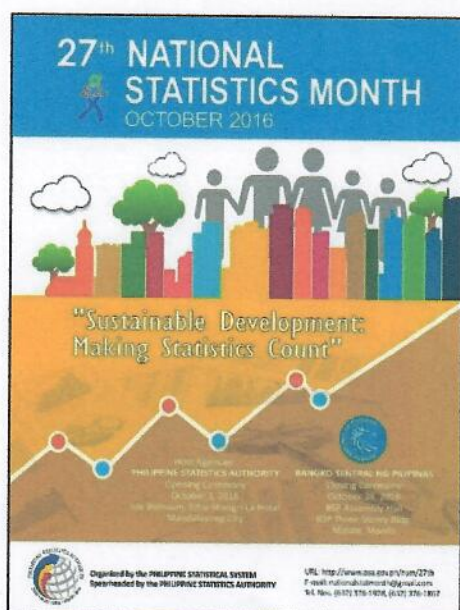


# Highlights of the 27<sup>th</sup> National Statistics Month and 13<sup>th</sup> National Convention on Statistics



The **National Statistics Month (NSM)** is an annual celebration of the Philippine Statistical System (PSS) pursuant to Presidential Proclamation No. 647, s.1990 "Declaring the Month of October of Every Year as the National Statistics Month."

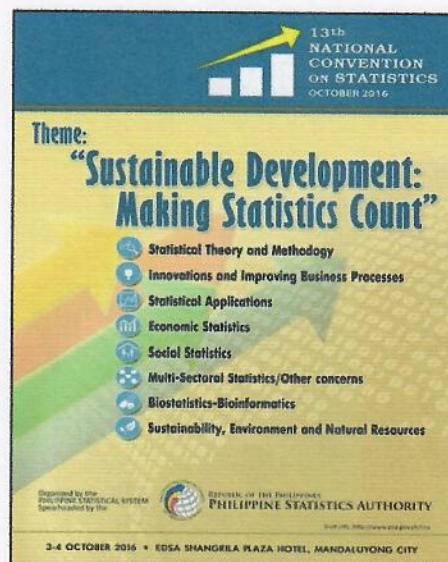
The NSM celebration is conducted nationwide with the guidance and direction of the NSM Steering Committee and its various Subcommittees. The NSM is observed by government agencies, private organizations, academe, local government units, and the general public. Statistical activities undertaken during the NSM are geared to promote, enhance, and instill nationwide awareness and appreciation of the importance and value of statistics to the different sectors of the society, and also to elicit cooperation and support of the general public in upgrading the quality and standards of statistics in the country.

The **National Convention on Statistics (NCS)**, conducted every three years, serves as an excellent venue for exchanging ideas and experiences in the field of statistics and for discussing prevailing statistical developments, issues, and challenges within the country. It features plenary sessions, technical sessions for invited and contributed papers, panel discussions, and a statistical exhibit.

The NCS aims to provide a forum for practitioners and theoreticians in the field of statistics to discuss prevailing issues and emerging developments affecting the PSS, and 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.

## Theme

The NSM theme for each year is focused on a specific sector in which the main goal is the promotion and improvement of statistics in that particular sector. The 27<sup>th</sup> NSM celebrated in 2016, as well as the 13<sup>th</sup> NCS held on October 3-4, 2016, carried the theme **"Sustainable Development: Making Statistics Count."** The theme highlighted the critical role of statistics in monitoring the country's progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).





## 27<sup>th</sup> NSM and 13<sup>th</sup> NCS Opening Ceremony



During the 27<sup>th</sup> NSM Opening Ceremony

Organized by the PSS and spearheaded by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), the 27<sup>th</sup> NSM and 13<sup>th</sup> NCS Opening Ceremony was held at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City on October 3, 2016. It was attended by 970 participants from various sectors.

Government-788
Private-109
Students-38
SUCs-20
International-15

Dr. Lisa Grace S. Bersales, National Statistician and Civil Registrar General of the PSA, welcomed the participants to the 27<sup>th</sup> NSM and 13<sup>th</sup> NCS Opening Ceremony and delivered her message which emphasized the importance of statistics in achieving the SDGs. Relatedly, underscoring the crucial role of statistics in the country's development, Dr. Ernesto M. Pernia, Secretary of Socioeconomic Planning, delivered the inspirational message, while Dr. Johannes Jütting, Secretariat Manager of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (PARIS21) delivered the Keynote Address.



