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TITLE: Coordination and Production of ICT Statistics: Philippine Experience

Coordination and Production of ICT Statistics: Philippine Experience
By Lina V. Castro[1]

I. Background:

The Philippine Statistical System (PSS) is a decentralized statistical system composed of many data producing agencies with the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) mandated as the over-all coordinator. Recognizing that statistical information is a strategic resource in the formulation of appropriate policies, plans and programs towards national development, the NSCB has put in place many coordination mechanisms and promoted good practices in the production, dissemination/communication and utilization of statistics produced by the PSS.[2]

II. Statistical coordination mechanisms in the PSS relevant to the enhancement and improvement of the production and dissemination of ICT statistics

1. Philippine Statistical Development Plan (PSDP)

The Philippine Statistical Development Plan (PSDP) is a mechanism for setting the directions, thrusts and priorities of the PSS for the medium term. It defines the priority statistical programs and activities in the medium term designed to provide vital information support for the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) as well as promote efficiency of statistical operations through an optimum use of available resources and adoption of cost effective measures. Also, it is a tool for integrating and coordinating the statistical activities of the government and enjoins compliance and cooperation among various agencies. In the PSDP 2011-2017, the following statistical programs, designed to address the issues and challenges in the **Information Society (IS)** sector shall be undertaken:

1. To deliver more timely, accessible, coherent, comparable, comprehensive and relevant IS statistics;
2. To increase user understanding, capacity, and rational use of statistics;
3. To enhance statistical capacities of data producers and providers;
4. To improve coherence, effectiveness, and efficiency of the statistical system; and
5. To increase and sustain resources for statistics.

Specifically, the following are some of the major statistical programs on **IS** identified in the PSDP 2011-2017:

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[1] Officer-in-Charge Office of the Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General, National Statistical Coordination Board, Philippines

[2] "Bridging the Gap between Data Users and Data Producers: Perspectives from the Philippines", by R.A. Virola and L.V. Castro, paper presented at the PARIS21 Consortium, November 2009, Dakar, Senegal

1. Institutionalization of the regular conduct of household-based ICT surveys and surveys of ICT usage in government, including local government units;
2. Enhancement of administrative reporting systems for the generation of IS statistics/ indicators;
3. Strengthening of institutional coordination within the PSS and between PSS and the Dep't of Budget and Management, legislative bodies, and development partners to ensure funding of the continuous improvement and production of critical statistics on ICT;
4. Development and compilation of the Satellite Accounts of the Information Economy to provide statistical information on the contribution and role of ICT in the country's economic structure and development; and
5. Assessment and improvement of IS statistics towards inclusion in the System of Designated Statistics.

2. **Formulation of Statistical Policies**

The NSCB Executive Board issues policy measures in the form of resolutions and memorandum orders designed to: 1) introduce new statistical frameworks and activities; 2) enhance existing methodologies; and 3) improve the quality and accessibility of government-produced statistics.

The following Resolutions and Memorandum Orders relating to ICT statistics were issued by the Board:

o NSCB Memorandum Order No. 05 series of 2006 - **Creation of an Interagency Committee on ICT Statistics**

o NSCB Memorandum Order No. 02 series of 2008 - **Reconstituting the Interagency Committee on ICT Statistics**

o NSCB Resolution No. 2 series of 2008 - **Approving and Adopting the Concepts and Definitions for Statistical Purposes for the ICT Sector** – Batch 1, defining the following: E-Commerce, Business Process Outsourcing, Value Added Service Provider, Internet Service Provider, Broadband Internet Subscriber, Web Presence, Public Internet Access Centers, and Telephone Density

o NSCB Resolution No. 21 series of 2009 - **Approving and Adopting the Concepts and Definitions for Statistical Purposes for the ICT Sector – Batch 2**, defining the following: Student-to-computer ratio, Proportion of ICT-qualified teachers in primary and secondary schools, Mobile cellular telephone subscribers, Proportion of population covered by mobile cellular network, Proportion of municipalities/cities covered by mobile cellular network, Mobile commerce (m-Commerce), E-government, and Open source software

o NSCB Resolution No. 06 series of 2011 - **Approving and Adopting the Scope and Coverage of the Philippine Information Economy**

o NSCB Resolution No. 16 series of 2011 - **Approving and Adopting the General Policy on the Dissemination of Statistics on the Internet**

3. **Interagency Committee on ICT Statistics (IAC on ICTS) created in November 2006**

