

**THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
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**Metro Manila**

**RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (R & D)**  
**OF THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICAL SYSTEM**

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*Chairman of the Conference*

Firstly, allow me as Chairman of the Philippine Statistical Association (PSA) 1979 Annual Conference to bid each one of you WELCOME.

The theme of this 1979 Annual Conference is "Research and Development (R & D) of the Philippine Statistical System". Although only two papers will be presented in this Conference, it will be noted, however, that the first paper will deal not only on the impact indicators for the Philippine Development Plan as a monitoring device of the planning process, but more importantly, the framework of this Impact Analysis Study will provide also the much needed components in the socio-economic plans and programs of the country with Man as the central concern of development. Therefore, this R & D project of the Statistics Office of NEDA which will be presented by Director Makanas is indeed a welcome sign of the shift in the objectives and strategies of development in terms of the GNP growth and the per capita income to what is happening to the Filipino Man, the efforts to be taken toward the improvement of the quality of life of this Man, and the preservation of the Filipino family way of life. This analysis is also a pioneering work in one of the developing countries of the Third World. Hopefully, this framework developed by NEDA would serve as a model in assisting and enhancing similar work in other developing countries not only in the Asian region but also outside the region.

R & D programs or analytical research toward the improvement of the quality of data geared toward the improvement of the quality

of life of the rural poor may take many dimensions such as improvement of the concepts and definitions, questionnaire design, the systems flow and the proper allocation of resources at each stage of data collection, the techniques for training and supervision, statistical quality control checks at each stage of the survey operations, design and analysis of survey, and other analytical researches which could enhance the accuracy and precision of data in food and agriculture, so that the policies for agricultural and rural development would be sound and the strategies generated by such policies follow the right path as indicated in the targets of the NEDA Impact Analysis Framework. The paper of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics to be read by Director Damasco will highlight the attempts of the Bureau to improve the quality of food and agricultural data in terms of accuracy and precision, usefulness and relevance, consistency and reproducibility. It is important to note that R & D or analytical research is indeed an important component of the Philippine Statistical System.

This Conference will attempt to demonstrate that the Philippine Statistical System is not only the producer of good data for planning, implementation and monitoring of plans, but it is also an important component of administration which could provide new dimensions in terms of framework for social and economic development in the country. The Statistical System further demonstrates that in the production of good quality data, the professional statisticians must be guided by the principles of objectivity, integrity and independence, so that it could provide the necessary guideposts toward improvement of the quality of life of the Filipino Man.

It is hoped that these introductory remarks will set the tone of the theme of the PSA 1979 Annual Conference.