Panel Discussion:
“Horses for Courses” or How Statistics Can Help to Improve Employment Policies in Tourism

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“Horses for Courses” or How Statistics can Help to Improve Employment Policies in Tourism

1. Currently, statistics on tourism employment are not systematically generated by the National Statistical Systems (NSS) of countries, particularly of developing countries.

2. The quality of the available tourism employment statistics beyond global totals is questionable in many developing countries, and possibly even in developed countries. They are generally generated using practically heroic assumptions.
3. For purposes of tourism planning and job creation program interventions, there is a need to systematically generate (in the NSS) better quality tourism employment statistics with the appropriate levels of disaggregation; at the same time, there is a need for decision/policy-makers to use whatever statistics are currently available.

4. Such tourism employment statistics can in fact be generated with best efforts, and with modest starting points, like at the subnational level (tourism destination area).
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5. There is a need for better metrics on (tourism) employment; current international guidelines on work and employment do not generate analytically-meaningful/policy-relevant employment statistics (employment does not correlate with poverty). ILO (thru the ICLS), the UN WTO, and the international statistical community can certainly help and have in fact, been helping.

6. There is a need to mainstream the generation of such better tourism employment statistics in the NSS; tourism authorities should not have to beg NSOs to generate these data; NSOs should give priority attention to the generation of statistics on sectors, like tourism, which are considered as key sectors in the national development plan.
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7. There is a need to capacítate both the statistical offices and
the tourism authorities; as well as other users of tourism
employment statistics so that statistics can properly inform
decisions in the tourism sector.

8. There is a need for countries to invest more on statistics; the
rising demand for statistics should be managed with a
commensurate allocation of greater resources for the
statistical offices and for statistical activities.
Muchas Gracias!

Salamat Po!

Thank you!

Tourism Statistics is More Fun in the Philippines!!!