

First User–Producer Dialogue on Statistical Capacity Development for Inclusive Growth in the Philippines

Key Outcomes

PARIS21 or the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century Consortium and NSCB jointly conducted the First User-Producer Dialogue on Statistical Capacity Development for Inclusive Growth on 5 December 2012 at the Illustrado Restaurant in historic Intramuros in Manila, Philippines. Representatives of key government agencies, including the major statistical agencies, and private sector, media, and civil society, academe, legislative, local government, and international organizations attended the forum.

The main outcomes of the forum are (1) a better understanding and appreciation of the inclusive growth concept and the requirements from the international and national perspectives; (2) awareness of the available data resources in the PSS and identification of gaps for comprehensive analysis and recurrent monitoring of inclusive growth; and (3) recommendations for further strengthening the Philippine Statistical System (PSS) towards the production and communication of timely, relevant, and quality statistics and indicators on inclusive growth.

Specifically, the forum clarified how inclusive growth in the Philippines is envisioned in the context of the Philippine Development Plan 2011-2016. It outlined some of the essential data requirements for comprehensive assessment of inclusive growth policies, actions, and outcomes as well as identified some critical gaps in terms of data availability and quality and statistical capability of data producers and users alike. The forum likewise discussed an emerging concern on the use of statistics from non-official sources such as industry associations and market research and polling institutions.

The forum agreed as quick measures to identify champions in the executive and legislative branches of government to help advocate and mobilize support for statistics and to explore existing resource facilities in government to finance some statistical development programs.

In order to achieve medium- to long-term outcomes, the forum recommended the:

- Implementation of the Philippine Statistical Development Program 2011-2017 with focus on improving the relevance, timeliness, harmonization, and accessibility of data, enhancing business processes, optimizing technology, and more capacity building and training;
- Continuation of work on a medium-term expenditure framework and continuous dialogue with executive and legislative branches of government to increase statistical human resources, ensure funding of core statistical activities, and rationalize resource planning and mobilization for statistics;
- Strengthening of partnerships in the PSS, including public-private partnerships, to promote among others complementation (rather than competition) of statistical initiatives between official and non-official data source institutions;
- Improve dissemination and communication of statistics through among others better cooperation with media institutions towards increased statistical literacy; and
- Rationalize data collection including the clear delineation of responsibilities between national and local governments for the production of more local-level statistics.



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The forum also agreed to the formation of an interagency task force that will coordinate the provision of statistics for inclusive growth monitoring and assessment and the conduct of similar user-producer dialogues at the local levels.