

BENJAMIN E. DIOKNO, PH.D.

Secretary

Department of Budget and Management



Budget and Management Secretary Benjamin E. Diokno has been tapped by present and past administrations in various capacities within his field of specialization, providing policy advice and conducting research on public economics, fiscal relations, public and expenditure management. He is also a stalwart advocate of economic development with focus on ASEAN transitional economies.

Immediate positions he held in the past include a senior advisory position at the International Tax and Investment Center (ITIC). He also spent a considerable stint in the academe as a professorial lecturer at the University of the Philippines School of Economics. While serving as Chairman of the Board of Regents of the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, he concurrently held the Chairmanship of the Board of Trustees at the Ospital ng Maynila Medical Center and the post of Independent Director for Asia United Bank. Back in the early nineties, he was appointed to chairmanships of the boards of several government-owned corporations such as the Philippine National Oil Company and the Local Water Utilities Administration.

Sec. Diokno is a recipient of accolades reflective of his scholarly works, commitment to socio-economic development in the country and remarkable civic engagements. In 2014, he received the Most Outstanding Citizen Award from the local government of Quezon City. Back in 1998, he was awarded the Visiting Professorship in International and ASEAN Studies by the University of Toronto but eventually had to give up the offer in order to serve as Secretary of Budget and Management. In the same year, Sec. Diokno's paper "Exchange Rate Policy: Recent Failures and Future Tasks" was given the Outstanding Scientific Paper Award by the National Academy of Science and Technology together with the works of the country's top economists like Raul Fabella and Felipe Medalla.

Before assuming DBM's top post, Sec. Diokno was sought by foreign governments and multinational organizations to advise them as they embarked on high-profile development projects. He was Cambodia's International Fiscal Decentralization Adviser for the country's Public Financial Management Reform Program from 2010 to 2012. For the whole year of 2007, he worked for the government of Mongolia as its Advisor for Public Expenditure Management on a World-Bank sponsored project. From May 2005 to February 2006, he was assigned chief economist for the Agricultural Taxation Reform Project of the People's Republic of China.

Sec. Diokno earned his PhD in Economics from Syracuse University in New York in 1981 and five years before that, an MA in Political Economy from Johns Hopkins University in Maryland. He obtained his BA in Public Administration (1968), Master of Public Administration (1970) and MA in Economics (1974) from the University of the Philippines Diliman.