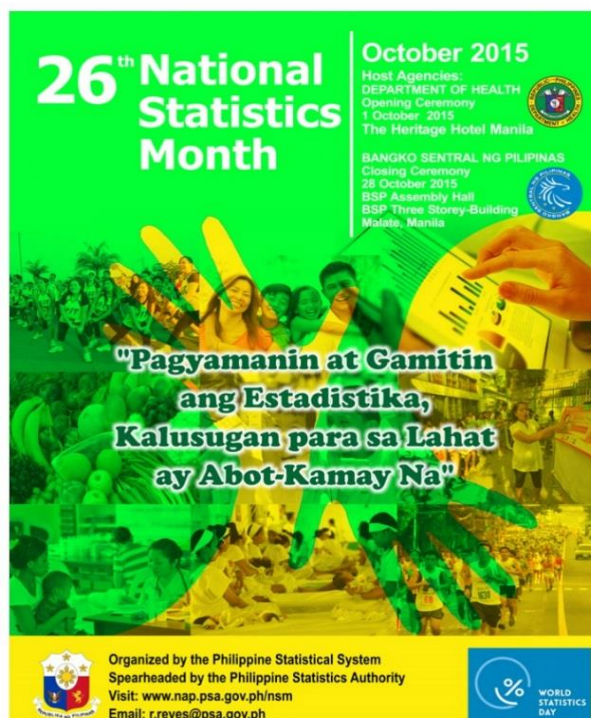


Highlights of the 26th National Statistics Month Celebration

The National Statistics Month (NSM) celebration is conducted annually pursuant to Proclamation No. 647, s.1990, “*Declaring the Month of October of Every Year as the National Statistics Month*”, signed on 20 September 1990 by then President Corazon C. Aquino. The NSM is observed nationwide where all regions conduct their respective activities which are geared at promoting, enhancing, and instilling nationwide awareness and appreciation of the importance and value of statistics to the different sectors of society. The NSM theme for each year is focused on a specific sector in which the main goal is the promotion and improvement of statistics in that particular sector.

The 26th NSM celebration was spearheaded by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), which issued PSA Memorandum Circular No. 01-15, with guidance and direction from the 26th NSM Steering Committee and Subcommittees. The Department of Health (DOH) served as the host agency for the opening ceremony. At the local level, the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), PSA Regional Statistical Services Offices (RSSOs) and the Regional Statistics Committees (RSCs) steered the various NSM activities. Participants in the 26th NSM celebration included those from the government, private sector, academe and the public in general.

The 26th NSM adopted the theme, “*Pagyamanin at Gamitin ang Estadistika, Kalusugan para sa Lahat ay Abot-kamay Na*” which highlighted the increasing crucial role of securing people’s health in achieving national development and eradication of poverty in the country. This underscores the critical interconnected responsibilities of the health sector and quality, reliable and timely statistics in ensuring that health services and programs are effectively delivered and implemented to all.



26th NATIONAL STATISTICS MONTH

“Pagyamanin at Gamitin ang Estadistika, Kalusugan para sa Lahat ay Abot-Kamay Na”

Opening Ceremony

Heritage Ballroom, The Heritage Hotel, Pasay City
01 October 2015
8:00AM – 12:00NN

PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

8:00am	REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS
8:30am	DOXOLOGY AND NATIONAL ANTHEM DOH Chorale
8:45am	WELCOME REMARKS Dr. Lisa Grace S. Bersales National Statistician Philippine Statistics Authority
8:55am	INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKERS Dr. Rio L. Magpantay Director IV, Epidemiology Bureau Department of Health
9:00am	KEYNOTE SPEECH The Honorable Janette Loreto-Garin Secretary of Health
9:15am	PRESENTATION OF DOH UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE c/o Health Promotion and Communication Service, DOH
9:30am	PRESENTATION OF DOH HIGH IMPACT FIVE (HI-5) STRATEGY
9:40am	PRESENTATION OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL HEALTH ACCOUNTS Philippine Statistics Authority
9:50am	ORATORICAL PIECE Trisha Gwynne B. Arancon 1 st Place, 16 th BSP-DepEd Annual Oratorical Contest
10:00am	AWARDING CEREMONIES 25 th NSM Awards Secretary Janette Loreto-Garin, DOH National Statistician Lisa Grace S. Bersales, PSA Executive Director Patricia Luna, CWC
10:30am	INTERMISSION NUMBER DOH Chorale CWC Children Performer
11:00am	PRESS BRIEFING c/o Media Relation Unit, DOH
11:30am	LUNCH

