

THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.¹

By CESAR M. LORENZO
President

Brief History

In the development of statistics and statistical organization, the pressing need for a professional society of statisticians was felt as early as 1950. After preliminary meetings held by 8 Filipino statisticians and 2 American statisticians, who were then in Manila as technical advisers from the United Nations and Smith-Mundt, the Philippine Statistical Association was organized on December 22, 1951 by 19 professional statisticians, 12 of whom were in the government service. The Association was incorporated with the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 24, 1952 to give it legal personality. The membership on December 31, 1952 rose to 84 individual members, 52 of whom were government workers, and 17 institutional members of which 2 were government institutions.

Objectives

The objectives of the Association shall be to foster statistics and its applications in the broadest manner, to promote unity and effectiveness of effort among all concerned with statistical problems, and to increase the contributions of statistics to human welfare. To this end, the Association proposes to conduct meetings, to produce publications devoted to statistical methodology and its applications, to make available information concerning statistical science and its contributions, to stimulate research and promote high level professional standards, and, in general, to make statistics of service to other sciences and to practical affairs.

¹ This was prepared for the celebration of Statistics Week (July 17-22, 1972) and for the information of the delegates attending the 11th Session of the ECAFE Conference of Asian Statisticians held in Manila on July 14-27, 1972.

Membership

The membership of the Association consists of founding members who organized it on December 22, 1951, charter members who were admitted to membership on or before March 1, 1952, members who are elected by a majority vote of the Board of Directors after March 1, 1952, honorary members who are elected by a unanimous vote of the Board for outstanding distinction in any field of statistics, and institutional members who are institutions, business enterprises and other organizations interested in the objectives of the Association and admitted by a majority vote of the Board. Each institutional member may nominate up to five individual representatives to membership in the Association. Life members are individual members who elect to pay the annual dues of ₱10.00 each in one lump sum for life as actuarially computed. Honorary members do not pay dues. Institutional members pay a minimum of ₱100.00 per annum.

On July 15, 1972, there were 19 life members, 19 institutional members and 297 individual members. The institutional members consisted of 4 banks (3 government), 9 in business and industry (1 government) and 6 insurance (1 government). There are 22 foreigners in the roster of individual members.

Many of the members occupy important or top positions in government service, in private business and industry, and in institutions of high learning. Some Filipino members hold important foreign jobs in the United Nations and its specialized agencies, the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, foreign governments, and foreign colleges and universities.

Member Service

The officers and members of the Board of Directors serve their term without any emolument nor per diem or allowance. Members also give free lectures in in-service training classes, seminars and conferences of the Association.

Some members are also encouraged to give donations or grants for the training and development of statisticians. 32 volumes of books and 62 bound periodicals were donated by a member to the U.P. Statistical Center. Another member gave a grant for fellowship to deserving students of the U.P. Sta-

tistical Center every semester. These were properly acknowledged by the Board of Regents of the University of the Philippines.

Activities and Accomplishments

The Association has undertaken activities in accordance with its objectives. At the early stage of its life, the Association has done much to promote unity and effectiveness of effort among all concerned with statistical problems.

1. *Statistical coordination and standards*

Early in 1952, after a study and evaluation of then existing statistical information in the government, the Association made a proposal for the creation by executive order of a central statistical board and a coordinating body to the President of the Philippines. However, no immediate official action was taken on the proposal until after the Government Survey and Reorganization Commission was created in 1954. After a study on the proposal, the Commission formulated its Reorganization Plan No. 10 which later brought about the creation of the Office of Statistical Coordination and Standards under the revitalized National Economic Council. The first appointed Director and Assistant Director of this Office were recommended by the Association.

2. *Meetings, seminars and annual conferences*

To foster in the broadest manner statistics and its applications, meetings were conducted and lectures were given by its expert members. Along this program, guest speakers were also invited to address the members of the Association at their monthly meetings.

Seminars were also conducted by the Association. Two of these seminars were on statistical quality control (SQC) in order to show the uses of statistics in quality control inspection of a given product with a specified standard.

Annual conferences in statistics were mostly conducted on statistical methodology and application of statistics. The first conference was held in Manila on January 10, 1953, at which various chambers of commerce and industry were invited. Annual conferences thereafter were held with a grow-

ing emphasis on statistical development and application. These conferences were usually capped by an important address given by a guest speaker.

3. *Statistical education and training*

The pressing need for the development of qualified statistical personnel was felt by the Association when it formed a committee on statistical education early in 1952. The committee had studied the scope and quality of statistical education in various colleges and universities and had made recommendations for their improvement. During the same year, the Association had also studied the possibility of establishing a statistical training center in Manila under the joint sponsorship of the Philippine Government and the United Nations.