   As mandated, the NSCB provides a forum for coordination, through inter-agency committees, technical committees and technical working groups or task forces, to develop new statistical activities, draft policies and resolve policy and technical issues on subject matter areas. Membership of these committees, include both users and producers of statistics, with private sector representation or NGOs. The IAC on ICTS was created primarily with the following functions:

   o To serve as a forum for the discussion and resolution of issues relating to ICT statistics;

   o To review the concepts, techniques, and methodologies used in the collection, processing and reporting of ICT statistics to ensure conformity with prescribed statistical standards;

   o To provide inputs to the NSCB Technical Committee on Statistical Standards and Classification (TCSSC) in the development of standard concepts and definitions on ICT statistics and ICT classification systems;

   o To provide assistance and guidance in the regular generation of the estimates of the value of e-Commerce transactions, ICT satellite account and other ICT statistics;

   o To recommend policies geared towards improved generation, dissemination and utilization of ICT statistics including the data gaps identified by the Task Force on the Measurement of e-Commerce;

   o To provide direction and support in the development of an estimation methodology in the valuation of e-Commerce and the compilation of satellite accounts on ICT as well as recommend mechanisms for their institutionalization;

   o To monitor the over-all development of ICT statistics in the country; and

   o To present the results of and recommendations on the initial estimates of the contribution of e-Commerce, the generation of the ICT as a satellite accounts of the Philippine System of National Accounts (PSNA) to the NSCB Executive Board

   - The IAC on ICTS is chaired by the Commissioner of the Information and Communications Technology Office and composed of Senior Officials from the following agencies:

Vice Chairpersons:	Department of Trade and Industry; and
	National Statistical Coordination Board

Members:	National Economic and Development Authority;
	Department of Budget and Management;
	Department of Science and Technology;
	Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas;
	National Statistics Office;
	National Telecommunications Commission;
	National Computer Center;
	Trade Union Congress of the Philippines;
	Business Processing Association of the Philippines,
	IT Foundation of the Philippines

- The major accomplishments of the IAC-ICTS (2007 to present) include the following:

  - Reviewed the scope and coverage of the Information Economy;
  - Provided inputs in the formulation of the Information Society chapter in the PSDP 2011-2017;
  - Discussed/Identified 16 ICT concepts and definitions;
  - Recommended the following indicators for inclusion in the questionnaire of the 2010 Census of Population and Housing:
    1. Number of household members with mobile phones by type of subscription (pre-paid, post-paid) by sex, age ;
    2. Number of households with PCs: urban-rural;
    3. Number of household members who used a PC in the last 12 months: by sex, age;
    4. Household member frequency of use of PC by sex, age;
    5. Number of household members using/accessing the Internet by type of access: dial-up, DSL, cable;
    6. Household member frequency of access to the internet by sex, age;
    7. Proportion of household members using the internet by type of activity (e-mail, research, e-banking, purchase/order, ads/promo, and the like): by sex, age.

4. System of Designated Statistics (SDS)

The system of designated statistics (SDS) is a mechanism that identifies and generates the most critical and essential statistics required for social and economic planning/analysis based on approved criteria. It establishes priorities for data production and hence provides a means for more rational resource allocation among government statistical activities. It also identifies the sources of official statistics. The system defines the agency responsible, frequency of data production and schedule of data dissemination. It also indicates the major

data items to be collected and the geographic level of disaggregation, among others.

The IAC on ICTS have had initial discussions on the possible inclusion of ICT statistics in the System of Designated Statistics. By the first quarter of 2013, the IAC on ICTS will submit its endorsement for approval of the NSCB Executive Board on the inclusion of ICT statistics in the System. The proposed ICT statistics/statistical activities to be designated are as follows:

Agency Responsible	Title of ICT Statistics/Statistical Activity
National Statistics Office	1. Annual Survey of Information and Communications Technology
National Telecommunication Commission	2. Generation of ICT statistics on infrastructure 2.1. Fixed telephone lines per 100 inhabitants 2.2. Mobile cellular telephone subscribers per 100 inhabitants 2.3. Fixed Internet subscribers per 100 inhabitants 2.4. Fixed broadband Internet subscribers per 100 inhabitants 2.5. Mobile broadband subscribers per 100 inhabitants 2.6. International Internet bandwidth per inhabitant (bits/second/ inhabitant) 2.7. Percentage of population covered by a mobile cellular telephone network

At present, the following designated statistical activities generate ICT statistics:

