



MESSAGE

Rikke Munk Hansen

Officer-in-Charge
Statistics Division

United Nations Economic and Social
Commission for Asia and the Pacific

01 September 2021

Honorable Congresswoman Lucille Nava, Undersecretary Dennis Mapa, Undersecretary Rosemarie Edillon, ladies and gentlemen, friends and colleagues in the Philippines, it is a privilege and honor for me to deliver a message to this first Convention of CRVS in the Philippines, on behalf of UNESCAP, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Organizing a national convention like this is a tremendous occasion and it's an opportunity which really demonstrates the Philippine Statistics Authority's unwavering commitment to its vision and mission of quality, efficiency, inclusiveness and equity always with the view to satisfying the customer - the people of the Philippines.

What I want to talk about in my message today is that what is happening in the Philippines resonates to have impact way beyond your country. It is something that the people of the Philippines manage to do in many areas:

to take leadership and inspire. This is something that has support not least around the area of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics.

Now, the Asia Pacific Region is about to celebrate and to take stock of the achievements of the Asia Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade to “*Get Everyone in the Picture*” initiative which we just heard Undersecretary Mapa mentioned in his message this morning. All Asia Pacific Government will meet at the Ministerial Level in November this year to take stock and to celebrate their achievements since the Decade started in 2015.

Since the inception of this Decade, the Philippines have been a regional leader. I am very pleased to also see in the program of this convention that the Statement of Commitment to the CRVS Decade is featuring. Looking at the program, it brought a smile to my face to see the COVID-adapted “*Get Everyone in the Picture*” logo on the front page of the program. That also brought back memories from before the start of the CRVS Decade in 2015. It brought me all the way back to 2012, where the Philippines were instrumental in matching and influencing governments from the Eastern Pacific Islands all the way to Turkey and the West together beside that we needed to push Civil Registration and Vital Statistics across the region. This effort led to a decision to organize the first ever Ministerial Level Conference on Civil Registration in the Pacific.

All the memories back also to the following year, when we are preparing for this first ministerial conference and the Philippines at that time was the Vice-Chair of the Regional Steering Group that was really the organizing group of the conference. A representative from the Philippines made all the delegates stand up in their suits and dance and exercise to Katy Perry’s “*Roll*” and that brought a lot of energy into the discussion that we have had throughout that conference. It brought my memories back to the very creative discussions about the logo and the motto for the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade. And of course, we saw this quickly adaptive

logo and motto to the context of the Philippines, “*Get Every Pinoy and Pinay in the Picture*” which we just heard from Undersecretary Mapa.

Now, the Philippines has been a leader not only in entertaining delegates from around the region, but certainly also when it comes to the substantial technical efforts to implement the CRVS Decade.

The Decade is on the pin by a number of commitments and goals that we also just heard listed out. They’re on the pin, all the actions taken by several governments with the Philippines having achieved so much. And we have heard a listing of some of those and then we just highlight a few also seen from a regional perspective.

The Philippines adapted the Asia Pacific Regional Action Plan to improve CRVS to a national level plan and its dedicated commitments around statelessness, inclusiveness, and inequality assessments. We have also, since the start of the Decade, seen the Philippines continuously leveraging the many opportunities and advantages you have from hosting Statistics and Civil Registration under the same roof which is quite unique.

I do look forward to welcoming a very strong delegation from the Philippines to the Second Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics taking place in November this year. This is a unique opportunity for all of you to share your experience, expertise and spread your enthusiasm and persistence on this important topic to all of the Asia Pacific Region where several countries are struggling and still at the level with the Philippines when this CRVS Decade took off. So, everyone has a lot to learn from your example.

It brings me to a message that I want to be made very clear and send to all of you and that is Regional Organizations like ESCAP, where I work, and regional initiative like CRVS Decade, they could not function without this kind of commitment, energy, and excellence in leadership of its member states.

This week's Convention shared another example which other countries could learn from and replicate to their own context. So, with this, let me congratulate you once again on this initiative to organize national convention on CRVS and wish you a very successful couple of days with rich discussions and great outcomes.

Thank you very much!

-END-