Master of Ceremony
Dr. Vito G. Rogue Jr.
Dr. Agnes B. Segarra
Epidemiology Bureau, DOH

I. Opening Ceremony

A total of 164 participants attended the 26th NSM Opening Ceremony which was held at the Heritage Hotel, Pasay City on 01 October 2015. The Opening Ceremony commenced with Dr. Lisa Grace S. Bersales, PSA National Statistician and Civil Registrar General, enjoining the Philippine Statistical System (PSS) to work together to address emerging challenges. To emphasize the importance of having a harmonious relationship between the health sector and quality statistics, the National Statistician mentioned the approval of the 2030 Vision wherein



PSA National Statistician and Civil Registrar General Lisa Grace S. Bersales delivered her Opening Remarks at the 26th NSM Opening Ceremony.

countries manifested global solidarity by revitalizing the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development which will focus on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable.

The Keynote Speaker was Dr. Janette P. Loreto-Garin, Secretary of Health, who reiterated the interdependence between reliable and quality statistics and the health sector. She encouraged everyone to value the importance and maximize the use of statistics. She reiterated that allowing statistics to transcend to every government program is a major step towards development.

1. Presentation on the National Health Accounts

The Philippine National Health Accounts (PNHA) was presented by Mr. Manuel L. Laopao, former Assistant National Statistician of the Social Sector Statistics Service of the PSA. According to the report, the country's total health expenditure went up by 11.7%, from PhP471.1 billion in 2012 to PhP526.3 billion in 2013. This could be attributed mainly to the large amount expended for health care by Private Sources, majority of which (82.6%) were disbursed by households (Private Out-of-pocket) for their health needs in 2013.

2. Conferment of NSM Awards

The NSM Awards has been instituted since 2002 as a means of providing incentives to participating agencies/organizations in the observance of the NSM. The awards are given in recognition of the outstanding participation of agencies, regional offices and private entities in the NSM celebration and to further encourage them to be more active in their involvement in the observance of future celebrations of the NSM.



The awardees of the 25th NSM Awards with PSA National Statistician and Civil Registrar General Lisa Grace S. Bersales and Department of Health (DOH) Directors, Dr. Enrique A. Tayag and Dr. Rio L. Magpantay.

The winners of the **25th NSM awards** were:

- **Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)** for the On-the-Spot Poster-Making as Best Statistical Contest
- **Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)** for the focused-lecture series entitled “People at the Edge: Defining Near Poor of the Philippines” as Best Statistical Information Dissemination Activity
- **Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI)** for the Dissemination activities on the 8th National Nutrition Survey (NNS) as Best Statistical Forum

In recognition of the significant contribution of the private and youth sectors in promoting the importance of statistics, new categories were awarded. The new awards were conferred to:

- **Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ)** for the conduct of a training-seminar on Investigative Reporting and Numeracy as Best Statistical Information Dissemination Activity by private sector
- **University of the Philippines Diliman-Statistical Society** for their 28th Annual Stat-is-Eeks (a statistics quiz joined by 31 high school student teams) and 9th Annual Stat-en-Ek ek (a University-wide trivia quiz show) as Best Youth Advocate of Statistics

The winners each received a Plaque of Recognition and a cash prize of Php 10,000.

