample of 800 establishments engaged in economic activities identified to be highly pollutive and located in four regions of the country. The survey attained a response rate of almost 82 percent. [2] The items of information collected through the survey are shown in Box 2.

Box 2—Major Data Items in the SEPE

- revenues relating to environmental protection (EP)
- current operating costs on EP
- research and development expenditures on EP
- capital expenditures on EP
- inventory of fixed assets for EP
- investment plan on EP

18. Final analysis of the survey results had been completed which showed revealing facts on the structure of environmental protection expenditures of industries and the techniques used. [2] Specifically, information on who provides the environmental protection services and the corresponding type of EPA services provided and in which EP activity the bulk of taxes, levies, fines and licenses on EP goes can be gleaned from the survey

19. Several problems, however, were encountered in the conduct of the SEPE. These include the reluctance of respondents to answer the survey questionnaires for fear of regulatory sanctions, unavailability of the establishment personnel to accomplish the questionnaire, need for thorough explanation as to what EP means, and difficulty of identifying details asked in the questionnaire due to lack of awareness on what to classify under EP. In future activities, refinements in the questionnaire and closer coordination with the respondents can address the problems encountered during the benchmark survey. Furthermore, advocacy activities should be initiated for the appreciation of the benefits to be derived from the information and the survey. As regards refinements in the survey instruments, these should be done in partnership with the respondents and consider their accounting systems as well to ensure ease of replying to the survey.

20. Aside from the survey, a workshop on data improvement involving various data producers was conducted to address the finding that 96 out of 396 or 24 percent of the data needed in the compilation of PEENRA were not generated by data producers. The output of the workshop was a Data Improvement Plan which will serve as the blueprint of the statistical programs that need to be implemented and institutionalized to address the data requirements of the PEENRA. Specifically, the Plan lists down specific programs/activities deemed important in the compilation of PEENRA which are not regularly or are yet to be undertaken by the concerned government agencies.

21. To promote wider accessibility of the PEENRA outputs, three new publications have been released, namely: (a) Policy Uses of the Philippine System of Integrated Economic and Environmental Accounting; (b) Environmental Protection Services; and (c) Environmental Accounting in the Philippines. In addition, three publications will also be released soon, e.g., The 1998 Survey on Environmental Protection Expenditures; Environmental Accounting: The Province of Palawan Experience; and Environmental Accounting: The Cordillera Administrative Region Experience. These publications, as for the other releases, are or will be uploaded in the PEENRA webpage (<http://www.nscb.gov.ph/peenra>) to reach a broader audience.

22. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is a major source of data needed by the PEENRA and a user of the accounts as well for its policy, project planning and implementation. To provide the necessary data inputs, a bureau under the DENR, i.e., the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau, has several ongoing studies, namely: (a) Carbon Storage and Sequestration Study; (b) Valuation Study of Sand and Gravel; (c) Analysis of the Supply and Demand of Wood; (d) and Conduct of Information Dissemination on the Proposed Wastewater Permitting System.

23. In addition, other bureaus of the DENR have lined up a number of new projects which include the following (a) Timber Plantation and Investment Study of the Forest Management Bureau; (b) Development of Statistical Database with GIS Application and Database Harmonization to be spearheaded by the DENR Central Office; and (d) Valuation of the Impact of Urban Degradation and Development of Selected Waterways to be carried out by the DENR-National Capital Region.

## B.2 Philippine National Health Accounts

24. The Philippine National Health Accounts (PNHA) tells (a) how much the country spends for health care; (b) where the money comes from (sources of funds); (c) what types of health care services are purchased and who provides the services (uses of funds); and (d) how much it costs to administer a health financing scheme. Its uses are (a) to institute policy changes, i.e., to correct imbalance in expenditures and to formulate appropriate social insurance program; and (b) to determine the efficiency of the present financing scheme. Its compilation is now a regular activity of the NSCB being the compiler of the PSNA. [3] The latest PNHA series that has been released covers the period 1991 to 1999 while the 2000 PNHA is set for release eleven (11) months after the reference year.

25. The PNHA covers total health expenditures in a given year for the country as a whole which refer to expenditures on goods and services for the preventive, curative, therapeutic and rehabilitative care of the human population for the primary purpose of improving health. [3] The PNHA framework consists of a matrix of operational categories classifying and defining the sources and uses (Box 3) for health care goods and services

26. In the operationalization of the PNHA framework, a number of issues that are primarily due to data support constraints have been encountered. These include issues on coverage, classification of expenditures and estimation methodology. As regards future plan, the framework will be improved by adopting the System of Health Accounts (SHA) that was proposed by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). [3] The SHA establishes a conceptual basis of statistical reporting rules and provides a common framework for enhancing the comparability of data over time and across countries. The SHA also proposes a newly developed International Classification for Health Accounts (ICHA) which covers three dimensions—health care by functions of care; providers of health care services; and sources of funding.

