

# The Philippine Statistical Association at 50

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Exactly 50 years ago, a national professional organization was formally incorporated under the laws of the Philippines on September 24, 1952 with the following objectives:

- To foster statistics and its application in the broadest manner;
- To promote unity and effectiveness of effort among all concerned with statistical problems; and,
- To increase the contribution of statistics to human welfare.

Through the years of its existence, the PSA has been contributing significantly in the development and strengthening of the Philippine Statistical System.

## 2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During its infancy, the PSA through its president Prof. Cesar M. Lorenzo, in consultation with Secretary Montinola of the Department of Finance and Central Bank Miguel Cuaderno submitted a draft of an Executive Order creating the Statistical Advisory Board (SAB) to the then President Elpidio Quirino but was not acted upon. This same draft EO was resubmitted to President Ramon Magsaysay on January 21, 1954 by PSA with an accompanying endorsement that stated "unless a strong and competent central authority is established, to foster a government-wide program, it will not be possible to develop an adequate statistical system. xxx We earnestly believe that such a plan will go far toward remedying the serious deficiencies in statistical organization and performance in our country xxx"

Furthermore, the PSA, also initiated the establishment of the Statistical Training Center through PSA Board Resolution No. 21-1952 "that a definite government body shall sponsor the approval and implementation of the plan under the United Nations Technical Assistance Program for a Statistical Training Center in the Philippines." On September 23, 1953, the Statistical Training Center (STC) was formally inaugurated at Rizal Hall, University of the Philippines with Dr. Enrique T. Virata, then the Executive Vice President of the University of the Philippines, as its first acting director of the center. The first permanent director was Dr. Amando Dalisay. The STC is now the UP School of Statistics.

The PSA also collaborated with Congress of the Philippines the creation in 1955 the Office of Statistical Coordination and Standards (OSCAS) in the revitalized National Economic Council. The PSA as cited as "principally responsible for agitating for the urgent need of standardization and coordination of statistical services in the government since its very foundation in 1951, which ultimately lead to the creation of the OSCAS." The PSA was

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also consulted in the filling up of the top positions along with the appropriate minimum qualification requirements.

PSA was one of the founding members of the Philippine Social Science Council.

PSA worked for the issuance of Proclamation No. 2 Series 1954 under President Ramon Magsaysay declaring Jan. 9-15, 1954 as Statistics Week. Immediately after the observance of the Statistics Week, the Second Annual Conference was held. In the inside cover of the souvenir program carried PSA's expression of "gratitude and appreciation to His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay, President of the Philippines whose progressive and enlightened policies foster the development of statistical research and applications to various fields of human endeavor."

The PSA also collaborated with the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA, formerly National Economic Council) and the major statistical agencies in the reorganization of the Philippine statistical system resulting in the issuance of Executive Order No. 121 that created the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) and the Statistical Research and Training Center (SRTC) in 1987.

The PSA actively participated in the selection of qualified statisticians to head strategic statistical offices such as NSCB, BAS, BLES, and SRTC.

### 3. REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Among the regular activities that the PSA consistently pursued since its inception is the Annual Conference where research papers are read with an invited special guest whose keynote address tackles current issues not only in the statistical system but issues that affect the majority of the people.

Every year also, an annual meeting is conducted where officials of the association are elected for a period of one year. This meeting usually coincides with the Christmas party where members participate enthusiastically during the program.

Several years ago, the PSA quarter meetings were initiated. These quarter meetings become the forum where current issues in the statistical system are discussed in a round-table fashion. The issues may be methodological, conceptual and operational that beset the statistical system. The statistical agencies of government and private entities that are institutional members of the Association actively participate in this quarter fellowship meetings.

Aside from these regular activities, the PSA participates in the celebration of the National Statistics Month (NSM) in October every year, hosting the closing ceremonies, until lately, where other agencies were also invited to host the opening and closing ceremonies. The PSA President seats as member of the NSM Steering Committee under the aegis of the National Statistical Coordination Board Secretariat.

The PSA also conducts training for institutional members where they send one representative each in the training, free of charge, as PSA's contribution to the development

of statistics. Additional participants are charge with minimal fee to defray the cost of snacks and materials.

