

Capacity Building of National Statistics Offices in the Context of Data Revolution: Experience from the Philippines¹

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The Philippine Statistical System(PSS) recognizes its vital role in the country's development and commitment to the eventual adoption of the post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda. Monitoring the country's performance in attaining its Sustainable Development Goals brings to the fore the needed capacity building for the Philippine Statistics Authority(PSA) and the other agencies of the PSS. Such capacity building viewed in the context of data revolution needs to address challenges in the following areas:

- technical and other skills, specifically, of officials and staff of PSA - Data appreciation by various data producers (PSA and other government agencies, national and subnational levels)
- appreciation of statistics by high level government officials and policy makers
- dearth of graduates from universities to NSS (few high school enrolled in statistics, few graduates, few graduates going to NSS due uncompetitive compensation package and career opportunities).

The PSS already has the following elements that shall help address the challenges:

- a research and training institute for the PSS: the Philippine Statistical Research and Training Institute(PSRTI)
- UNSIAP
- active and supportive professional societies: Philippine Statistical Association, Inc. (PSAI)and Philippine Population Association (PPA)
- academe collaboration through coordinating and technical committees
- universities with strong academic programs in statistics and other related disciplines.

Some strategies to build on the existing strengths are:

- development of short term and long term capacity building programs for submission to the planning and budget ministries to

¹ High Level Forum on "Partnerships for capacity in the context of data revolution", 2 March 2015, UN, NYC.

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- include the contribution of existing institutions and programs (PSRTI, UNSIAP, PSAI)
- construction of a data revolution framework that shall include professional societies, academe, research institutions and the private sector
 - capacity building for offices under the Office of the National Statistician identified to bring updated technical and new skills (e.g.,Statistical Methodology Unit, Corporate and Management Planning Unit)
 - institution of programs for senior government officials and policy makers for appreciation of SDGs monitoring
 - institution of statistics programs in distance learning mode while enhancing academic programs in residential mode.

All these strategies shall be included in an updated NSDS for the Philippines and a clear monitoring and evaluation plan for SDGs.