27. Another recent development is the compilation of Local Health Accounts (LHA) to address an emerging issue in health care financing which concerns equity in the distribution of resources not just across income groups but also across geographical areas. This issue is not addressed by the present PNHA but the Department of Health (DOH), under its Integrated Community Health Services Project, has already initiated efforts through the pilot testing of the compilation of the 1998 LHA in six pilot provinces, namely: Kalinga, Apayao, Palawan, Guimaras, Surigao del Norte and South Cotabato. Thus, the LHA gives a spatial dimension to the PNHA and provides in-depth information about inter-provincial variations in health care spending which can be translated into locally-focused health care financing policy or programs.

28. Specifically, the LHA aims to develop a framework for the compilation of information on health expenditures of a province, city or municipality. It is useful in the analysis/assessment of the efficiency and effectiveness of local health care policies, services and financing and in planning, budgeting, formulation of policies and interventions to improve health care services delivery by local government units (LGUs) and concerned national government agencies.

### **Box 3—Uses and Sources of Funds for Health Expenditures**

#### **Uses of funds**

- Personal Health Care
  - Government hospital
  - Private hospital
  - Non-hospital facilities
  - Other professional facilities
  - Dental facilities
  - Traditional health care
  - Retail outlets: drugs and other non-durable purchases (self care)
  - Retail outlets: vision products and other medical durables (self care)
- Public Health Care
- Others
  - General administration and operating costs
  - Research and training

#### **Sources of funds**

- Government
  - National
  - Local
- Social Insurance
  - Medicare
  - Employees compensation
- Private sector
  - Out-of-pocket
  - Private insurance
  - HMOs
  - Employer-based plans
  - Private schools
- Others



29. The LHA will be implemented jointly by the NSCB and the DOH through a Memorandum of Agreement and in cooperation with the local governments of the six provinces covered. Specifically, the activities to be undertaken include the updating of the first LHA compiled by the DOH under a previous project, improvements in the data framework and estimation methodologies and development of the local health accounts system.

### B.3 Philippine Satellite Accounts on Tourism

30. The Philippines has been one of the pioneers in the development of tourism satellite account considering its initiatives that started as early as 1988.

31. The preliminary Philippine Satellite accounts on Tourism (PSAT) framework adopted the Tourism Satellite Accounts (STA) that was developed by the Commission of the European Communities, the OECD, the WTO and the UN. However, data constraints affected its operationalization and underscored the need to further study and resolve some conceptual issues. [4]

32. The PSAT highlights the output of tourism industries vis-à-vis consumption expenditures of tourists, thereby providing insights on the relationship of supply and use of tourism goods and services. It also demonstrates the impact of tourism through physical indicators such as employment, tourist arrivals, length of night-stays, forms of accommodation and means of transportation.

33. There are eleven tables that have been generated from the preliminary PSAT framework as listed in Box 4. However, the preliminary results are very limited in scope and coverage due to data constraints which hinder the analysis of the link between tourism consumption and the supply of tourism goods and services. In addition to this problem, other bottlenecks were faced during the initial compilation of the PSAT. These include the lack of technical expert/consultant on the concepts of the WTO-TSA framework and inadequate data support for a more encompassing coverage. Specifically, data on pre-travel expenditures of resident tourists and same day visitors and expenditures of households on behalf of the tourists and outbound tourism are unavailable. Meanwhile, data on domestic tourism, input-output account and the results of census of establishments are available but in limited frequency. Furthermore, data from surveys are of limited coverage since the sampling frame is based on establishments. There is also a need to disaggregate data on package tours

#### Box 4-PSAT Summary Tables

**Table 1.** Tourism Demand in the Philippines

**Table 2.** Tourism Consumption Expenditures in the Philippines

**Table 3.** Tourism Collective Consumption Expenditures in the Philippines

**Table 4.** Gross Fixed Capital Formation of Tourism Industries in the Philippines

**Table 5.** Estimated Value Added of Tourism Industries in the Philippines

**Table 6.** Production Accounts of the Tourism Industries and Non-Tourism Industries in the Philippines

**Table 7.** Supply and Use Tables of Tourism and Non-Tourism Industries in the Philippines

**Table 8.** Estimated Tourism Ratio Based on the Tourism Final Demand

**Table 9.** Employment Generated by the Tourism Industries in the Philippines

**Table 10a.** Tourism Arrivals in the Philippines

**Table 10b.** Inbound Tourist Arrivals in the Philippines

**Table 10c.** Main Means of Transportation of Inbound Tourists by Country of Residence and Port of Entry in the Philippines

**Table 10d.** Forms of Accommodations Available for Tourists in the Philippines

**Table 11.** Comparison of the WTO and WTTC Results on Selected Expenditure Items

and for one-to-one correspondence in coverage and definition between tourism supply and demand.

