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EDITORIAL

Since its inception in 1952, the Philippine Statistician has come out with a number of issues containing articles on a variegated scope of statistical topics reflective of the vast spectrum that Statistical Science embraces.

While past editors have targeted publication of quarterly issues, the number of contributed papers have not been substantial enough to meet such targets. There have even been times when coming up with an annual issue was itself difficult to accomplish! This may, in part, be due to the rather few number of professional statisticians in the country, the overwhelming burden of workload placed on them, coupled with the lack of a strong research culture in the country endemic to most developing countries.

The current editorial staff of the Philippine Statistician commits itself to continue the ardent task of coming up with high quality issues. Furthermore, the staff intends to widen the readership of the journal. To meet the latter goal, all issues starting with the current one will contain a special invited article. Such articles will be of an expository nature on a statistical topic of general interest. This issue, for instance, contains Stephen Fienberg's expository article on data disclosure limitation methods, which are of extreme significance in the development of public use files for surveys and censuses. On the occasion of the country's electoral exercise in 2001 and the Philippine Statistical Association's Golden Jubilee celebration in 2002, special invited articles will deal on matters such as opinion polls and the history of the PSA, respectively. By doing so, the editorial staff hopes that the journal will reflect the changing and widening role of Statistics and statisticians in society.