Dr. Bersales delivering the Welcome Remarks at the 27<sup>th</sup> NSM/13<sup>th</sup> NCS Opening Ceremony



Sec. Pernia delivering the Inspirational Message at the 27<sup>th</sup> NSM/13<sup>th</sup> NCS Opening Ceremony



Dr. Jütting delivering the Keynote Address at the 27<sup>th</sup> NSM/13<sup>th</sup> NCS Opening Ceremony

## 26<sup>th</sup> NSM Awards

Since 2002, the NSM Awards have been part of the NSM celebration. The NSM Awards are given to agencies, regional offices, and private entities for their outstanding participation in the celebration. The Awards aim to provide incentives to participating institutions and to further encourage them to be more active in their involvement in the observance of future celebrations of the NSM.

The winners of the 26<sup>th</sup> NSM Awards were:



**Region I** as the **Best NSM Region** for their successful conduct of diverse NSM activities that strengthened regional and local coordination and partnership towards the development of statistical activities in response to the growing demand for local level statistics;





**UP Statistical Society as the Best Youth Advocate of Statistics** for its exemplary promotion and advocacy of statistics through the conduct of diverse NSM activities with a broader impact;



**Progressive Economists' Solidarity (PESO) Week and NSM Celebration by the Saint Louis University (SLU) as the Best Statistical Activity Conducted by a Private Organization** for the successful undertaking of the joint PESO Week and NSM Celebration on October 5-9 2015 at SLU Maryheights Campus, Baguio City; and



**Lecture Series entitled "An Outreach with the Youth on Environmental Awareness and Education Lecture Series" of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as the Best Statistical Activity Conducted by a Government Organization.**

The winners each received a plaque of recognition and a cash prize of PhP 10,000 which were awarded by Sec. Pernia, Dr. Bersales, and Dr. Jütting.

### 6<sup>th</sup> NSM Media Awards

The NSM Media Awards were instituted in 2008 to recognize the important role and contribution of media practitioners specifically reporters from broadcast (TV and Radio) and print/online news service from both the government and private media organizations, in promoting, popularizing, and using statistics in information dissemination and other related purposes.

The 6<sup>th</sup> NSM Media Awards winners were:



Veteran Journalist **Malou C. Mangahas**, Executive Director of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ), for the **Online Category Award**. This is Ms. Mangahas' third NSM Media Award.



**Ms. Angela Lorraine Celis** of Malaya Business Insight for the **Print Category Award**.





**I-Witness** of GMA News TV, a documentary news and public affairs television show, for the **Best Program for Television**. The award was received by Mr. Jay Taruc, one of the program hosts.

Each winner received a plaque of recognition and a cash prize of PhP 15,000.

### 13<sup>th</sup> NCS Scientific Sessions

A total of **137 papers** were presented in **53 sessions** during the 13<sup>th</sup> NCS which was conducted on October 3-4, 2016. The Convention also had **two (2) plenary sessions**, **41 invited paper sessions**, **six (6) contributed paper sessions**, **one (1) panel discussion**, and **three (3) special sessions on disaster statistics**.

The five (5) most attended sessions during the 13<sup>th</sup> NCS were:



**Poverty Statistics**  
171 participants



**Environment Statistics**  
148 participants



**Education Statistics**  
119 participants



**Computational Statistics**  
110 participants



**Health and Nutrition Statistics**  
104 participants

### 2016 Statistical Information Management Exhibition (SIMEx)

The Statistical Information Management Exhibition (SIMEx) is a commercial exhibition which provides good venue for private commercial companies to promote their statistical products, facilities, and services on information management and dissemination.

#### SIMEx 2016 Exhibitors:

1. Philippine Statistical System (PSS)
2. Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (Phil-WAVES) Project
3. SAS Institute (Philippines), Inc.
4. Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation (RCBC)
5. Social Weather Stations (SWS)
6. Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS)
7. Geodata Systems Technologies, Inc.