34. Future plans for the development and institutionalization of the PSAT include the establishment of the frequency and distance dimensions of the concept of usual environment in statistical terms. These two dimensions concerning usual environment of visitors are critical in defining tourism consumption expenditures distinctively from other personal consumption expenditures of individuals that are non-tourism in nature. It is imperative that these be established in statistical terms such as the regularity of journeys for the frequency of visits and/or the geographical/administrative boundaries of local places for the distance of travel.

35. Another planned activity is the further delineation of the borderline between characteristic and connected goods and services needs. The expansion of the coverage of the current estimates to fully measure the economic contribution of tourism will also be undertaken. This will entail compiling consumption expenditures on pre-travel by resident tourists, expenditures of same day visitors and households on behalf of tourists. It would include outbound tourism, both on the expenditure and supply side, which would affect estimates of the tourism net receipts from the rest of the world.

36. Refinements of the initial compilation methodology will also be undertaken since there is a need to establish more clearly the conceptual linkage between the tourism consumption expenditure and the production of tourism industries. These are estimated independently under the present methodology using two different data sources, i.e., consumption using surveys and administrative reports and production using the input-output accounts. As a result, a one-on-one correspondence among the identified tourism industries and the tourism products has not been clearly established. In addition, tourism on the demand side must be incisively scrutinized which entails going back to the survey tools utilized during the data collection process. Further efforts must likewise be undertaken to gain a deeper conceptual understanding of the inclusion of the indirect effects of tourism industries, specifically its backward linkages.

#### B.4 National Education Expenditure Accounts

37. The development of the National Education Expenditure Accounts is being undertaken by the NSCB with funding support from the Education Policy Research Component of the Third Elementary Education Project of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS). It was conceived because of the difficulty of addressing policy issues in resource allocation due to the absence of a comprehensive and comparable set of

#### **Box 5-Uses of Funds for Education**

1. Basic education
  - 1.1 Preschool education
  - 1.2 Elementary education
  - 1.3 Secondary education
  - 1.4 Nonformal education
  - 1.5 Special education
2. Middle-Level Skills Development and Training
  - 2.1 Post-secondary education
  - 2.2 Training programs not requiring High School diploma
  - 2.3 Special education
3. Higher education
  - 3.1 College degree
  - 3.2 Masteral and diploma degree
  - 3.3 Doctorate degree
  - 3.4 Special education
4. Job-Related Training Programs
5. Ancillary activities
  - 5.1 Early childhood development
  - 5.2 Basic education
  - 5.3 Middle-level skills development and training
  - 5.4 Higher education
  - 5.5 Job-related training programs
7. Other uses of funds

information regarding current sources and uses of funds for education, including both public and private sources that can be routinely collected from year to year, or at appropriate intervals and be made available to DECS and other stakeholders for policy analysis. The estimation of the education accounts for the Philippines has become imperative as the government directs its efforts towards implementing major reforms in the educational system.

38. The development of the National Education Expenditure Accounts (NEXA) involves a set of interrelated activities, namely: (a) development of the framework for the estimation of the NEXA; (b) identification and assessment of data sources; (c) identification and design of supplementary data collection activities; (d) estimation and documentation of the NEXA for the period 1991 to 1998; and (e) preparation of an institutionalization plan for the development and maintenance of the NEXA. To-date, the first three activities have been completed and collection of data needed in the estimation of the 1991 to 1998 accounts is ongoing. [5]

39. The NEXA covers all forms of education that satisfy the standards and definitions outlined in the Philippine Standard Classification of Education and prescribed by the Philippine Education Act of 1982. Education shall comprise all organized and sustained communication process designed to bring about learning. This is also consistent with the definition adopted by the UNESCO as well as in the revised ISCED. [5]

40. As in the health accounts, the NEXA aims to provide answers to these questions—How much of the total economy's financial resources is being spent on education? Given the amount allocated to education, what education services and activities are being paid for? How much is being spent on each service/activity and on each level of education? Who is paying for these education services and activities? Is the country self-reliant in terms of the provision of education services? Alternatively, how dependent is it on foreign assistance in providing education services?

#### **Box 6-Sources of Funds for Education**

1. General Government
  - 1.1 DECS
  - 1.2 Other National government agencies
  - 1.3 Local government units
  - 1.4 GOP contribution to foreign-assisted projects—Grants and loans
2. Households
3. Financial corporations
  - 3.1 Private pre-need and insurance corporations
  - 3.2 Financial GOCCs
  - 3.3 Other financial corporations
4. Non-financial corporations
  - 4.1 Private educational institutions
  - 4.2 Non-financial GOCCs
  - 4.3 Other non-financial corporations
5. Non-profit institutions serving households
6. Rest of the world
  - 6.1 Grants
  - 6.2 Loans

41. The design of the NEXA framework was guided by these questions which constitute what policy makers and analysts would typically want to know about education financing. The framework that has been formulated indicates the uses (Box 5) and sources (Box 6) of funds.

