



# PRESS RELEASE

## Technical Working Group of Western Visayas Tourism Satellite Accounts Convenes its First Meeting

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The Technical Working Group of Western Visayas Tourism Satellite Accounts (TWG-WV-TSA) convened its first meeting on 30 May 2023 at the Conference Room of the Philippine Statistics Authority Regional Statistical and Services Office VI (PSA RSSO VI). The meeting was attended by 11 out of 15 member agencies, with PSA as TWG Chair and the Department of Tourism Region VI (DOT VI) as Co-Chair. Members of the TWG who joined onsite were the National Economic and Development Authority Region VI (NEDA VI), Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) Area Center 6, Provincial Tourism Offices (PTOs) of Antique, Capiz, and Iloilo, and Iloilo City Tourism Office. On the other hand, the Bureau of Immigration, the Provincial Economic and Development Office of Guimaras, and some DOT VI staff participated in the meeting via Google Meet. The meeting was held as part of the compilation and estimation activities prior to the dissemination of the 2018 to 2022 TSA results for Western Visayas via Web Release on 27 July 2023.

The agenda of the meeting included discussions on TSA concepts, the preliminary 2018 TSA Benchmark estimates, data requirements, and timeline of activities.

During the discussion, the group dwelt on issues of data gaps, unautomated data collection, and low submission rate from the Local Government Units (LGUs). Strategies and actions to be taken on respective concerns were also tackled.

Bureau of Immigration (BI) also shared their latest coordination with the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on the implementation of an e-travel system in which foreign visitors coming in to the country will have to fill-out an online form. This system will get the basic information of travellers and the purpose of their travel. With this new system, data collection will be easier and faster.

Developed by the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), TSA is a standard statistical framework and the main tool for the economic measurement of tourism. The TSA provides among others detailed data in expenditure of visitors, production accounts of tourism industries, and employment in tourism industries to describe the size and contribution of tourism to the economy.

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