One of the significant contributions of PSA in the advocacy of statistics is the conduct of the Philippine Statistics Quiz annually to select regional champions. These regional champions compete for the national championship round held in Metro Manila. This activity is jointly conducted by the PSA with the National Statistics Office since 1992.

PSA also collaborates the conduct of researches, studies, conferences, symposia with government as well as non-government institutions as its contribution to the development of the statistical system. In this connection, the ASSIST PSA Foundation was set up which serves as the research and consultancy arm of the association.

Since 1952, the Philippine Statistician, the official journal of the Association is regularly published under the Publications Committee. The present chairman of the Publication Committee is Dr. Jose Ramon G. Albert, who also acts as the Editor-in-Chief of the Philippine Statistician. In addition, a newsletter is published regularly also under the Publication Committee but the Newsletter Editor is appointed from among the members of the PSA every year.

#### 4. MEMBERSHIP

The PSA membership is composed of the following:

- (1) Founding members who formed the association on December 22, 1951. The founding members are: Mr. William Abraham, Dr. Manuel Arcaydo, Mr. Inocente Capos, Dr. Amando Dalisay, Dr. Meredith Givens, Dr. Leon Ma. Gonzales, Dr. Manuel O. Hizon, Dr. Trinidad J. Jaramillo, Dr. Horacio C. Lava, Mr. Benito Legarda, Jr., Prof. Cesar M. Lorenzo, Mr. Vicente Mills, Mr. Damaceno Ramos, Mr. Rosendo Regalado, Mr. Federico Roa, Mr. Ceferino Santiago, Mr. Exequiel S. Sevilla, Dr. Enrique T. Virata and Angel Q. Yoingco. As of 2002, there are only two surviving founders: Mr. Benito Legarda, Jr. and Mr. Angel Q. Yoingco.
- (2) Charter members who had been admitted as members of the PSA on or before March 1, 1952.
- (3) Individual members who have been admitted as members after March 1, 1952. As of year 2002, PSA has the following individual membership: Life members, 192; Regular members, 402.
- (4) Honorary members elected by unanimous vote of the Board of Directors for their outstanding contributions to the statistical profession.
- (5) Institutional members comprising of government agencies, business enterprises and other organizations who are interested in the objectives of the Association. To date, there are 35 institutional members.
- (6) Formation of chapters. The Board of Directors is authorized to set up PSA Chapters and issue rules and regulations relating to the organization of the PSA chapters. At present, there are 4 PSA chapters organized, namely: PSA Region I Chapter and PSA Region VI Chapter, PSA Region IV Chapter and PSA Region VIII Chapter.

## 5. RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERS

The rights, privileges and responsibilities of bonafide members of the Association are the following:

- Exercise the right to vote on all matters relating to the affairs of the Association;
- Eligible for election or appointment to any position in the Association;
- Participate in all deliberations during meetings of the Association;
- Avail of all the facilities of the Association;
- May examine all the records or books of the Association during office hours; and,
- Attend to various activities sponsored by the Association.

## 6. OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Spearheading the activities of the PSA over the years were elected officials of the association who met regularly to plan and implement the different programs and projects of the association.

To carry out all the different activities of the Association, the following working committees are organized every year after the election of new sets of officers: (1) PSA Institutional Development Committee, (2) Conference Committee, (3) Training Committee, (4) Research Committee, (5) Publications Committee, (6) Finance Committee, (7) By-Laws. Membership, Chapters Committee, (8) Search and Awards Committee, (9) Annual Meeting and Christmas Party Committee, (10) Nomination and Election Committee and (11) Statistics Quiz Committee and (12) Statistical Literacy Committee.

In cases of special projects, *ad hoc* committees are formed. The current *ad hoc* committee is the PSA Golden Jubilee Ad Hoc Committee purposely to prepare for the yearlong celebration of PSA's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A member of the Board of Directors chairs each committee and the membership is drawn from the pool of PSA members coming from both the government and private offices.