### III. SECTORAL STATISTICS

#### A. Poverty Statistics

42. The estimation of official poverty statistics in the Philippines is spearheaded by the NSCB through the Technical Working Group on Income Statistics of its Inter-Agency Committee on Labor, Income and Productivity Statistics. The estimates are based on the results of the Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES) which is conducted every three years by the National Statistics Office.

43. The first official statistics on poverty were for the year 1985 and used a menu-based methodology. While the same methodology was used in 1988, it was revised in 1992 in line with continuing efforts of the PSS to improve the methodology for estimating poverty in the country. The major difference between the old and the new methodologies was on the non-food component of the poverty threshold. Under the new methodology, non-food items that were not considered basic, such as alcoholic beverages, tobacco, recreation, durable furniture and equipment and miscellaneous expenditures, were excluded. The 1992 methodology was then used to re-estimate the poverty statistics for 1985 and 1988 and to generate poverty statistics for 1991, 1994, 1997 and 2000 by region, all areas and urban-rural. The preliminary 2000 poverty and subsistence incidence and thresholds were recently released based on the preliminary results of the 2000 FIES.

44. The poverty indicators presently generated are shown in Box 7. Among the indicators are measurements of the depth of poverty through the poverty and income gaps that were generated starting with the 1997 estimates. In addition, annual food and poverty thresholds have been computed as well to make available poverty data in between the FIES years. [6, 7]

#### **Box 7—Poverty Indicators**

- Per capita poverty and food/subsistence thresholds: all areas, urban and rural
- Poverty and food/subsistence incidence: all areas, urban and rural
- Magnitude of poor families and population below poverty and food/subsistence threshold: all areas, urban and rural
- Poverty gap ratios by region, urban and rural
- Income gap ratios by region, urban and rural
- Gini ratios
- Annual per capita poverty and food thresholds: all areas, urban and rural

45. In response to demands for subregional dimension of official poverty statistics as a result of the passage of the Decentralization Act of 1992 or the Local Government Code which devolved certain powers and functions to local government units, the NSCB embarked on the generation of provincial poverty statistics. It was undertaken as part of the project, **Strengthening Institutional Mechanisms for Convergence of Poverty Alleviation Efforts**, which was funded by the United Nations Development Programme. The project was recently concluded and it generated these outputs, namely: (a) methodology for estimating provincial poverty statistics; (b) a framework for the Integrated Poverty Monitoring and Indicator System; and (c) a sourcebook on poverty related statistics.

46. To further provide quantitative basis for interventions in poverty alleviation, a major thrust of the government, two poverty-related projects were implemented during the year by the NSCB and the National Statistics Office (NSO). These are **the**

## **Poverty Mapping Study of the NSCB and Improving Poverty Monitoring Surveys of the NSO.**

47. The NSCB project seeks to develop a methodology for poverty mapping which will identify and provide basis by which provinces could be ranked and prioritized as to the level of “poorness.” Specifically, the poverty maps will be used in locating the poor, identifying their characteristics, describing their conditions, prioritizing areas which need immediate attention based on selected indicators. The poverty map will also include selected characteristics on their environment. The study will make use of statistics generated by the major statistical agencies and other data from poverty-related studies and administrative by-products of agencies involved in poverty alleviation.

48. The project of the NSO, **Improving Poverty Monitoring Surveys**, was launched in July 2001, and will run for 24 months . It is implemented through a technical assistance from the Asian Development Bank and the Government of New Zealand. The objectives of the project are to (a) link all the poverty monitoring surveys of NSO to produce more in-depth poverty analysis and research; (b) improve the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of these surveys by developing better survey methodology; and (c) establish a research and development unit in NSO that will be responsible for sustained enhancement of survey sampling and operations. [8]

49. The scope of the project includes advisory services, research grants to improve poverty monitoring, consultative workshops and dissemination seminars, and training of research and development unit staff. The major activities to be undertaken involve the (a) review and documentation of the FIES and Annual Poverty Indicators Survey (APIS) of the NSO; (b) research grants and conferences; (c) linking of FIES and APIS; (d) longitudinal poverty analysis; (e) apprenticeship program; and (f) development of better household survey strategy. [8]

### **B. Gender Statistics**

50. The NSCB is pursuing several activities to improve the availability of statistics on gender issues. These include the (a) development of a methodology to generate statistics on violence against women and children (VAWC); (b) development of a framework for measuring women’s and men’s contribution to the economy (time use); and (c) refinement of existing gender and development indicator system. The outputs of these activities are shown in Box 8.

