

**Philippine COUNTRY STATEMENT (Agenda item 4)  
Ministerial Conference on  
Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific  
24-28 November 2014, Bangkok, Thailand**

**CIVIL REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS (CRVS) SYSTEM  
IN THE PHILIPPINES**

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

The Philippines congratulates the organizers of this Conference for putting emphasis on CRVS.

Civil registration in the Philippines was instituted and made compulsory by the enactment of the Civil Registry Law in 1930. Through the years, legislations were passed to strengthen civil registration in the Philippines to: 1) uphold the customs and traditions of Muslim Filipinos and Indigenous Peoples (IPs); 2) neutralize the stigma of having a different surname in the birth certificate, if a child is born out of wedlock, and legitimated children born to parents below marrying age; and 3) allow registration of children in need of special protection including those who are victims of abuse, exploitation, cruelty, discrimination and violence including in situations of armed conflict and domestic violence, those deserted or abandoned infant or child found with unknown facts of birth and parentage, and other analogous conditions in the country. These measures ensure that each and every Filipino will be counted.

The Philippines puts emphasis on the importance of documents to establish identity and civil status; and toward this end has endeavored, in 2000, the computerization of the civil registry system to streamline and enhance the retrieval and storage of civil registry documents, and allow the use of the internet and a phone-based service to apply for civil registry documents. The Philippines also introduced systems to improve registration in the subnational level.

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The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) continues to enhance its capability and coordination with other stakeholders, such as: 1) the Local Civil Registrars; 2) other government agencies; 3) foreign embassies in the Philippines for the validation and verification of civil registry documents; and, 4) the academe and research institutions for the utilization of data.

The PSA-generated vital statistics are used, among others, as basis for health programs and evidence-based policies and for researches such as estimating the survivorship of patients, as inputs to population projections and studies on the causes of death and maternal mortality.

The Philippines believes that high level and improved civil registration brought to the people can be achieved, not only by legislation and concerted efforts of the team players, but also by the continuous dissemination, and implementation of sustainable programs and projects by the government and non-government stakeholders.

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The Philippines believes that evidences of our concerted effort and commitment of our stakeholders in CRVS policy and plans development as well as in implementing strategic initiatives ensures achievability of our contribution to the shared vision by 2024.

We look forward to sharing our achievements in our all-inclusive civil registration strategies, technological advancements in authentication and information management, and vital statistics' data sharing modalities during this CRVS Ministerial Conference.

Thank you for this opportunity and good afternoon. #