

President's Report for CY 2012

The Philippine Statistical Association, Inc. (PSAI) has undertaken academic/scholarly activities and institutional development initiatives resulting to noteworthy accomplishments. The Association is confident that the 2012 accomplishments are consistent with the vision crafted by the founders 60 years ago.

I. Academic/scholarly activities

Publication and Information. To promote the statistics profession on a nationwide basis, the Publications and Information Committee of the Association diligently worked on the accreditation of the scientific journal *The Philippine Statistician* by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED). The CHED endorsement of the PSAI scientific journal makes possible more students and professionals, especially those from academic institutions to gain greater access to published accredited researches that have passed meticulous scrutiny and faithful observance of the accepted standards for scientific journals and the practice of refereeing and peer review. At the international level, the PSAI also has sought accreditation by the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI). With the submittal to the ISI of the three issues of *The Philippine Statistician*, one issue in 2011 and two issues in 2012, the accreditation process will proceed, the process includes the evaluation of the Editorial Board and the contributors.

Electronic copies of the newsletter, *PSAeditions*, are released to keep members abreast of what the Association, its individual and institutional members have been doing. Prof. Genelyn Sarte of the U.P. School of Statistics handles the *PSAeditions*, as its Editor-in-Chief. All these scholarly efforts have been undertaken by the Publications and Information Committee, chaired by Dean Erniel Barrios, who also is the Editor-in-Chief of *The Philippine Statistician*.

Conference. The Association held its Annual Conference on August 16-17, 2012 in Davao City and the theme was "*Strengthening Capacity in Statistics for Food Security*". Cognizant of the relevance of the theme to their programs and projects, the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the National Statistics Office (NSO) supported the Conference as co-organizers.

The chosen theme generated a good response from paper presentors; a total of 31 papers were presented during the Conference. The papers prior to being allowed for presentation had to undergo a screening process by the Sub-Committee on Scientific Program led by Dr. Consorcia Reaño of the Institute of Statistics in UP Los Baños. The paper presentors had diversified training and experience and came from various institutions: the academe, government entities and private sector, and even international organization. To name a few, these institutions include Caraga State University, De La Salle University, several colleges in UP Diliman, in UP Los Baños, in UP Mindanao, University of Southeastern Philippines, Xavier University; Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Research Institute, National Nutrition Council, National Economic and Development Authority, National Statistical Coordination Board, National Statistics Office, Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization, Japan and Asia Pacific Policy Center, etc.

Coming from all regions in the country, 264 participants attended the two-day conference. Although slightly lower than the number of participants in the 2011 Conference held in Iloilo City, the 264 was 90 % more than the 135 attendees of the 2010 conference held in Manila. The holding of the Conference outside Manila gave opportunity to more participants as well as paper presentors who are residents in Mindanao. The participants consisted of PSAI members and non-members, officers and employees of government entities, private institutions, and the academe.

The Opening Ceremonies of the two-day event was graced by key officials of the Department of Agriculture namely, Undersecretary Joel Rudinas and Assistant Secretary Dante Delima of the Department of Agriculture, the Resident Representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization, Mr. Kazuyuki Tsurumi, and prominent officers of the National Statistics Office led by Administrator Carmelita Ericta and Deputy Administrator Paula Monina Collado, key officials of the Philippine Statistical System and representatives of other international organizations. Key officials include among others, Executive Director Gervacio Selda, Jr. of the Statistical Research and Training Center, Director Teresa Peralta of the Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics, Assistant Secretary General Lina Castro of the National Statistical Coordination Board, Dean Zita VJ Albacea of the UP Los Baños College of Arts and Sciences and Vice President Lisa Grace Bersales of the University of the Philippines System, and Dr. Romulo Virola, former NSCB Secretary General. These luminaries lend their presence as session chairs, rapporteurs, and paper presentors. Master of Ceremonies during the Opening and Closing

Programs were Regional Director Rosalinda Bautista of NSO Region IV-A, and Dr. Dennis Mapa of the UP School of Statistics, respectively. During the Closing Ceremonies, a good and useful feature of the Conference was over-all synthesis of presentations and discussions, provided by Dr. Bersales. Faculty members from the University of Southeastern Philippines (USP) in Davao City led by Dr. Eveyth Deligero, Prof. Fe Largo and Prof. Rex Sarvida served as Session Chairs. They were joined by some 22 students of USP. In addition, other Session Chairs from the academe were Dr. Joseph Acosta, Dr. Dominica D.M. Dacera, and Dr. Nilo Oponda of the University of the Philippines Mindanao. The Conference owed its success to the active participation of individual and institutional members of the Association. Much credit can be attributed to the National Organizing Committee (NOC), the Sub Committees on Logistics and on Scientific Program and the Local Organizing Committee (LOC). The NOC was chaired by DA Assistant Secretary Romeo Recide and co-chaired by Director Estela de Guzman of the NSO who also headed the Sub-Committee on Logistics. The LOC was headed by NSO Regional Director Jaime Paller and co-chaired by Mr. Henry Soriano, Head of BAS Davao and the active participation of the PSAI individual and institutional members. The occasion also witnessed the oath-taking of close to 50 new individual members.

For the 2012 Annual Conference undertaking, the PSAI is grateful to the session sponsors, namely, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, De La Salle University in Manila, National Statistical Coordination Board, SAS Institute (Philippines), and the Statistical Research and Training Center; and, the donors made up of the Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics, UP Statistical Center Research Foundation, and the Crystal Power Enterprises; and the City Government of Davao.

