

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 15th NATIONAL STATISTICS MONTH CELEBRATION

The 15th National Statistics Month (NSM) Theme

“Rising Beyond Global Challenges Through Quality Philippine Statistics”

*(Pananagumpay sa mga Pandaigdigang Hamon
sa Pamamagitan ng Mahusay na Estadistika ng Pilipinas)*

The advent of the 21st century has ushered in the era of borderless economies, world trade, international markets, and age of information. In most basic terms, it is characterized with globalization where countries have to be competitive in order to survive and thrive in the world market. These global challenges require the government and the private sector to formulate appropriate policies and undertake decision-making that would keep the country viable economically, politically and socially.

The importance of quality statistics for informed policy and decision-making plays a critical role toward achieving our goal of global competitiveness. It is important that quality statistical information is made available and accessible at the right time to enable decision-makers to respond to opportunities and threats in the global arena.

Thus to rise to these global challenges, the Philippine Statistical System (PSS) has constantly strived to be responsive to the demands of improved statistical processes, exerting efforts to produce and deliver relevant, timely, and accurate statistical information as a tool for policy and decision-making processes in the country.

Preparations for the 15th NSM

Activities in preparation for the 15th NSM involved the confirmation of the hosts of the opening and closing ceremonies, identification of the theme, the creation and holding of the organizational and regular meetings of the 15th NSM Steering Committee and its Subcommittees, the issuance of the NSCB Memorandum Circular for call for activities, packaging of the NSM Calendar of Activities and preparation of advocacy and publicity materials.

The observance of the 15th NSM was made more significant with the conduct of the 9th National Convention on Statistics (NCS) which aimed to: (a) provide 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; and (b) elicit cooperation and support of statisticians and professionals in related fields from the government, academe and private sector towards a more responsive statistical system.

Preparations for the 15th NSM and 9th NCS started in November 2004. A Steering Committee for the 15th NSM and 9th NCS was created to provide the overall direction and guidance in the implementation of the NSM and NCS. It was chaired by NSCB Secretary General Romulo A. Virola and co-chaired by NEDA Assistant Director Benjamin D. Turiano. Five (5) Sub-Committees were created to assist the Steering Committee, as follows (a) Sub-Committee on Scientific Programs; (b) Sub-Committee on Finance, Promotions and Arrangements; (c) Sub-Committee for Luzon; (d) Sub-Committee for Visayas; (e) Sub-Committee for Mindanao; and (f) Sub-Committee on NSM Awards. The Sub-Committee on Finance, Promotion and Arrangements dealt with both NSM and NCS, the Awards Committee with NSM only while the other four Sub-Committees dealt with NCS. The members of the Steering Committee and Sub-Committees were from the government agencies, local government units, private organizations and academic institutions.

The NSCB Technical Staff served as the secretariat of the Steering Committee and Sub-Committees.

Various Activities for the 15th NSM

Host Agencies of the 15th NSM

The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), the economic and planning agency of the government, hosted the opening ceremony of the 15th NSM. On the other hand, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas once again hosted the closing ceremony of the NSM. The BSP had been the host of the closing ceremony since 2001.

Joint Opening Ceremonies of the 15th NSM and 9th NCS

The 15th NSM opening ceremony coincided with the opening ceremony of the 9th NCS as well as the conduct of the International Conference on Official Poverty Statistics, 2nd ASEAN Technical Group Meeting on Statistical Classifications and the Statistical Information Management Exhibition held on October 4, 2004 at the EDSA Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong City.

For the program for the joint opening ceremonies, NEDA Director General Romulo L. Neri was the keynote speaker with NSO Administrator Carmelita N. Erica introducing the keynote speaker. NSCB Secretary General Romulo A. Virola provided the welcome address. Mr. Gavin Girhard Solano, first prize winner of the 7th BSP-DepEd Oratorical Contest, delivered his winning piece during the program. The NSO Chorale also participated by rendering a doxology and leading in the singing of the National Anthem. The master of ceremonies was BSP Assistant Governor Diwa C. Guinigundo. The program was preceded by a ribbon cutting of the exhibit.



9th National Convention on Statistics

A major activity during the 15th NSM was the conduct of the 9th National Convention on Statistics. The NCS is conducted every three years by virtue of NSCB Resolution No. 6 issued in 2000.



The 9th NCS featured two (2) plenary sessions and 37 simultaneous sessions consisting of 104 paper presentations. The first plenary session was organized by Dr. Federico M. Macaranas of the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) with a presentation on “Developing Countries’ Statistical Challenges in

the Global Economy.” The paper was presented by Ms. Misha Belkindas via video-conferencing from Washington, D.C. and discussed by Dr. Gerardo P. Sicat. The second plenary session was organized by Mandaluyong City Vice Mayor Jesus C. Cruz and chaired by Mr. Arturo B. Lumagod, also of Mandaluyong City. The papers presented were “The Best and Worst Provinces in the Philippines: What Happened to their Leaders in the 2004 Elections?” and “Basic Data: A Tool in Local Governance.” Discussants were Prof. Solita Monsod and Rev. Jundy Bautista.