Mr. William I. Abraham, a founding member of the Association and a national income adviser to the Philippine Government under a UN Technical Assistance Program, had undertaken the initial work for the establishment of the center. The results of his work led to a Supplementary Agreement No. 17 between the United Nations and the Philippine Government, calling for the establishment of a Statistical Training Center in Manila with a view to contributing to the development and maintenance of a high level of efficiency of statistical activities in the Philippines. The Statistical Training Center (now Statistical Center) under the University of the Philippines was officially opened on September 23, 1954 with two founding members of the Association as top officials — Dr. Enrique T. Virata, the first Director of the center and Dr. Meredith B. Givens, the first UN Principal Statistical advisor. The U.P. Statistical Center, now headed by Dean Cristina P. Parel, a past president and director of the Association, has produced many professional statisticians who occupy important positions in the government and in the private sector.

4. *In-service statistical training program*

Cognizant of the importance of training and development of statistical workers of institutional members in order to increase the effectiveness of their efforts, the Association initiated a regular In-service statistical training program in 1957. This program covers a period of four weeks with a total 80 hours of lecture, laboratory and workshop. A wide range of

subjects in statistical methods is given by Association members who give free lectures.

Selected participants from institutional members are not charged for the training program. No textbooks are prescribed, but instruction materials are given free of charge. Training classrooms and other physical facilities are given for free use by the U.P. Statistical Center.

A survey to determine the effect of this training program was undertaken by the Association from July 26 to October 11, 1968. The survey revealed that participants had improved their work efficiency in statistics, with some of them getting good promotions. It also gave indication in what direction to improve the program.

5. *Statistical promotion - Statistics Week*

During the early 50's, an appreciation in the uses of statistics by the people was still meager. To stimulate a public interest in the uses of statistical data to the solution of problems and to inform the public of the benefits that may be derived from a program of statistical promotion and development, the Association had requested the Late President Ramon Magsaysay to issue Proclamation No. 2, S. 1954 declaring the period from January 9 to 15, 1954 as *Statistics Week*.

Upon the request of the Association to President Ferdinand E. Marcos of the Philippines, and in recognition of the stimulating interest that might be generated by the 11th Session of the ECAFE Conference of Asian Statisticians which was held in Manila (July 14 to 27, 1972), the President had directed the issuance of Proclamation No. 1036 declaring the period July 17 to 23, 1972 as *National Statistics Week*.

6. *Publication - The Philippine Statistician*

To meet some of the basic needs of disseminating useful statistical information to individuals, research workers, colleges, the government, and business, the Association had started to publish its official journal, *The Philippine Statistician*, Volume 1, Number 1, in June 1952. At first this journal was published semi-annually, but later quarterly. Volume XXI, Numbers 1 and 2 are now in the press.

In addition to this official journal, there are periodic hand-out lectures on various subjects of interest.

Each member of the Association receives one free copy of this journal. Colleges and universities, research and technical organizations, and some government entities are subscribers to this journal. 16 subscribers come from abroad. Annual subscription in the Philippines is ₱12.00; foreign, \$4.00.

Chapters

The Board of Directors of the Association has two years ago realized the need for increasing the membership base of the Association by forming chapters in universities, colleges, research organizations and in other appropriate institutions, both in Manila, Manila suburbs, cities and the provinces. It was in the last annual meeting in December 1971 that the corresponding amendment to the By-Laws of the Association was approved by the membership and later presented to the Securities and Exchange Commission for approval before it could be implemented. The Commission approved the amendment of the By-Laws on June 26, 1972. The Board is now formulating the rules and regulations for forming chapters.

Presidents of the Association

The presidents of the Association whose leadership has propelled the course of its activities are the following:

Cesar M. Lorenzo	..	1952-1955
Enrique T. Virata	..	1956
Eequiel S. Sevilla	..	1957
Manuel O. Hizon	..	1958-1959
Bernardino G. Bantegui	..	1960 (January-August)
Bernardino A. Perez	..	1960 (September-December)
Cesar M. Lorenzo	..	1961-1963
Domingo C. Alonzo	..	1964
Tito A. Mijares	..	1965
Cristina P. Parel	..	1966
Burton T. Oñate	..	1967
Paz B. Culabutan	..	1968
Cristina P. Parel	..	1969
Cesar M. Lorenzo	..	1970-1972

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The International Statistical Institute (ISI) in collaboration with the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) and the United Nations will undertake an international research programme, entitled The World Fertility Survey (WFS), supported by the Agency for International Development (AID) and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) with additional support in one kind or another from national Governments.

