DIRECTOR, United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP)



Margarita F Guerrero joined the Institute as its Director in 2012.

Dr Guerrero has over 30 years of experience in the field of statistics in national, regional and international settings as an academic, methodologist, official statistician, senior manager and expert advisor in a wide-range of statistical areas. Her current areas of professional interest are: designing and evaluating training programmes in support of: improving agricultural statistics, core economic statistics, gender statistics; and MDG/SDG data, statistics and indicators; analysis and communication of statistical data and results; implementing national quality assurance frameworks, and leading and managing a data revolution in statistical offices.

Since joining the United Nations in 1999, she has focused on statistical capacity development for official statistics-- providing technical assistance, advisory services and training to a large number of developing countries in Asia and the Pacific and conducting methodological research on measurement of the informal sector, time-use surveys and classifications and small-area statistics, among others. Prior to her current post as SIAP director, she was regional adviser in statistics and senior statistician with the Statistics Division (SD) of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; senior technical advisor on statistics for United Nations Development Programme in Vietnam; lecturer/statistician of SIAP; and a project coordinator for the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD).

She joined the Philippine National Statistics Office in 1991 as Director of the Industry and Trade Statistics Department. She was responsible for the production of monthly price indices, inflation rates, domestic and foreign trade statistics, and data collection on all economic sectors through establishment surveys and censuses. She also served as Director of the Household Statistics Department where she was responsible for household statistical surveys including quarterly surveys on labour force, family income and expenditure surveys, and population census.

From 1988 to 1991, she was Director of the Institute of Mathematical Sciences and Physics of the University of the Philippines Los Banos which she joined as a faculty member in statistics in 1984 and, earlier, as an instructor in mathematics in 1977. She taught undergraduate and graduate courses in statistics and applied mathematics and advised students in the Ph D in Statistics programme which she helped design and establish.

She obtained her Ph D and Masters degrees in statistics from Iowa State University, USA and her BSc degree in Applied Mathematics (cum laude) from UPLB.