WAPOR
WORLD ASSOCIATION FOR PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH
asia pacific

Lifetime Achievement Award 2018

Dr Mahar Mangahas

Dr. Mangahas, fondly known just as Mahar among all the friends, young and old, is an institution in himself. Not just he happens to be the first Asian to be awarded the Helen Dinerman Award at global level, but his commitment to fight against the laws which aimed to curb the freedom to conduct public opinion research in the Philippines made him an icon at local level. He has inspired an entire generation of researchers across South East and Far East, not just to conduct free and fair public opinion research in best possible practices, but also to be outrightly vocal about protecting the rights to freedom of speech and democratization.

Dr. Mahar Mangahas is the President and co-founder of Philippine-based opinion survey firm Social Weather Stations (SWS). Dr Mangahas holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Chicago and was also a Professor of Economics at the University of the Philippines Diliman. SWS is the leading institution for research reports covering a wide spectrum of fields ranging from politics, exit polling, poverty, hunger, optimism, satisfaction with public officials and agencies, life-satisfaction, happiness, and general public opinion across the country.

Before joining the Social Weather Stations full-time, he also served as the Director of the DAP Social Indicators Project as well as a UNICEF for adviser on social indicators in Malaysia (1977-1978) and Indonesia (1981). He has pioneered several award-winning research projects which have shaped quality of life and social indicators studies including the Asia-Barometer Survey Project, Asia-Europe Democracy Project, Multilateral Treaty Participation Project. Dr. Mangahas has also written books such as Measuring the Quality of Life: Philippine Social Indicators, Labor Absorption in Philippine Agriculture, and The Political Economy of Land Reform and Land Distribution in the Philippines and currently also writes for the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Dr. Mangahas did not lay foundation of SWS as just another Station to map Social Weather, but also to groom and develop the next generation of leaders in public opinion research. Over more than fifty years, Dr. Mangahas has chronicled the rise and fall of many regimes and has defended the rights of conducting public opinion research regardless of the powers that might

be, thus inspiring an entire generation of researchers in this part of the world. His legacy is bound to reflect in more ways than one.

For many decades, social scientists and researchers across the globe have been looking forward to listen to his interventions at multiple international platform including, but not limited to WAPOR, ISSP, WVS and ISQOLS. Mahar has been a mentor even in times when he is not really mentoring. He has been a teacher even in times when he is not really teaching. He has been a researcher, even in times when he is not really researching.

Being a researcher, being a teacher, and being a mentor is something that just defines being "Mahar". Being "Mahar" is probably a state of the mind as gem of a person, and a state of the art as researcher of public opinion research. It is our privilege and honour to bestow the first WAPOR Asia Lifetime Achievement Award to Dr. Mahar Mangahas, for just being "Mahar".