60th Founding Anniversary. On 24 September 2012, the PSAI commemorated its 60th founding anniversary with a brief program during a simple dinner. It was noted that the actual date of its registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission was on September 24, 1952. The highlight of the initial celebration was the launching of the *Best Paper Competition*, from among the 31 papers presented in the 2012 Annual Conference in Davao City. The hard work of the Chair of the Sub-Committee on Scientific Program, Dr. Consorcia Reaño, Director of Institute of Statistics at the UP Los Baños, and her team had been acknowledged. PSAI takes pride in having an eminent team of statisticians who agreed to evaluate the papers that would qualify for the best paper award. They are Mr. Tomas Africa, Dr. Jose Ramon Albert, and Dr. Isidoro David who are active PSAI members.

Training. The PSAI Training Committee, through its Chairman Dr. Dennis S. Mapa developed 7 modules on Modeling and Forecasting Financial Markets and Quantitative Analysis of Cross-Section and Panel Data. Five(5) modules have been conducted, namely, Module 1 - *Univariate Time Series Analysis and Forecasting (with Application to Economics and Finance)*, Module 2 - *Forecasting Using Time Series Techniques*, Module 4 - *Advanced Time Series Analysis: State Space Models and Kalman Filter, Markov Switching Models*, Module 5 *Quantitative Analysis of Cross-Section Data*, and Module 7 - *Quantitative Analysis of Pooled and Panel Data*. On the other hand, Module 3- *Advanced Financial Econometrics: Modeling Assets' Correlations and Risks* and Module 5 - *Quantitative Analysis of Discrete, Limited and Duration Dependent Variable* have been postponed to a later date. A total of 50 participants from 27 institutions, including two foreign participants from the government of Bhutan, completed the course conducted from May to November 2012. These short training courses are basically for the benefit of the PSAI institutional members who are entitled to one free slot, meaning one participant per year in any one of the public modules offered by the PSAI. Some institutional members opted to send more than one participant to the course and paid the regular registration fee. The same courses have also been opened to institutions which are non PSA members. Sixteen of the 27 participating institutions come from PSAI institutional members. A customized training on *Basic Statistical Training Needs* was conducted for the staff of the Department of Social Work and Development from November 14 to 16, 2012. Thirty-eight participants completed the course.

Advocacies. The PSAI 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 21 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 20, 2012. The 21st *PSQ* national finals was concluded on December 4, 2012 at the Auditorium, Commission on Higher Education.

In the efforts to keep the interest of high school students and to encourage them to pursue the statistics profession, the PSAI also supported the activities of its student affiliates.

II. Institutional or organizational development initiatives

Membership. The Association again saw growth in its membership with 107 new individual members, of which 100 are regular members and 7 as life members. There were two new institutional members. By the end of December 2012, PSAI has, on record, 825 individual members and 60 institutional members.

PSAI individual membership is composed of: 197 regular members, 393 life members, and 235 members belonging to the eight (8) regional chapters. Of the 60 institutional members, 22 are government institutions, 15 are from the private sector, and 23 are from the academe which come either from the government or private sector. Three (3) student affiliate organizations include 131 students from two (2) affiliate organizations based at the School of Statistics of the University of the Philippines (UP), and one (1) from the Rizal Technological University.

The two new institutional members are the UP Visayas in Iloilo City and the SAS Institute (Philippines).

PSAI has issued IDs to new and regular members in good standing and has resumed the issuance of ATM type IDs for life members. PSAI acknowledges the consistent untiring efforts of Ms. Cynthia Vallesteros, Chairperson of the Membership Committee.

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

Without fail and in compliance to its By-Laws, the PSAI held its General Assembly and Annual Meeting on December 7, the first Friday of December. The entire membership and the staff of institutional members look forward to this event as the Christmas Party is held during the meeting. The 2012 meeting had the highest attendance so far, more than 210. It can be said that this is the other annual event that reinforces the camaraderie and sense of belonging among the PSAI members.

Awards. The PSAI regularly recognizes and awards its deserving members, at least once a year. For CY 2012, the Association conferred the Tito A. Mijares Lifetime Achievement Award to Dr. Romulo Virola, for his lasting

contributions in the field of Statistics in the Philippine Statistical System, in government, in the academe, the PSAI, and the general public. Special mention is made of his efforts to use the media and the technology, through his "Statistically Speaking" to laymanize and demystify the jargon in order to make statistics better appreciated by the general public. Dr. Virola was the former Secretary General of the National Statistical Coordination Board,

Likewise, the Association accorded due recognition to Mrs. Nelia Marquez with the conferment of the Outstanding Service Award. The award was given the selfless work of Ms. Marquez, for services she rendered to the PSAI in various capacities that continue to benefit the PSAI up to the present. She had served as a former PSAI President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Managing Director. Her last post in government was Deputy Administrator of NSO. The grant of these awards went through the close scrutiny of the Committee on Awards headed by Dr. Vicente B. Valdepeñas, Jr.

Institutional Development. To pursue the mission of PSAI “to uplift and advance the statistics profession” and further improve the services that the PSAI offers its members and the public, the Institutional Development Committee (IDC), chaired by PSAI Vice President Tomas P. Africa has initiated efforts to explore accreditation of practicing statisticians, similar to the practice in other professions. In addition, the IDC is revisiting the organizational relationship with the regional Chapters of PSAI.

III. Financial Standing

As in the past years, the PSAI has managed to keep its finances in good shape in 2012 owing to the support of members and friends to the Annual Conference and the contributions of the individual and institutional members. Although the rates have been frozen, membership fees remain to be the main source of receipts for PSAI.