51. In May 2001, the NSCB released the maiden issue of the **Statistical Handbook on Violence Against Women and Children** after it was reviewed and endorsed by the NSCB Task Force to Generate Statistics on Violence Against Women and Children to the NSCB Board. The handbook was specifically developed to provide hard statistics on the prevalence of violence against

#### **Box 8-Outputs of Gender Activities/Projects**

##### **VAWC**

- Report on existing administrative-based reporting system and recommendations for improvement
- Data framework
- Glossary of terms and related concepts
- Statistical handbook
- Memorandum of understanding with concerned agencies

##### **Time-Use**

- Framework
- Methodology for conducting national time-use survey
- Estimation procedures and standards for the valuation of time use for unremunerated work by women and men

##### **GAD**

GAD indicator system—  
framework; sources and methods

women and children. It consists of two parts—Violence Against Women and Violence Against Children. The handbook will be useful in establishing a baseline from which projections could be made to improve the present situation of Filipino women and children. [9]

52. In addition to the handbook, the Glossary on Violence Against Women and Children and Other Related Concepts (for statistical purposes) was also approved by the NSCB Board for adoption by concerned agencies in the generation and analysis of VAWC statistics.

53. Meanwhile, the GAD Indicator System was published by the NSCB in May 2001 after it was approved by the NSCB Board for adoption by concerned government agencies in the generation and analysis of GAD indicators. The publication elucidates the GAD statistical framework, the core gender and development indicators and data gaps and plan of action.

### C. Philippine Minimum National Social Data Set

54. The Philippine Minimum National Social Data Set (PMNSDS) is a core data list (see Box 9) which is intended to help monitor the achievement of social development goals. It is based on the MNSDS endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission to all member countries after considering the major action areas identified by the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women.

55. The PMNSDS aims to provide key statistics for national and international reporting and monitoring. It consists of six data items in the area of population and development, four measure absolute poverty, four measure productive employment and reduction of unemployment and one general measure of population disaggregated by sex and age. The PMNSDS, which is uploaded in the NSCB website (<http://www.nscb.gov.ph>) is updated quarterly on March 22, June 14, September 13 and December 14, 2001.

#### **Box 9-PMNSDS Indicators**

- Population estimates by 5-year age group and sex
- Life expectancy at birth by sex
- Infant mortality per 1,000 live births
- Child mortality per 1,000 population 1-4 years old
- Maternal mortality per 100,000 live births
- Contraceptive prevalence rate of women 15-49 years old by method used
- Average number of years of schooling completed by sex
- Persons per sleeping room
- Access to safe water
- Access to sanitation
- Monetary value of the basket of food needed for minimum nutritional requirement
- GDP per capita
- Average income per capita of families by decile group
- Unemployment rate
- Employment-population ratio by sex

### D. Governance Indicators

56. Under the Re-Engineering the Government Statistical Services Project Phase II being implemented by the NSCB in cooperation with the National Statistics Office (NSO), Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS), Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics (BLES) and Statistical Research and Training Center (SRTC), funds were made available for the conduct of statistical research and development. One of the projects under this component of the project is the Development of Indicators and

Design and Development of a Database and Information Network on Statistics on Governance. This project was specifically conceived to respond to the importance of good governance in improving the quality of life as enunciated in the medium-term Philippine Development Plan.

57. Specifically, a major output of the project is a statistical framework for measuring governance and an initial compilation of indicators. To-date, the framework that has been formulated defines governance as the exercise of political, socio-economic and administrative authority in the management of the country's affairs at all levels by government, civil society and business/private sector.

#### **E. Foreign Direct Investment Statistics**

58. In response to the priority thrusts of the government, the Philippines, through the Inter-Agency Committee on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Statistics (IACFDIS) chaired by the NSCB, recently started compiling the approved FDIs on the information and communications technology (ICT) sector. Approved FDIs on ICT refer to investment commitments geared towards the manufacturing of ICT equipment, spare parts and accessories including professional, medical and scientific instruments as well as ICT services, e.g., wholesale trade of computers, electronic parts and equipment; telecommunications; renting of computers and other office equipment; computer services and other related activities based on the 1994 Philippine Standard Industrial Classification. Starting with the Foreign Direct Investments report for the Second Quarter 2001, approved FDIs on the ICT sector have been included.

59. The IACFDIS is also currently developing a methodology to generate data on actual investments in the country covering all industries. Another ongoing effort of the IACFDIS concerns the analysis of export generation and employment creation of FDI enterprises in the Philippines to better understand and manage the effects of FDIs. Meanwhile, ongoing efforts, through the ASEAN Working Group on FDIs, to generate a harmonized and uniform FDI statistics in the ASEAN region have yielded initial data on the foreign investment flows to the manufacturing sector. The Philippines through the IACFDIS has assumed chairmanship of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> meetings of the ASEAN Working Group on FDIs held in Hanoi, Vietnam and Yangon, Myanmar, respectively.