II. 26th NSM Activities by Type of Activity

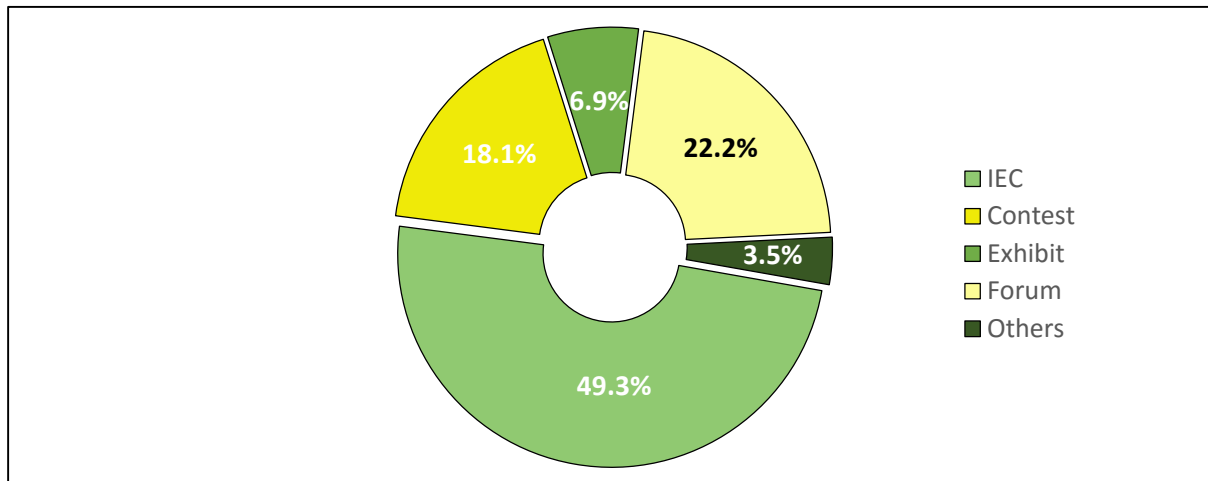


Figure 1. Distribution of 26th NSM statistical activities per type of activity.

A total of 1,094 NSM activities were conducted nationwide. As shown in Figure 1, Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials and radio / TV plugs comprised 49.3% of the total statistical activities conducted during the 26th NSM while fora, workshops and seminars constituted 22.2%. Moreover, 18.1% of the total statistical activities were statistical contests and the remaining 10.4% where exhibits and other statistical activities such as the issuance of Memo Circulars.

In general, there was a 14.3% increase in the number of activities, i.e., from 957 in 2014 to 1,094 in 2015. The number of participating organizations, agencies/institutions likewise increased by 6.3%, from 475 during the 25th NSM to 505 during the 26th NSM.

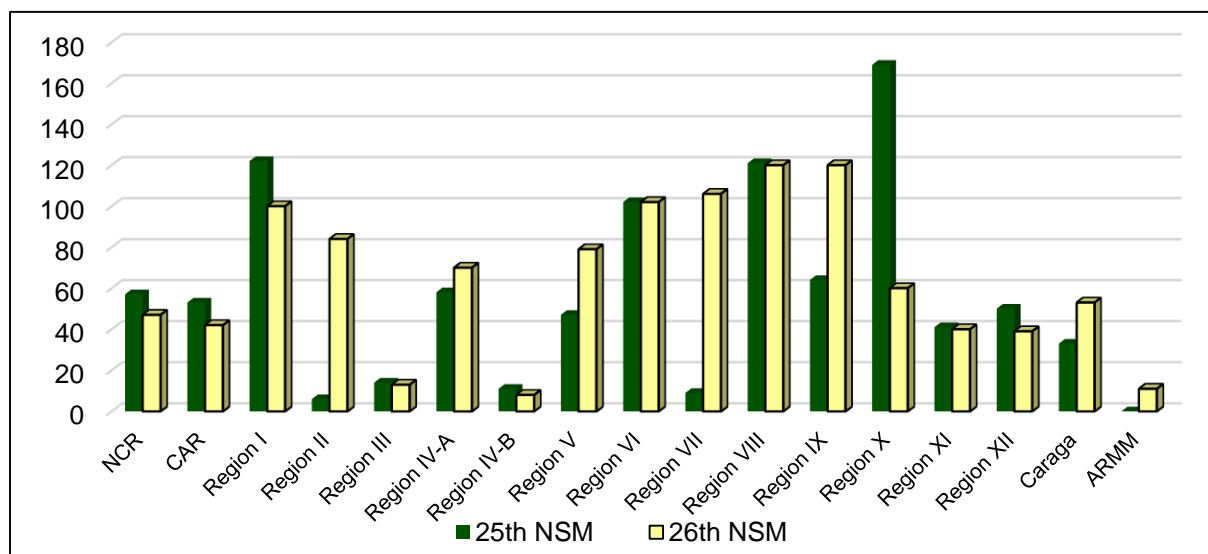


Figure 2. Number of statistical activities undertaken during the celebration of the 25th and 26th NSM by region.