## 13<sup>th</sup> NCS Side Events

### 17<sup>th</sup> Faculty-Student Conference

The 17<sup>th</sup> Faculty-Student Conference, organized by the UP Diliman School of Statistics (UPSS), UP Los Baños (UPLB) Institute of Statistics, and Philippine Statistical Research and Training Institute (PSRTI), was held at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City on October 3, 2016. There were 230 faculty members and students from UP Diliman, UPLB, Central Luzon State University (CLSU), and De La Salle University (DLSU) who attended the conference where 26 papers were presented.

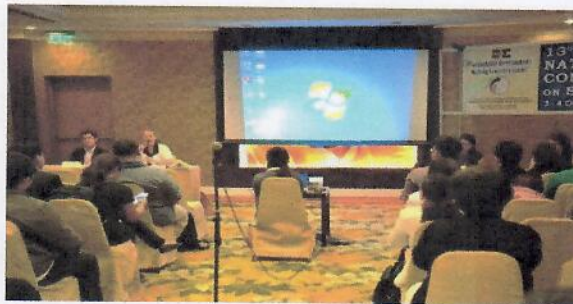


### Tutorials/Lectures

A **Tutorial Session on R** and **Lecture on Infographics** were organized by the Philippine Statistical Association, Inc. (PSAI) and the PSRTI, respectively, and were held at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City on October 3, 2016. The trainer/lecturer of the PSAI Tutorial Session on R was Dr. Joselito C. Magadia of UPSS, while that of the PSRTI Lecture on Infographics was Mr. John Lorenzo A. Yambot of UPLB Institute of Statistics.



PSAI Tutorial Session on R



PSRTI Lecture on Infographics

### Country Workshop on the Philippine Data Revolution Roadmap for the Sustainable Development Goals



Participants to the Country Workshop on the Philippine Data Revolution Roadmap for the Sustainable Development Goals

In collaboration with PARIS21, the Country Workshop on the Philippine Data Revolution Roadmap for the Sustainable Development Goals was held at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City on October 5-6 2016. A total of 107 participants from 45 agencies and international organizations attended the workshop. The workshop aims to provide a venue to discuss the various tools and techniques towards building a Philippine/Country Data Revolution Roadmap for the SDGs.



#### 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Expert Group on Disaster Related Statistics

In coordination with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Expert Group on Disaster Related Statistics was held on October 5-6 2016 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City. It was attended by 31 participants of which 14 came from Asia-Pacific member countries, 4 from United Nations bodies, and 13 from PSA.