#### **F. Agriculture and Fishery Statistics**

##### **F.1 Census of Agriculture and Fisheries**

60. On May 15, 2000, the NSCB Board created a Task Force on the 2002 Census of Agriculture and Fisheries (CAF) to assist the National Statistics Office (NSO), the statistical agency in the Philippines mandated to conduct censuses, in its preparatory activities for the operation of the census in July 2002. Through the task force and with the work done by the NSO, some preparatory activities have been completed. These include identification of data items, questionnaire design and pre-testing. However, the field operations will not push through in July 2002 due to budget constraints.

## F.2 Statistical Activities Catering to Information Needs of Farmers

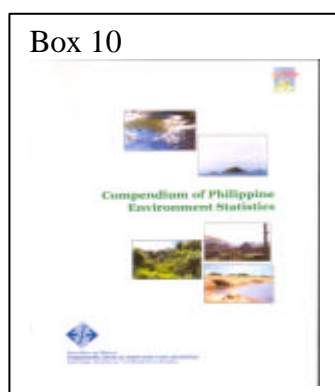
61. The Philippine Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS), another major statistical agency in the country, is implementing several innovative activities that primarily cater to farmers and in support of the government's poverty alleviation, people empowerment and food security programs. These are the Production and Marketing Analysis Service (PMAS) and the Development of Early Warning System for Selected Commodities.

62. The PMAS is presently implemented in six provinces and two cities with the objective of empowering small farmers' organization through the use of production and marketing information and training. Its components are data/information build-up, information packaging, training and information dissemination/transfer. Some publications developed, packaged and disseminated to farmer cooperatives and LGUS are the **BAS Statguide for Farmers** and other leaflets. These will contain production statistics, e.g., annual and provincial production and costs and returns data presented in tabular forms and graphs, and marketing statistics, e.g., annual and provincial farm, wholesale and retail prices presented in tabular forms and graphs, marketing channels and geographic flows. Other outputs to be completed include commodity profiles, training manuals, and trained staff of the BAS, selected LGUs and NGOs and leaders of various farmers' organizations/cooperatives.

63. On the other hand, the early warning system involves the provision of more regular early warning information that will help policy makers and agribusiness entrepreneurs in their decision-making. As of date, the targeted commodities for which an early warning system will be developed include rice and corn, coconut, mango, banana, onion, broiler, eggs, and swine. Primary data are collected from key industry players while secondary data are sourced from other statistical agencies and national government agencies. One early warning information provided is on factors which significantly affect the level of production which have been identified using the best model selected for each crop. Another output of the activity includes validated and operational forecasting model that is applicable to the commodity.

## G. Compendium of Philippine Environment Statistics

64. Early this year, the NSCB released the **Compendium of Philippine Environment Statistics** (Box 10) in publication and CD-ROM. It contains data for the period 1990 to 1998 on these components of the natural environment—flora, fauna, atmosphere, water, land and soil, mineral and energy resources, and human settlements. While the publication is an initial attempt to compile priority environment statistics/indicators based on the Philippine Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (PFDES), updating of the compendium will be done every two years. The compendium is a result of the collaborative work of all government agencies generating environment-related statistics with the NSCB spearheading the activity.



65. The completion of the PFDES was made possible through a technical assistance from the Asian Development Bank which aimed at helping countries to



develop and collect environment statistics on a continuing basis. The PFDES is a systematic organization of the interdisciplinary nature of environment statistics and focuses on the identification, description and presentation of data variables which are useful for tracing and verifying interrelationships among human activities and natural events. Its development was undertaken to solve the inadequacy in the collection and compilation of environment statistics. It will also provide a systematic approach in the compilation and integration of data from various agencies to be more useful in the formulation and valuation of socio-economic and environmental programs and policies. [10]

#### **IV. STATISTICAL STANDARD CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS**

66. The Philippine Central Product Classification (PCPC) based on the UN CPC 1.0 is scheduled for approval by the NSCB Technical Committee on Statistical Standards and Classifications (TCSSC) and its endorsement to the NSCB Board for universal adoption in the country. In the development of the PCPC, the TCSSC took into account the emergence of new activities and products, e.g., service products and activities involving ICT. It then considered proposals for the correct placement of these items within the existing structure of the draft ISIC 3.1 and the UN CPC 1.1. A database on the PCPC based on the UNCPC ver. 1.0 using MS Access has also been developed.

67. On the Philippine Standard Industrial Classification (PSIC), amendments are due for approval of the NSCB Board in December 2001. The amendments include changes in the UN ISIC as reflected in the draft ISIC Rev. 3.1, provision of new emerging/potential industries such as ICT, modifications of an existing industry description for clarity in its coverage and/or consistency with the heading, and deletion of existing codes which were merged, subsumed or subdivided. An ongoing activity is the preparation of inputs for the discussion of the conceptual framework for the 2007 revision.