Agency Responsible	Statistical Activity	ICT statistics generated
National Statistics Office	Survey on Information and Communication Technology	Most of the data items recommended in the Manual for the Production of Statistics on the Information Economy, 2009
	Census of Population and Housing	Previous censuses: household ownership of ICT devices; ICT-related occupation and educational

Agency Responsible	Statistical Activity	ICT statistics generated
		status of household members
		2010 census: household ownership of ICT devices (radio, TV, PC, landline telephone, cellular phones), presence of a landline telephone system or calling station and cellular phone signal in a locality
	Family Income and Expenditures Survey	family expenditures on telephone bills (fixed and mobile), internet subscription; family ownership of radio, TV, fixed and mobile telephone, and microcomputer
	Census/Survey on Philippine Business and Industry	employment, compensation, man-hours, revenue, subsidies, cost, fixed assets, inventories, capacity utilization for ICT industries
	Labor Force Survey	labor and employment data for ICT industries
	Functional Literacy, Education and Mass Media Survey	population with access to the Internet as a means for acquiring knowledge and information, frequency of population in using the Internet
	Administrative/Regulatory-based data	exports, imports of electronic commodities

5. Statistical Survey Review and Clearance System (SSRCS)

The SSRCS was formulated to ensure conformity with standard definitions, concepts and classifications, and consequently, the reliability, comparability and accuracy of statistics generated out of said surveys and/or censuses. Its specific objectives are:

- o to ensure sound design for data collection;
- o to minimize the burden placed upon respondents;
- o to effect economy in statistical data collection;
- o to eliminate unnecessary duplication of statistical data collection; and
- o to achieve better coordination of government statistical activities.

The following surveys on ICT have been reviewed and granted clearance for conduct through the SSRCS:

Agency Responsible	Statistical Activity	Years Covered	Remarks
National Statistics Office and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas	Survey of IT-BPO Services	2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010	Provides information on the economic contribution of IT and IT-Enabled services
National Statistics Office	Survey on ICT for Business and Industries	2006, 2008, 2009, 2010	Aims to gather and generate information on the availability, distribution and access/utilization of ICT among industries and businesses in the Philippines, which are integral in developing plans and programs on ICT
National Computer Center	National Government ICT Resources Survey	2004	Aims to provide indicators on the state of computerization of national government agencies

6. **Standards and Classification Systems**

The NSCB prescribes uniform standards and classification systems in government statistics to ensure harmonization and comparability of official statistics across national and international boundaries.

For the ICT Sector: 1) there are 16 official concepts and definitions for statistical purposes which were defined and approved (NSCB Resolution Nos. 2, s. 2008 and 21, s. 2009); and 2) the Scope and Coverage of the Philippine Information Economy. Likewise, the NSCB developed and prescribed for adoption the following: a) 2009 Philippine Standard Industrial Classification (PSIC) based on ISIC Rev. 4, and b) Philippine Central Product Classification (PCPC).

7. **Advocacy Programs**

To instill awareness, appreciation and understanding of statistics among the general public, the following advocacy programs are conducted by the NSCB:

   o **National Statistics Month (NSM), (every October)**

   In October 2012 NSM - Launching of the Philippine ICT Statistics Portal

- o **National Convention on Statistics (NCS), (every three years)**

  In the 2004 NCS 2004, two papers were presented under ICT Sessions

  1. Empowering the People Thru Information: The Philippines' First Provincial Statistics Information Center in Guimaras
  2. Web-Enabled Database As Tools for Disseminating Statistics

  In the 2007 NCS, three papers were presented under the session on ICT Applications

  1. Test Checker and Item Analyzer with Statistics
  2. Sub-national Determinants of the Digital Divide: The Case of the Philippines
  3. Multi-Scale and Multi-Temporal Poverty Mapping in the Manila Observatory

  In the 2010 NCS, three papers were presented under the session on Developments in ICT

  1. The Role of Documentation in a Culture of Excellence in Philippine Statistics
  2. National Statistics on ICT, Shipping Industry and the Maritime Profession: Its Applications in Business and Industry and Philippine Society
  3. Lessons Learned in the Use of DevInfo in the Philippines

- o **Dissemination Fora**

  Dissemination fora are conducted by the National Statistics Office during the release of the Annual Survey of ICT

- o **Seminars, Conferences, Lectures**

  In 2010, the Workshop on ICT Stocktaking, in partnership with the ITU was conducted by the then Commission on ICT, now ICTO.

- o **Partnership with foreign/international organizations (UNSD, ITU)**