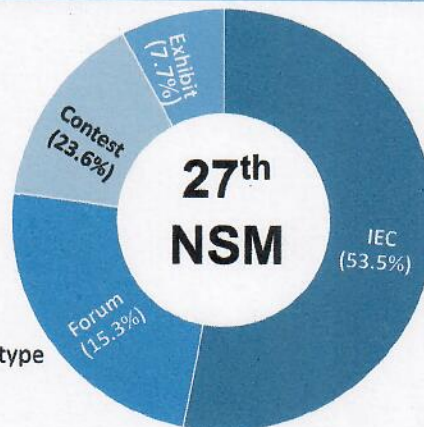


Participants from Asia-Pacific countries with PSA officials

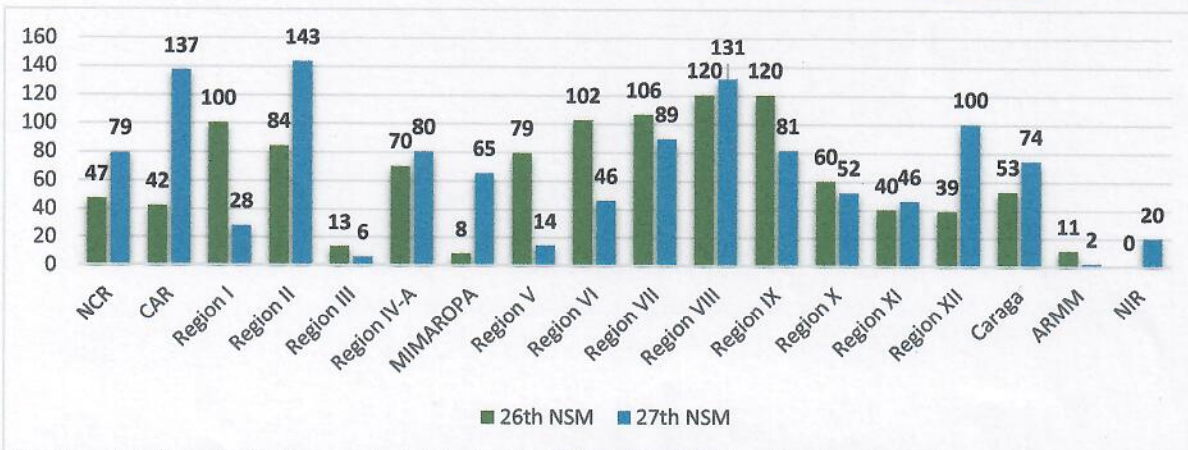
#### 27<sup>th</sup> NSM Activities

A total of 1,193 NSM activities were conducted nationwide in 2016, 8.3% higher compared to the 1,094 NSM activities held during the 26<sup>th</sup> NSM celebration.

More than half (53.5%) of the activities were related to Information, Education, and Communication (IEC), while 23.6% were contests, 15.3% were forums and 7.7% were exhibits.



Distribution of 27<sup>th</sup> NSM activities, by type



Number of statistical activities conducted during the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> NSM celebration, by region.

Among the 18 regions in the country, Region II had the most number of NSM activities in 2016 with 143, followed by CAR (132), and Region VIII (131). Meanwhile, ARMM had the fewest with only two (2) activities.

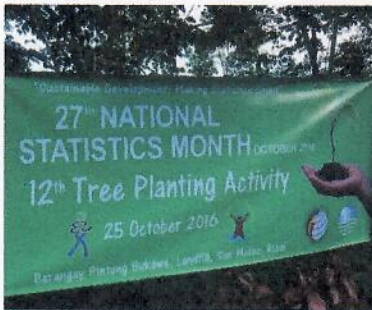
From 2015 to 2016, a large increase in the number of statistical activities conducted were observed in CAR, Region II, and MIMAROPA. CAR posted the largest increase from 42 during the 26<sup>th</sup> NSM to 137 statistical activities during the 27<sup>th</sup> NSM. On the other hand, Region I exhibited a decrease in the total number of statistical activities from 100 to 28.



## PSS Tree Planting

The PSS Tree Planting is an annual activity spearheaded by the PSA and the DENR which aims to:

- a. promote social relevance and environmental awareness among PSS member agencies;
- b. foster cooperative spirit and camaraderie among members of the PSS;
- c. provide an opportunity to strengthen the bond among PSS member agencies; and
- d. promote, enhance, and instill nationwide awareness and appreciation of the importance and value of statistics.



The 12<sup>th</sup> PSS Tree Planting Activity was held at the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Landfill, Brgy. Pintong Bukawe, Corner Sapinit Road, San Mateo, Rizal on October 25, 2016. It was attended by 139 participants from the PSA, DENR, Department of Education (DepEd), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), National Water Resources Board (NWRB), Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA), PSRTI, UPSS, Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), and the local government of San Mateo, Rizal. One hundred indigenous tree species were planted in the area.



Relatedly, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signing was held on November 8, 2016 at the office of Mayor Cristina C. Diaz of San Mateo, Rizal. The MOA provided for the roles and responsibilities of PSA, the municipality of San Mateo, Rizal, and the DENR thru its Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO)-Rizal in ensuring the success of the activity and sustainability of the trees planted.

## 1<sup>st</sup> "PSA Says"

The gameshow "PSA Says," patterned after the popular show Family Feud, intends to showcase the importance of utilizing statistics and aims to:

- a. promote camaraderie, teamwork, and sportsmanship among the members of the PSS;
- b. maximize the utilization of statistics;
- c. provide a learning experience involving current issues;
- d. provide an opportunity to strengthen the bond among PSS member agencies; and
- e. promote, enhance, and instill nationwide awareness and appreciation of the importance and value of statistics.