68. The Integrated Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS) and the Philippine Standard Commodity Classification (PSCC) is likewise due for deliberation of the TCSSC and its endorsement to the NSCB Board for adoption. The Integrated HS/PSCC is basically an HS wherein a statistical suffix is added to the HS code to accommodate commodities included in the PSCC. This is done to ensure a one-to-one correspondence between the two classifications for easier translation of the PSCC data in terms of the HS for economic and statistical purposes as well as for customs purposes. Specifically, it will be used in the generation and dissemination of foreign trade statistics. Future activities include the revision of the Integrated HS/PSCC based on the ASEAN Harmonized Tariff Nomenclature (AHTN).

#### **V. SURVEY OPERATIONS**

69. The National Statistics Office (NSO) is developing a Decentralized Registry of Establishments System (DRES) to improve its List of Establishments (LE), the frame for its surveys. The DRES is being done as part of the activity agreement with the Australian government through the Philippine-Australia Governance Facility (PAGF) and the Philippine government, as represented by the NSO, for the

improvement of the methodology for the Annual Survey of Philippine Business and Industry (ASPBI). The main sources of updates to the LE are those coming from the field which are collected through door-to-door canvassing, a strategy that has been observed to be expensive yet inadequate.

70. Inasmuch as the LGUs are responsible for the annual issuance of business permits to all establishments situated in their localities, it was deemed necessary that coordination efforts between the NSO and the city/municipal officials be enhanced for a more efficient updating of the LE. The DRES Project shall provide a stronger partnership between the LGUs and the NSO for the generation of the necessary database for monitoring business and industry activities. With the application of latest developments in information technology, the DRES Project intends to equip the LGUs with computerized records management system to facilitate the issuance of business permits, which would be linked to the system at NSO for the ASPBI. An improved administrative-based data from the LGUs will translate to better sampling frame for the NSO establishment-based surveys. The project is being implemented in four pilot LGUs and will be completed in April 2002.

**Box 11-Criteria for Evaluation**

- Relevance
- Timeliness and accessibility
- Accuracy and reliability
- Transparency, independence and integrity
- Comparability
- Quality of research program and training materials, facilities and resource persons
- Effectiveness of coordination
- Quality of financial and manpower resources, equipment and facilities for statistical operations

**VI. Performance Measurement Scheme for National Statistical Agencies and Other Data Producers**

71. The NSCB, as part of its coordinating and oversight functions, initiated early this year on a pilot basis a measurement scheme for national statistical agencies and other data producers. It aims to assess progress in terms of developing their capabilities to deliver outputs that meet user demands amidst resource constraints. The results of monitoring are useful in advocacy, promoting public accountability of statistical offices, and rationalizing the allocation of resources. However, the monitoring system is not meant to compare the performance of the different statistical agencies since each agency has unique functions and varying activities. Instead, it is meant to help the managers of the statistical agencies judge their own performance and highlight areas of potential improvement. [11]

72. For the measurement, a questionnaire was developed and accomplished by nine (9) data producers which comprise the initial coverage of the system. These include (a) the NSCB; (b) the NSO; (c) the BAS; (d) the BLES; (e) the SRTC; (f) the DECS; (g) the DOH; (h) Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas; and (i) the Department of Trade and Industry. The development of the questionnaire was based on two main areas of concern to be measured—the agency's statistical outputs/products/ services vis-à-vis agency mandate and responsiveness to user's demands and its financial and manpower resources as well as equipment/facilities. Given the two concerns,

evaluation criteria (Box 11), which primarily delve on the quality dimensions of products and services, were formulated.

73. The results of the initial implementation of the performance measurement are now available which can already be used in setting appropriate standards. Monitoring shall be done annually and the initial coverage will be expanded.

## **VII. USE OF IT IN INFORMATION DISSEMINATION AND SERVICE PROVISION**

### A. Web-based dissemination and monitoring of designated statistics

74. In May 2001, the NSCB launched the program, **Web-based Dissemination and Monitoring of Designated Statistics**, to further improve the accessibility of the most important statistical information needed for development planning and decision-making. The program covers twenty (20) agencies producing more than sixty (60) statistical indicators that are designated and involves the institutionalization of a web-based dissemination of data. Each agency shall maintain a statistics page in their website to include also the Advance Release Calendar (ARC) and metadata to be linked with the NSCB website. The link will be operationalized through a central webpage containing regular updates of the statistical indicators and a self-accomplished monitoring and feedback form. As of the end of October, ten (10) agencies have already posted their statistics pages with an ARC. By May 2002, the complete system shall be operationalized.