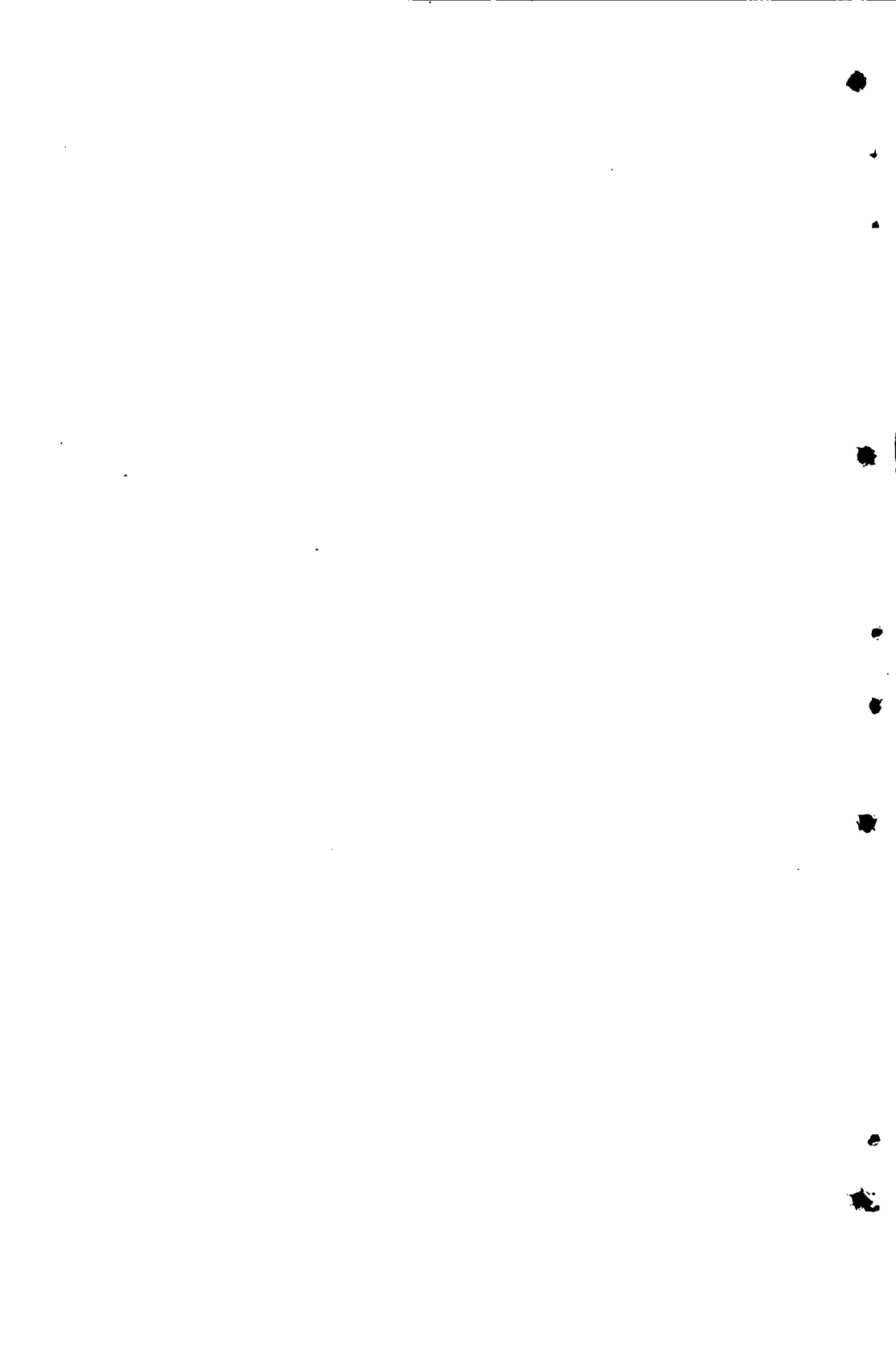
The basic aim of the survey is to provide scientific information (a) to enable each participating country to describe and interpret its human fertility and (b) to compare fertility and the factors which affect it in different regions of the world.

The WFS will, in general, be a single-round survey of households so selected as to provide a probability sample, preferably one capable of providing national estimates which may be conducted independently or may be linked with parallel projects which some countries have already envisioned.

The WFS will enable the Governments concerned not only to acquire technically sound knowledge on fertility and reproductive behaviour of their population, but also to develop survey techniques and organizational capacity for demographic and other social science research which in some countries does not exist.

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Country cooperation and acceptance of responsibility for carrying out a high quality survey is essential to the success of the WFS programme. When a country agrees to participate in the WFS, the WFS Central Staff will request that it concur in a basic agreement, to be negotiated with the Central Staff, governing its survey. The country will be asked to submit a schedule detailing whatever technical and financial assistance may be required for carrying out the survey. Depending on the needs of individual countries, the WFS programme anticipates being able to offer technical and/or financial assistance for any phase of the survey, from beginning to end. The WFS will provide several forms of assistance to participating countries. Short term consultants, in various fields of expertise such as sampling or data processing will be provided. Long term expert assistance in the form of consultants who will reside in the participating country can also be made available.



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