

PSA Accomplishment Report for CY 2011

31 December 2011

I. Academic/scholarly activities

As the Philippine Statistical Association (PSA) enters into the threshold of its 60th Founding Anniversary, participation in pursuits that strengthen the capability of the larger community of producers and users of statistics remain at the centrality of its activities. Notable among these are the conduct of Annual Conference, short training courses for institutional members mounted with 7 Modules, participation in the hearings organized by the House of Representatives on proposed legislations reorganizing and strengthening the Philippine Statistical System, publication of *The Philippine Statistician* (2009 and 2011 issues) and the *PSA* editions, and pursuit of other advocacies.

Conference. The Annual Conference held on September 26-27, 2011 at the Sarabia Manor Hotel and Convention Center in Iloilo City, in cooperation with the Department of Tourism focused on the theme “*Tourism and Statistics*”. It was a doubly significant event as the PSA turned 59 on Sept. 24th and World Tourism Day was celebrated on September 27th. The event provided an excellent opportunity for discussing the generation of quality tourism statistics that will be of benefit to all stakeholders in the tourism industry. For this undertaking, the PSA remains grateful to the Principal Sponsors, namely, the San Miguel Corporation, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, and National Statistics Office; the Major Sponsors made up of Negros Navigation and Bureau of Agricultural Statistics; and, the Sponsors, namely, the Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics, Statistical Research and Training Center, and the UP Statistical Center Research Foundation. Despite inclement weather, some 269 registered participants from all regions of the country (from the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) through the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) attended the Conference. In addition to this number, a big delegation from various academic institutions attended the Special Session on Statistics Education organized by the Commission on Higher Education. The two-day event opened with a warm welcome from the Mayor of Iloilo City Hon. Jed Patrick Mabilog, and an inspiring message from the Undersecretary of the DOT, Hon. Daniel G. Corpuz. The DOT mounted a cultural show which was presented during the cocktails, followed by the dinner hosted by Mayor Mabilog for presenters, discussants and guests.

Training. The PSA Training Committee developed seven (7) modules on Modeling and Forecasting Financial Markets and Quantitative Analysis of Cross-Section and Panel Data. Six (6) modules have been conducted, namely, Module 1 - Univariate Time Series Analysis and its Application to Finance, Module 2 - Multivariate Time Series Models, Module 3 - Financial Econometrics: Modeling Assets' Correlations and Risks, Module 5 – Advanced Time Series Analysis: Bayesian Econometrics, Module 6 – Quantitative Analysis of Cross-Section Data, and Module 7 – Quantitative Analysis of Pooled and Panel Data. On the other hand, Module 4-Advanced Time Series Analysis: State Space Models and Kalman Filter, Markov Switching Models has been moved to February 2012. Once more, PSA training courses have elicited the interest of prospective participants from other countries. These short training courses conducted from July to November 2011 are basically for the benefit of the PSA institutional members who are entitled to one free slot or one (1) participant per year in any of the modules offered by the PSA. Institutional members that opted to send more than one participant to the course were charged the rate of PhP10,000.00/participant. The same courses have also been opened to non-institutional members for a fee at the same rate of PhP10,000.00 per participant. The six modules benefitted a total of 77 participants.

On the advocacy to enhance statistical literacy, the Committee on Statistics Education conducted the course on Teaching Basic Statistics for Tertiary Level Teachers, in cooperation with the Statistical Research and Training Center. The course was conducted at the Partido State University in Goa, Camarines Sur and a total of 28 participants from various universities completed the course.

Publication. Production of the two issues of the scientific journal, *The Philippine Statistician (2009 and 2011)*, and the newsletter *PSAeditions* were completed and released to members in good standing. The 2011 issue of the scientific journal was released in September 2011, in time for the holding of the Annual Conference in Iloilo City, while the 2009 issue was released in time for the December 2, 2011 Annual Meeting and Christmas Party.