The thirty-seven (37) simultaneous sessions focused on various topics. Poster sessions for seven papers were also included in the convention. The participants in the convention numbering to 740 consisted of professional statisticians, academicians, and researchers from the government, private sector and academic institutions, and a number of students.

Statistical Management Information Exhibit (SIMEx)



The SIMEx 2004 was an integral part of the 9th NCS which showcased the current products, facilities and services on information management. The exhibition provided the venue for exhibitors to feature the functionalities of their systems and the most efficient information technology (IT) tools useful to data providers and users. Exhibitors for SIMEx 2004 were the following: SPSS Philippines, Geodata Systems Technologies, Inc., SAS Philippines, Unisys Philippines Inc./National Statistics Office, MINITAB- Intersoft Inc., SYSTAT Software Asia Pacific Ltd., and ID Technica Ltd.

Awards for the 14th National Statistics Month

The giving of awards for the 14th NSM Best Activity and Best Region has been on its second year with the first awards given for the 13th NSM. These awards were given to agencies/institutions for their outstanding participation in the NSM. The following were the winners for the 14th NSM which were awarded during the closing ceremony of the 9th NCS on October 5, 2004 by DOT Undersecretary Evelyn B. Bantig and NSCB Secretary General Romulo A. Virola:



Best Radio Plug
NSO, *Census Serbilis sa Radyo Special Series on the 14th NSM*



Best Statistical Forum
DOT, *Workshop on Tourism Statistics*



Best Statistical Exhibit
DENR and NSO-NCR



Best Statistical Contest
BSP, *7th BSP-DepEd Oratorical Contest*



14th NSM Best Region
Ilocos Region

Other Various NSM Activities

As a practice in the past NSMs, various statistical activities planned to be undertaken by the agencies/institutions nationwide were consolidated to come up with a Calendar of Activities which were distributed throughout the country. The same was also posted on the NSM webpage lodged at the NSCB website.

A total of 435 government agencies and private and academic institutions in the 17 regions of the country participated in the NSM by way of sponsoring activities geared towards promoting statistics taking into consideration the theme for the event.

Various activities were programmed to be undertaken by the participating agencies nationwide. These activities were broadly classified as follows: contests - 165, exhibits - 117, fora - 249, and information and education campaign (IEC) activities – 435 for a total of 966 activities.

Statistical Contests

A total of 165 statistical contests, such as oratorical, slogan/poster making, quiz bees, and essay writing, were conducted nationwide.

One of the major statistical contests during the NSM celebration was the BSP-DepEd Oratorical Contest which catered to fourth year high school students in the National Capital Region. The contest was on its eight year and the contestants had to go through several elimination rounds before going to the final round. The oratorical pieces delivered by the contestants followed the theme of the 15th NSM. From among the fifteen finalists, the following emerged as the winners:

Name	School	Prize
1. Charmaine Cabugnason	MCA Montessori	First Prize
2. Linky Flores	La Naval Academy	Second Prize
3. Ralph Ernest Francia	Rizal High School	Third Prize



Statistical Fora

A total of 249 various statistical fora were conducted nationwide, consisting of conferences, symposia, lectures, workshops and seminars.



Another major forum conducted was on the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), entitled “Establishing the MDG Data System and Network” which was held on October 28, 2004 at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. The forum was held in order to provide advocacy on the adoption of and enjoining data support to the MDG Indicators, present and discuss the establishment of an MDG data system and network in the PSS, and present and validate among data sources and MDG stakeholders the current status of the Philippines with respect to the MDG targets.

Statistical Exhibits

A total of 117 statistical exhibits were displayed nationwide, the majority of which were undertaken in the NCR.

Information and Education Campaign (IEC) Activities

Statistical open houses, press releases, film showing, radio/tv plugs, releases/dissemination of publications/information sheets and hanging of streamers were the most common IEC activities nationwide. Likewise, NSM posters were displayed in the different agencies, schools and other public and strategic places. A total of 435 IEC activities were planned for the 15th NSM.

Regional Celebrations



Various statistical activities peculiar in their respective regions were conducted. These activities ranged from a simple activity, such as hanging of streamer or display of NSM posters to a more innovative and impressive statistical activities, such as holding of a statistical congress, statistical forum and lecture series, motorcade, statistical exhibits, workshops, and information and education campaign activities. These were all geared towards promoting statistics taking into consideration the theme of the event. The NSM observance in the region was spearheaded by the Regional Statistical Coordination Committees (RSCCs) with the NSCB Regional Divisions providing the secretariat services in Regions I, IV, V, VI, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII and CAR. The NEDA and/or NSO Regional Offices coordinated and provided support in the celebration of the NSM in the other regions of the country.



15th NSM Closing Ceremony

The 15th NSM closing ceremony was held on October 27, 2004 at the BSP Assembly Hall during the 8th BSP-DepEd Oratorical Contest. BSP Deputy Governor Amando M. Tetangco, Jr. was the keynote speaker. Dr. Romulo A. Virola formally closed the 15th NSM.

