Distinguished Service Award

The basic requirement for eligibility to be given a Distinguished Service Award is outstanding service to the Society in a leadership position.

2024 Distinguished Service Award
Mahar Mangahahas
2024 Distinguished Service Award: Mahar Mangahas

- In 2019, SWS received the ISQOLS Award for the Betterment of the Human Condition at its annual conference in Granada, Spain.
- Dr. Mangahas has presented his research not only in academic meetings and publications, but also in a weekly newspaper column, entitled Social Climate, in the Manila Chronicle (1980-94), the Manila Standard (1996-2001), and the Philippine Daily Inquirer (2007-present). A selection from the first decade of these pieces became the book The Philippine Social Climate: from the SWS surveys (Anvil Publishing, 1994).
- Dr. Mangahas' paper on Self-Rated Poverty won the 1993 Elizabeth Nelson Award at the annual conference of the World Association for Public Opinion Research (WAPOR) in Copenhagen. Based on national surveys done semi-annually in 1986-9, and then quarterly ever since 1992, the SWS Self-Rated Poverty time-series is the most rapid system of tracking poverty in the world.
- SWS' success in predicting election outcomes has been a bane for politicians. In 2001 it battled a freshly-signed law aimed at suppressing pre-election surveys, and won decisively when the Philippine Supreme Court, within weeks, ruled favorably on its petition to declare the law unconstitutional; the Court acted so quickly that the law was never applied to an election. This led to Dr. Mangahas' Helen Dinerman Award at the 2001 WAPOR conference in Rome.
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- Service to ISQOLS includes long-term Board member and current Emeritus Board member.
- 2014 ISQOLS Distinguished Research Fellow Award, for career contributions to QOL research.
- Educated in economics at the University of the Philippines (AB 1962, MA 1965) and the University of Chicago (PhD 1970).
- In 1970-81, Professor of Economics at the University of the Philippines School of Economics (UPSE), handling agricultural economics, econometrics, land reform, income distribution, and poverty. Received the UPSE Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2015.
- In 1981-84, as DAP vice-president and head of its Research for Development Department, he directed its pioneering "Social Weather Stations" project, which moved the research from theoretical principles to practical implementation by means of scientific surveys.
- In 1985, he co-founded Social Weather Stations (www.sws.org.ph), a private non-profit institute dedicated to quality-of-life monitoring, opinion polling, and survey archiving. He was SWS President/CEO from 1985 to 2021, and since then has been Chair Emeritus.
- The SWS surveys were prominent in recording the Philippine transition from authoritarianism under Ferdinand Marcos Sr. (president, 1965-87) to democracy under Corazon Aquino (president, 1987-92). For four decades, they have regularly covered many aspects of the people's well-being, including poverty, hunger, joblessness, perceived trends in QOL from the past and into the future, satisfaction with public officials and agencies, life-satisfaction, happiness, and general opinions about public issues.
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