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The 1<sup>st</sup> "PSA Says" was also held at the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Landfill, Brgy. Pintong Bukawe, Corner Sapinit Road, San Mateo, Rizal after the PSS tree planting activity. It was participated by four groups composed of: (1) DILG; (2) DepEd; (3) DENR; and (4) UPSS, PSRTI, and PNVSCA. The winners received Php 10,000 and Php 5,000 for 1<sup>st</sup> place and 2<sup>nd</sup> place, respectively, while a consolation prize of Php 2,500 was also given.



1st Place: DILG



2nd Place: DepEd



Consolation: UPSS, PSRTI, PNVSCA



Consolation: DENR

### 27<sup>th</sup> NSM Closing Ceremony

Since 2001, the NSM Closing Ceremony has been hosted by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP). On October 28, 2016, the 27<sup>th</sup> NSM Closing Ceremony was held at the BSP Assembly Hall, BSP Complex, Manila and was attended by 355 guests from various sectors.

Similar to past NSM Closing Ceremonies, the 27<sup>th</sup> NSM Closing Ceremony was highlighted by the 21<sup>st</sup> BSP-DepEd Oratorical Contest. The oratorical pieces were delivered in Filipino and adopted the Filipino translation of the 27<sup>th</sup> NSM theme, i.e., ***"Makubuluhang Estadistika para sa Likas-Kayang Pag-unlad."***

The Board of Judges was composed of:

**Ms. Christine Bersola-Babao** – Media  
**Mr. David Michael M. San Juan** – DLSU  
**Mr. Alfredo C. Antonio** – BSP  
**Dr. Jocelyn D.R. Andaya** – DepEd  
**Dr. Lisa Grace S. Bersales** – PSA



Board of Judges (from left to right): Ms. Bersola-Babao, Mr. San Juan, Mr. Antonio, Dr. Andaya, and Dr. Bersales



The winners of the 21<sup>st</sup> BSP-DepEd Oratorical Contest were:

- a. 1<sup>st</sup> Place – **Jessie M. Cobangbang** of Tinajeros High School-Acacia Annex, Division of Malabon;
- b. 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – **Stephane A. Cancino** of Mataas na Paaralang Neptali A. Gonzales, Division of Mandaluyong; and
- c. 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – **Neil Allen Z. Milano** of Pasay City West High School, Division of Pasay



The top 3 winners of the 21<sup>st</sup> BSP-DepEd Oratorical Contest with their coaches

### Acknowledgement

The success of the 27<sup>th</sup> NSM and 13<sup>th</sup> NCS would not have been possible without the guidance and assistance of the 27<sup>th</sup> NSM and 13<sup>th</sup> NCS Steering Committee, composed of the following:

Chair:	Dr. Lisa Grace S. Bersales	PSA
Vice Chair:	USec. Rosemarie G. Edillon	NEDA
Members:	USec. Laura B. Pascua	DBM
	Dir. Maria Teresita M. Semana	CHED
	USec. Jesus Lorenzo R. Mateo	DepEd
	USec. Ernesto D. Adobo, Jr.	DENR
	USec. Manuel Antonio J. Teehankee	DFA
	USec. Lilibeth C. David	DOH
	Dir. Francisco R. Cruz	DILG
	Dir. Ryan C. Thomas	DOJ
	ASec. Roy O. Deveraturda	DND
	USec. Rowena Cristina L. Guevara	DOST
	USec. Florita R. Villar	DSWD
	ASec. Rolando Cañizal	DOT
	Exec. Dir. Marissa G. Legaspi	TESDA
	Dep. Gov. Diwa C. Guinigundo	BSP
	Dr. Dennis S. Mapa	PSAI/UPSS
	Ms. Virginia N. Gañac	PSRTI
	Mr. Ruperto S. Nicdao, Jr.	KBP
	Exec. Dir. Malou C. Mangahas	PCIJ
	Dir. Gen. Jose Mari M. Oquiñena	PIA
	Dir. Gen. Ronald R. Golding	SEPO
	Dr. Consorcia E. Reaño	UPLB INSTAT

On behalf of the PSS, the PSA is very grateful and is looking forward to the continuous support of different agencies in the advocacy of statistics. In October 2017, the PSS will celebrate the 28<sup>th</sup> NSM, and everyone is encouraged once again to partake and support the NSM.