

PROGRAM OF THE STATISTICAL TRAINING CENTER

The Statistical Training Center of the University of the Philippines is created as a permanent institution under an agreement concluded in December 1953 between the Government of the Philippines and the United Nations. The Government and the United Nations are pledged to mutual cooperation and assistance in a long range effort to advance the development and improvement of statistical activities in the Philippines, especially the statistical services of Government agencies. The establishment of the Center marks a firm recognition by the government of the need for reliable fact finding, reporting and research, as a basis for sound planning and good administration.

The program of the Center provides for academic instruction, in-service training, consultation and research. The first semester's *academic program* began in June 1954, with 40 enrolled students, under the auspices of the Graduate School of the University. A three-semester curriculum leads to the degree of Master of Arts in Statistics. The formal *in-service program* for trainees from selected departments will open at the beginning of October with sessions of two hours daily, four days each week for ten weeks, for a limited number of persons designated by selected government agencies. The program will be rotational, providing in the future for training at various levels for additional departments and agencies during successive periods.

Government departments are now seeking *consultation* with the Center in statistical matters. Within limits of its facilities the staff will assist in seeking solutions to problems confronting the agencies through individual and group discussion and conference.

The Center's in-service and counselling activities among government agencies are sponsored by a *Coordination Board* which represents government at the highest levels. It is the Board's responsibility to guide and facilitate the work of the Center as it relates to instruction in methods, operations, or-

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ganization and coordination of government statistical services, and in practical demonstrations within government agencies themselves. Through the activities of the Center it is expected that progress along each of these lines will be advanced.

The staff of the Center will include Philippine personnel and specialists from other countries. In the future qualified students and trainees from abroad will be admitted.

The Center's expanding library is an important resource making available important reference materials, reports and publications from international agencies, and from governmental and private sources throughout the world.

In-Service Training Procedure. The first step in the Center's in-service training procedure is to assess statistical problems of individual agencies which are of immediate urgency. This appraisal requires discussions with top-level officers of the various departments.

Problems emerging from these discussions are considered from the standpoint of priority. Those which can be dealt with at a given time are limited by staff and resources, but it is apparent that a number of leading problems are of basic inter-department interest. Trainees are grouped according to subject matter with which they are chiefly concerned.

The Center will provide a channel for seminar discussions in the examination and analysis of problems, and for exploring the proper applications of statistics to current and long range needs of government. Thus statistical plans and procedures will not be developed in the abstract, but will be adapted and presented in relation to the problems in hand.

When a problem is taken up for solution the staff of the Center prepares a program on the basis of the number of trainees which can be handled. Assigned government workers may carry out projects of direct concern to their agencies, with advice and help from the Center.

Subject matter for emphasis may include such problems as the estimates of agricultural production or production of main

crops; methods of determining the size, characteristics and utilization of the labor force; determining the consumption pattern of the rural and urban population; and other problems of leading importance to agencies responsible for planning, policy and administration.

Employees designated for training are not 'lost' to the Departments during the training time, as they continue to work for their Departments during the training period, under a somewhat modified schedule, partly within the Departments and partly at the Center.

Academic Instruction. The purpose of the academic program is to alleviate the shortage of qualified personnel for statistical work in the Philippines by furnishing the country a level of graduate professional training which hitherto has been available only abroad. Students enroll for academic credit on their own initiative and at their own expense, though government employees are allowed a 50 per cent reduction of tuition fees. The in-service training on the other hand, is conducted during regular working hours and carries no academic credit.

It is hoped that increasing numbers of students in fields requiring background in statistics will receive preparatory academic training at the Center before study abroad is undertaken.

