



5TH REGIONAL STATISTICS COMMITTEE SUMMIT

14 December 2020

**SUMMIT
REPORT**



Background

❖ Republic Act (RA) No. 10625

Republic Act (RA) No. 10625, also known as the “Philippine Statistical Act of 2013,” mandates the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) to prescribe appropriate frameworks and establish mechanisms for statistical coordination at the regional and local government unit levels.

❖ PSA Board Resolution No. 05, s. 2015

In order to fulfill the need to improve the subnational statistical system effectively, PSA Board Resolution No. 05, s. 2015, established the Regional Statistics Committees (RSCs). The RSC is a local policymaking body on statistics which provides direction and guidance for regional/local statistical development activities. The RSC also serves as the venue for discussion and resolution of statistical issues at the local level.

❖ 5th RSC Summit Theme

The theme, “Evidence-Based Local Development Planning: Revitalizing the Economy Amidst the New Normal,” highlights the role of efficient planning at the local level towards rebuilding the nation amidst the current health situation. It underscores the need to provide timely and relevant data and puts emphasis on taking action through innovative approaches towards economic resurgence.



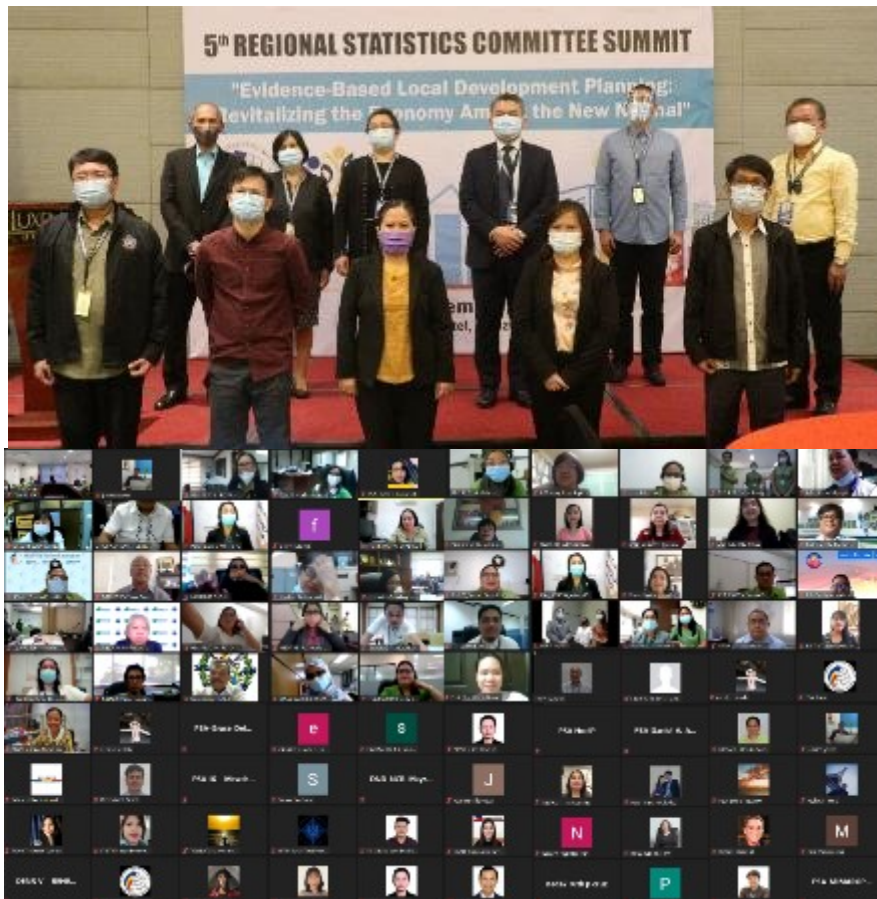
About the Summit

Objectives

- To gather and discuss relevant and emerging statistical issues/concerns at the subnational level
- To share good practices in monitoring and evaluating statistical programs and activities amidst the current national health status
- To present and discuss the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022 Update with focus on subnational development
- To discuss actions taken on the 4th RSC Summit Declaration

Participants

The Summit was attended by 142 participants from PSA Board member agencies, Regional Directors of National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) who are also RSC Chairs, Regional Directors of PSA, representatives from various government agencies, LGUs, the academe, and PSA officials and staff.





Highlights of the Summit



The 5th RSC Summit was formally opened with Welcome Remarks from Undersecretary Dennis S. Mapa, PSA. In his message, he recognized the conduct of the RSC Summit as a signal of readiness to fully embrace and adjust to the new normal, in performing our functions, from the national down to the regional level.

The following are the highlights of his Welcome Remarks:

- The emerging challenges such as the COVID-19 health crisis and ravaging typhoons call for a collective action where each region plays a critical role.
- The Philippine Statistical System, as provider of quality, accurate, reliable and timely statistics, is at the forefront of socioeconomic recovery with both national and local development planners relying heavily on the information that it provides.
- Three important points: 1) The crisis provides opportunities for transformation, i.e., innovations adopted particularly in the collection, processing and dissemination of data; 2) Consider innovating in the way statistics are communicated to ensure that these are packaged in a more attractive and user-friendly way; and, 3) There is a need for greater flexibility in our structures and processes as would be necessary for us to be continuously relevant and responsive to the demands of our stakeholders.



The Keynote Address was delivered by Undersecretary Rosemarie G. Edillon of NEDA. She underscored the role of statistics in revitalizing the economy, particularly in crafting policies, programs or plans. She also discussed the status of COVID-19 transmission across the country.