Advocacies. The PSA continued its partnership with the National Statistics Office at mounting the *Philippine Statistics Quiz (PSQ)*, aimed at promoting awareness and interest in statistics among the math-inclined youth from all the regions of the country. For 20 years, the PSQ has sustained the interest and participation of academic institutions across the country, notably the college freshman students and their mentors. All the 17 regions sent representatives to the regional championships held on November 17, 2011. The 20th PSQ national finals was concluded on December 6, 2011 at the Assembly Hall, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

In the efforts to keep the interest of high school students and to encourage them to pursue the statistics profession, the PSA also actively supported the activities of its student affiliates, the UP Variates and the UP Statistics Society (StatSoc).

The PSA also actively participated in hearings/discussions relative to the proposed legislations that seek to reorganize and strengthen the Philippine Statistical System.

II. Institutional or organizational development initiatives

Membership. The Association again saw some growth in its membership. The number of individual members as of December 31, 2011 is noted at 833 including 207 regular members (29 new) and 391 life members (23 new), and 235 from eight (8) Chapter members / Of the 58 Institutional members, 24 are government institutions, 14 are from the private sector, and 20 from the academe. The two (2) student affiliates included 100 student affiliates from two (2) affiliate organizations based at the UPSS. Ateneo de Zamboanga, Department Of Tourism, Davao Light and Power Co., Davao City Water District, are the new institutional members who have joined the corps of active institutional members. New IDs have been issued to new/regular members in good standing and partial issuance of ATM type IDs for Life Members were undertaken during the year.

The number of members in eight regional chapters continued to grow. The PSA has regional presence in the following chapters namely Regions 1, 2, 4-A Calabarzon, 6, 7, 10, 11 and SOCCSKSARGEN.

In the Annual General Assembly/Annual Meeting held on 2 December 2011, elections of new members who will serve in the Board of Directors starting January 2012 was successfully undertaken.

Working Committees. In preparation for the commemoration of the PSA 60th Founding Anniversary in September 2012, the Committee on the 60th Anniversary Celebration was created. To help streamline the preparation of the budgetary requirements of the PSA, an *ad hoc* committee to prepare the indicative budget for 2012 was likewise created with a view to helping the incoming Board put in place the requirements early enough.

Awards. The PSA saw it fit to confer to the late Professor Angeles R. Buenaventura the Tito A. Mijares Lifetime Achievement for her lasting contributions in the field of Statistics not only in the academe and the PSA, but in the Philippine Statistical System as well. The untiring efforts of Dir. Estela T. De Guzman and Ms. Cynthia C. Vallesteros for continued service to the PSA in various capacities and manifold activities were also accorded due recognition with the conferment of the Outstanding Service Award.

Institutional Development. The renovation of the PSA offices, courtesy of former Board Member Josie B. Perez, set the tone of the preparations for the forthcoming 60th founding anniversary of the Association which will take place in September 2012. Her magnanimity enabled the PSA to engage the services of professionals in the field of space planning and management. With improved office facilities, indexing and consolidating of Minutes of previous meetings of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee, and other documents essential to the growth and development of the PSA will now be possible.

The original BIR tax exemption obtained by the PSA officers on October 8, 1971, which has been rendered ineffective and has since ceased to be honored by a number of partner institutions in the past years, was resubmitted to the Bureau of Internal Revenue for renewal and has been approved by Commissioner Kim S. Jacinto-Henares on December 15, 2011. This marked development will have significant effects on PSA operations in the coming years. Through representations with the San Miguel Corporation, the recovery of Petron cash dividends from 2004 onwards has also been successfully concluded.

In Memoriam. The PSA Executive Committee, the Members of the Board of Directors, and the general membership remember with deepest gratitude Dr. Cristina P. Parel, Professor Angeles R. Buenaventura and former NSCB Asst. Secretary General Estrella V. Domingo, pillars of the Philippine Statistical System, dedicated educators and mentors in their own right who succumbed to illness during the year. The building blocks they painstakingly put in place in the academe, upon which the academic programs that supply past and present corps of professional statisticians in the statistical system have been built, and in the entire Philippine Statistical System for that matter will be forever remembered. Their consuming passion to professionalize the statistical system and their continuing concern to serve the Philippine Statistical Association in various capacities on innumerable occasions in the past will remain living testaments to their unconditional and undying support to the PSA and the statistical system.

III. Financial Standing

As in the past years, the PSA has managed to keep its finances in good shape.

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