

CLOSING STATEMENT

REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON DATA DISSEMINATION AND COMMUNICATION
MANILA TRADERS' HOTEL
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During the last three days we have heard interesting and challenging developments on data dissemination and communication not only from our very capable resource persons but also from the practices and experiences shared by both the developed and developing statistical systems.

We have seen how national statistical systems have evolved over the years in our data dissemination practices and how we have tried to cope with the challenges amidst the resource constraints that we faced.

More importantly, we have observed the universal appreciation and interest among the participants on the critical importance of efficient and effective data dissemination and communication in the functioning of national statistical systems. With the emergence of competitors or maybe partners from the private sector in the dissemination of statistics, I am glad that we official statisticians seem to be taking these developments in a positive light and that we consider them as challenges to enhance our relevance to our stakeholders.

In this regard it is important to reiterate the enormous potential benefits that our collective efforts towards improved data dissemination and communication will redound not to users of statistics but also to national statistical agencies and national statistical systems. One common complaint about us official statisticians is that our products and services are not very user-friendly, are not very relevant, and so we receive low priorities in the allocation of resources. When we are able to disseminate and communicate our statistics much more effectively, thru data visualization tools, thru infographics, thru the integration of statistics and geospatial information, I definitely think that our lives will be so much better, our work will be appreciated much better, and indeed, we official statisticians will be so much sexier.

But at the same time, we must recognize that countries are at different levels of statistical development, we have different levels of statistical capacity, varying resource constraints, we have varying needs and data priorities in our national development agenda, we have different institutional infrastructures particularly on GGIM concerns and therefore, that no one approach will fit all.

Towards our way forward in the area of data dissemination and communication, I would like to focus on and reiterate a few points that came out of our discussions over the past three days:

First, we developing countries , in the Asia Pacific region, in Africa, need continuing support in various areas:

- In the identification of best and good practices that we can adopt;
- In enhancing our technical and technological preparedness to cope with the challenges of data dissemination and communication including the integration of statistics and geospatial information and enhancing our capacity to tell stories about our products the way media practitioners do it;
- In being provided with sources and methods- principles and recommendations- type of reference materials;
- In facilitating access to experts and expertise in these fields; and
- In continued participation in regional workshops such as this, for sharing our experiences and learning from the experiences of the more advanced statistical systems.

Second, while we are grateful for the external assistance that we receive in our statistical developmental efforts, we national statistical systems should recognize that we bear some responsibility in urging our respective governments to provide the necessary counterpart support in moving the statistical development agenda forward. Toward this end, we official statisticians must have greater appreciation for the need for us to show good, useful and usable statistical products and services. And that includes the exciting products we saw in the presentations as well as those we have yet to see but the ideas and concepts of which we have heard during the workshop.

We, participants in the workshop should also voice our collective commitment to do our share in improving data dissemination and communication in our respective countries.

Finally, having enumerated some areas where we need help, we call on our partners led by the UN Statistics Division, the SIAP, ESCAP, ADB, PARIS21, and our bilateral partners like Australia, New Zealand, UK, Japan, Korea, to continue to guide us and to empower us in this very interesting journey of national statistical systems towards efficient and effective data dissemination and communication .

It has been our pleasure collaborating with the UNSD and co-hosting this workshop. We thank our excellent resource persons, the presenters from various countries, the participants, including the media, and our co-hosts in the Philippine Statistical System for making this event possible. We certainly hope you learn many things during the workshop and we hope you enjoyed your stay in our

country. Have a safe trip home and we hope to see each other again in some similar workshops in the future. Good afternoon.