Usec. Edillon reported on the Updated Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022 citing that the country's long-term vision, while remaining the same, has become more pronounced given the unprecedented impact of the pandemic to development. She emphasized that strategies in the PDP will be redirected to focus on health system improvement, food resiliency and security, learning continuity, digital transformation and regional development.

OIC-Deputy National Statistician (DNS) Minerva Eloisa P. Esquivias of PSA provided an overview of the 5th RSC Summit. She showed the evolution of the RSC Summit since its maiden conduct in 2016, and presented the objectives and topics for discussion in the 5th RSC Summit.





Ms. Lotis I. Ira (PSA) presented the proposed RSC policy agenda for 2021. She informed the participants that since the establishment of the RSCs in 2015, 379 RSC Resolutions have been issued. Likewise, that in 2021, the RSCs target to issue 112 Resolutions, out of the total 222 policy agenda items proposed for the same year. These 112 Resolutions were grouped into five categories, as follows:

statistical planning and coordination, statistical advocacy, data generation, data dissemination and use, and statistical capacity and research.

Another Summit highlight was the sharing of regional best practices, statistical innovations/digitization under the new normal and actions taken on the 4th RSC Summit Declaration done by representatives from the Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao clusters, as follows:

Luzon (Region IV-A)

Presenter: NEDA IV-A Regional Director (RD) Luis G. Banua



- Regular conduct of RSC Meetings
- Regular updates on the implementation of Regional Statistical Development Program (RSDP)
- Continuous statistical capacity building of regional line agencies and local government units through various training and seminars
- Sustained observance of National Statistics Month (NSM) celebration at the regional and local levels
- Advocacy on the production of quality general-purpose statistics
- Utilization of administrative records from quarantine checkpoints as relevant macroeconomic indicators



- Advocacy on the implementation of the Philippine Identification System
- Use of Zoom or Microsoft Teams in RSC meetings
- Conduct of dry-run before online meetings
- Use of google forms and google sheets for attendance confirmation
- Agenda folders and presentations can be accessed in google drive
- Use of social media livestreaming for dissemination fora
- Adoption of the 4th RSC Summit Declaration through Regional Development Council (RDC) Resolution
- Training on Statistical Standards and Classification Systems for LGUs
- Discussion on updates on Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) implementation during RSC Meetings

Visayas (Region VIII)

Presenter: PSA-RSSO VIII RD

Wilma A. Perante



- Conduct of regular RSC meetings and meeting evaluation
- Conduct of Technical Working Group (TWG) meetings
- Monitoring of RSDP 2018-2023
- Conduct of NSM in provinces
- Other coordination activities i.e., meeting with NEDA re region's economy, Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board meeting, and RDC Full Council meeting
- Designation of Statistical Focal Person
- Advocacy of Statistical Survey Review and Clearance System (SSRCS)
- Adoption of the 4th RSC Summit Declaration
- Conduct of Regional Census Coordination Board Meetings
- Conduct of CBMS meeting
- Conduct of meetings online
- Online meeting registration and evaluation through google forms

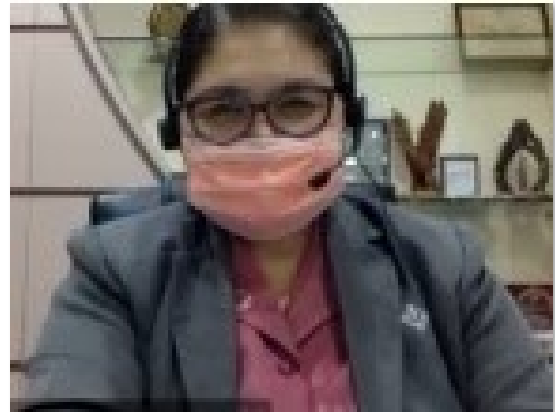


- DICT-PSA Network
- Data garden information system
- Regular updating of data dashboard and data shoppe

Mindanao (Region XI)

Presenter: NEDA XI RD

Ma. Lourdes D. Lim



- Regular conduct of RSC meetings
- Creation of TWG on the preparation of RSDP
- Designation of Statistical Focal Persons among agencies
- Capacity building of RSC XI Members
- Advocacy of Statistical Standards, Frameworks and Indicators System
- Compliance with SSRCS
- Preparation of Sustainable Development Goals Watch
- Support of Regional Development Council XI
- Conduct of Virtual RSC XI Regular meetings via Zoom
- Supports the conduct of the 2020 Census of Population and Housing (CPH) and the implementation of CBMS



The regional presentations were followed by the most awaited announcement of winners of the Best RSC Awards which recognized the RSCs which excelled in the performance of their functions for the period Q3-2019 to Q2-2020. The top five RSCs were: 1st place – RSC-IVA; 2nd place – RSC-XIII; 3rd place – RSC-VIII; 4th place – RSC-I; and 5th place – RSC-CAR. RSC-IVA retained the top spot after having garnered the highest overall score among all the Regions.



Assistant Secretary Rosalinda P. Bautista (PSA), in her closing remarks, thanked everyone who actively participated despite the limitations brought about by the pandemic. She commended the RSCs for taking lead in establishing mechanisms for coordination and cooperation in the regions. She also thanked them for lending support to the successful conduct of the 2020 CPH and in the preparatory activities for the implementation of the CBMS in line with the 4th RSC Summit Declaration.