Notably, a large increase in the number of statistical activities undertaken were observed in regions II, V, VII, IX, Caraga and ARMM. Region II posted the largest increase from six during the 25th NSM to 84 statistical activities during the 26th NSM followed by Region VII from 9 to 106. On the other hand, Region X exhibited a decrease in the total number of statistical activities from 169 to 60.

III. World Statistics Day 2015

The World Statistics Day (WSD) 2015 carried the theme, **“Better Data, Better Lives”**. In line with the celebration, the PSA conducted its very first career orientation aimed at promoting and encouraging college students to pursue a career in statistics. It intended to provide basic information on what to expect in entering the field of statistics and hopefully in getting to work in the PSS. Moreover, it served as a venue where students and employers exchanged ideas and information about their chosen statistics career path.



Currently, the increasing demand for statisticians is not being met with only 11 schools offering statistics degree programs. With the career orientation, the students were encouraged to maximize statistics-related opportunities. In accordance with PSA’s mandate and objectives, the PSA Career Orientation envisions a setting for future statistician professionals to enhance the latent skills of the labor force geared towards nation-building and improving people’s lives.



PSA celebrated the World Statistics Day 2015 by conducting a career orientation at the University of the Philippines (UP) School of Statistics on 20 October 2015. Participants were from the UP School of Statistics, University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) Institute of Statistics and Rizal Technological University.

The PSA Career Orientation which was held on 20 October 2015 at the University of the Philippines (UP) School of Statistics Auditorium, in Diliman, Quezon City was attended by 130 participants. The guest speakers of the career orientation included National Statistician and Civil Registrar General Lisa Grace S. Bersales; Deputy National Statistician Josie B. Perez; and OIC-Chief Ms. Patricia Anne L. Rivera from the PSA; and the Dean of the UP School of Statistics, Dr. Dennis Mapa. Advising everyone to be statistically significant, the guest speakers highlighted the crucial role of statisticians in the global arena in the coming

years. Career path in statistics was also given emphasis wherein statisticians are encouraged to have a broader skill set. In addition to gaining work experience, participating in various training programs and events which would improve inherent skill set was mentioned as among the perks in working at PSA.

Aside from the PSA Career Orientation, 27 agencies also joined the celebration of the WSD 2015 with a total of 34 activities conducted.

IV. Closing Ceremony

Since 2001, the NSM Closing Ceremony has been hosted by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP). The 26th NSM Closing Ceremony was held at the BSP Assembly Hall, BSP Three-Storey Building, in Manila on 28 October 2015 which was attended by 273 participants. BSP Monetary Board Member Juan D. De Zuñiga, Jr. was the keynote speaker, while PSA Assistant National Statistician Maribeth C. Pilimpinas formally closed the 26th NSM.

Similar to the past NSM Closing Ceremonies, that of the 26th NSM, coincided with the 20th BSP-Department of Education (BSP-DepEd) Annual Oratorical Contest. The Contest has served as a venue to promote and enhance nationwide awareness and appreciation of the importance of statistics to the different sectors of society, particularly among high school students. Senior high school students delivered oratorical pieces highlighting the importance of statistics using the specific theme for the 26th NSM, **“Pagyamanin at Gamitin ang Estadistika, Kalusugan para sa Lahat ay Abot-Kamay Na.”**



BSP Deputy Governor Diwa C. Guinigundo (top photo) gracing the 20th BSP-DepEd Annual Oratorical Contest. PSA Assistant National Statistician Maribeth C. Pilimpinas (bottom photo) delivering Closing Remarks for the 26th NSM.



(from left to right) BSP Governor Amando M. Tetangco, Jr., Brian Stefan R. Mack (20th BSP-DepEd Oratorical Contest Winner), Sheila B. Degrano (trainer) and DepEd Director Jocelyn DR. Andaya

The winners of the 20th BSP-DepEd Annual Oratorical Contest were:

- (1st Place)
Brian Stefan R. Mack, Siquijor Provincial Science High School;
- (2nd Place)
Jeremiah F. Feliciano, San Jose National High School in Antipolo; and
- (3rd Place)
Izzadorah T. Cagas, Bayugan National Comprehensive High School.