Composition of the 2002 PSA Board - The current elected officers and members of the PSA Board are the following:

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| President:                      | Carmelita N. Ericta, Administrator, NSO  |
| Ist Vice President:             | Gervacio G . Selda, Jr., Executive Director, SRTC  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President: | Lina V. Castro, Director, Social Statistics Office, NSCB   |
| Secretary:                      | Janice Ybañez, Chief, Planning, Management & Coordination<br>Division, NSO   |
| Treasurer:                      | Nelia R. Marquez, Retired NSO Deputy Administrator   |
| Members:                        | Lisa Grace Bersales, Dean, School of Statistics, UP<br>Sandra Herrera, San Miguel Corporation<br>Paula Monina G. Collado, Director, Household Statistics<br>Department, NSO<br>Estrella V. Domingo, Assistant Secretary General, NSCB<br>Dalisay Maligalig, Senior Staff, Asian Development Bank<br>Irene Ubungen, President, PSA Region I Chapter |

The Board is composed of 6 elected individual members, 2 representative from the government sector, 2 representatives from the private sector and 1 representative from the PSA chapter.

The individual members who have been elected to the Board are the following: Ms. Carmelita N. Ericta, Mr. Gervacio G. Selda, Jr., Dr. Lisa Grace Bersales, Ms. Lina V. Castro, Ms. Paula Monina G. Collado, Ms. Nelia R. Marquez.

The government institutions elected and their corresponding representatives are: National Statistical Coordination Board represented by Ms. Estrella Domingo and National Statistics Office represented by Ms. Janice Ybanez. For the private institutions, those elected are: Asian Development Bank represented by Dr. Dalisay S. Maligalig and San Miguel Corporation represented by Ms. Susan Herrera.

One position in the board is allotted to a PSA Chapter President. In the last election held, two chapters tied for the post. They are PSA Region I and PSA Region VI. The arrangement is that for the first 6 months PSA Region I Chapter will attend the board meetings and the second 6 months will be attended by PSA Region VI Chapter. The representative of PSA Region I is PSA Chapter President Irene Ubungen while the representative of PSA Region VI is Chapter President Priscilla Penpillo.

*PSA Secretariat* - To provide secretarial and financial services to the Board and the different working committees, the PSA has engaged the services of Mr. Ruben F. Trinidad as Head, an administrative assistant and a messenger.

*Past Presidents of PSA* - The past presidents of the PSA who provided leadership over the past 49 years of its existence are enumerated below from the most recent past president down to the first president of the association.

| Name of PSA President       | Year Served        | Name of PSA President   | Year Served                      |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Carmelita N. Ericta      | 2001               | 18. Marcelo M. Orense   | 1973                             |
| 2. Ana Maria Tabunda        | 2000,1999          | 19. Cristina P. Parel   | 1969, 1966                       |
| 3. Romeo S. Recide          | 1998               | 20. Paz B. Culabutan    | 1968                             |
| 4. Margarita Guerrero       | 1997, 1996         | 21. Burton T. Oñate     | 1967                             |
| 5. Nelia R. Marquez         | 1995,1994,<br>1993 | 22. Domingo C. Alonzo   | 1964                             |
| 6. Mercedes B. Suleik       | 1992               | 23. Bernardino Perez    | Sep – Dec<br>1960                |
| 7. Romulo A. Virola         | 1991, 1990         | 24. Bernardino Bantegui | Jan-Aug.<br>1960                 |
| 8. Tomas P. Africa          | 1989, 1988         | 25. Manuel O. Hizon     | 1958, 1959                       |
| 9. Isidoro P. David         | 1987               | 26. Exequiel Sevilla    | 1957                             |
| 10. Vicente Valdepenas, Jr. | 1986, 1985         | 27. Enrique T. Virata   | 1956                             |
| 11. Angel Yoingco           | 1984, 1983         | 28. Cesar M. Lorenzo    | 1955,1954,<br>1953,1952,<br>1951 |
| 12. Aida R. Saldua          | 1982               |                         | 1963,1962                        |
| 13. Elpidio D. Makanas      | 1981               |                         | 1961                             |
| 14. Edgardo P. Zialcita     | 1980, 1978         |                         | 1972,1971                        |
| 15. Pablo Q. Samson         | 1977               |                         | 1970                             |
| 16. Angeles Buenaventura    | 1976               |                         |                                  |
| 17. Tito A. Mijares         | 1979,1975,<br>1974 |                         |                                  |