### B. Electronic Data Archiving

75. To preserve and protect the wealth of information in the PSS, the NSCB embarked on a project for the development of an electronic data archiving system. In July 2001, the NSCB created a Task Force to formulate the policies, guidelines and implementation plans. A Technical Working Group was also created to design the system of electronic archiving among the statistical agencies/units in the government. An overall vision and policy has been drafted by the Task Force and four pilot agencies, i.e., the NSCB, NSO, BAS and BLES, have been selected. The NSCB prototype data archive will be the PSNA.

### C. Internet based statistical services

76. The use of electronic media, e.g., the internet and CD-ROM, in data dissemination by the major statistical agencies has improved tremendously. In March 2001, the NSO started its e-Census website ([www.e-census.com.ph/default.asp](http://www.e-census.com.ph/default.asp)) for the filing of requests for birth, marriage and death certificates. This facility is expected to enable the NSO reach more people and bring its services to where and when it is needed. Replies to requests are mailed to the requesting party.

77. Meanwhile, the NSCB, which is in-charge of the development and maintenance of standard classification systems, has developed a web-based Philippine Standard Geographic Code (PSGC) using MS Access. The PSGC is a systematic classification and coding of the geographic areas of the country and its web-based dissemination includes the masterlist of barangays, the lowest political unit in the

country, classification by income class and urban-rural and the number of registered voters. A future activity involves the presentation of the provincial maps for faster and more efficient linking of information.

## **VIII. STATISTICAL TRAINING AND EDUCATION**

78. The other component of the Re-Engineering the Government Statistical Services Project, Phase II is statistical human resource development which aims to address the future requirements of the PSS for professional statisticians. Under this component, which is being administered by the SRTC, two programs were offered, namely: (a) a scholarship program for doctoral and masteral degrees in statistics; and (b) the Statistical Manpower Development (SMDP) Program for the Regions.

3.

79. For the scholarship program, the first batch of scholars was selected for SY2001-2002 and they are currently pursuing graduate degrees in statistics. There are six scholars in the first batch coming from NSO, SRTC, BAS, and NSCB, of which five are taking masteral and one taking Ph.D. in Statistics. Under this program, the scholars are provided support in terms of free tuition, book allowance and monthly stipend. In the implementation of the program, however, several issues remain to be addressed. These are: (a) due to limited funding, the program can only target ten scholars for masteral and five for doctoral over a 5-year period; (b) scholarship is limited only to statistical personnel of major statistical agencies while there are clamor from non-statistical agencies to avail of said scholarship; and (c) the need to come up with a career system or a sort of incentive program for the scholars to stay in their respective organizations after completing their studies.

80. On the other hand, the SMDP for the regions is designed to come up with a training program for government statistical personnel at the subnational levels. It will be implemented for a period of two years covering 2001 and 2002. In 2001, the outputs are: conduct of consultations, design of training courses which include the topics or modules to be covered and duration of the program, training manuals and materials to be used, and conduct of pilot test. In 2002, the final course design and implementation strategies for sustained conduct of the training program will be completed. The training courses are classified into Statistics Courses for Primary Level Statistical Workers, Statistics Courses for Intermediate Level Statistical Workers and Statistics Courses for Professional Statisticians. [12]

81. Some concerns that would influence the successful implementation of the SMDP is the need for it to be conducted on a continuing and sustainable basis. However, issues on financing, coordinating, getting the right resource persons to handle the training program in the regions and other related issues must be addressed first. A forthcoming workshop to be participated in by stakeholders of the project is expected to come up with feasible implementation strategies for the program. Another concern is how financially-deprived LGUs, specifically the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class municipalities, can participate in the training courses if training fees will be charged.

## IX. STATISTICAL ADVOCACY THRU THE 8<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL CONVENTION ON STATISTICS

82. On October 1-2, the Eighth National Convention on Statistics (8NCS) or DEVSTAT (see Box 12) was held with the theme, **The Role of Statistics in a Knowledge-Based Economy**. The attendance in this year's convention, which reached almost 900 participants, surpassed the records of past conventions. This clearly manifests the increasing awareness of users on the value and importance of statistics and success in furthering the objectives of the convention. Starting with the 8NCS, the convention will be held every three years as approved by the NSCB Board.

83. Specifically, the convention serves as a forum for exchanging ideas and experiences in the field of statistics and for discussing recent statistical developments and prevailing issues and problems of the PSS. It also aims to elicit the cooperation and support of statisticians and professionals in related fields from the government, academe and private sector towards a more responsive statistical system.

### Box 12-DEVSTAT



The "sigma" sign represents the embodiment of statistics in the Philippines.

The science. The system. And the statisticians.

The growth and direction of statistics are dictated by the demands of development in terms of planning and policy formulation.

This we aptly term as development statistics symbolized by the arrow

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