

Statistical Newsletter

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The First Session of the Statistical Commission of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference

The First Session of the Statistical Commission of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC-StatCom), organised jointly by the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), was held in Istanbul, Turkey from 11 to 12 April 2011.

Delegates of the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of thirty OIC Member Countries including Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Comoros, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Maldives, Morocco, Niger, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, and Uzbekistan participated in the First Session of OIC-StatCom. Additionally, nine international and supranational organisations including the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS), Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC), Statistical Office of the European Union (EUROSTAT), International Monetary Fund (IMF), OIC General Secretariat, Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21), United Nations Economic and Social Council for Western Asia (UNESCWA), United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), and World Bank attended the Session. The Centre was represented thereat by Dr. Savaş Alpay, Director General; Ms. Münevver Nilgün Egemen, Senior Researcher; Ms. Zehra Zümrüt Selçuk, Researcher; and Mr. Atilla Karaman, Researcher.

Aiming to bring about a dynamic platform for the NSOs of the OIC Member Countries to share and exchange knowledge, experiences and best practices on initiatives that can help them become more effective and efficient in managing their National Statistical Systems, the NSOs of the OIC Member Countries agreed in their last meeting of National Statistical Organisations in 2010 to organise their future meetings under the title of “OIC Statistical Commission”. Against this background, the First Session of OIC-StatCom focused on defining the direction, objectives, goals and expected benefits as well as the fields in which the Commission will generate a value-added contribution to the OIC Member Countries.



The participants of the First Session of OIC-StatCom

The First Session of OIC-StatCom began on 11 April 2011 with the welcome and opening messages of OIC General Secretariat, UNSD, IDB, SESRIC, Central Department of Statistics and Information (CDSI) of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



It was pointed out in the welcome/opening message of the OIC General Secretariat that the OIC-StatCom is aimed at underscoring the crucial role in leap-frogging the various stages of socio-economic development in the

OIC Member States.

Dr. Paul Cheung, Director of UNSD, stated in his speech that the OIC-StatCom Session is unprecedented at the OIC level and represents a very important step in the work to build sustainable and effective statistical systems in the OIC Member States.



In his speech Dr. Abdullateef Bello, Director of Data Resources and Statistics Department of IDB, drew attention to the urgent need to have an apex statistical body in which statistical issues unique to the OIC

Member Countries can be discussed, and member countries can exchange ideas and knowledge, share

best practices, and coordinate statistical activities at the OIC level.



Dr. Savaş Alpay, Director General of SESRIC, emphasised in his opening speech the critical role of OIC-StatCom to strengthen the capacities within the NSOs of the OIC Member Countries towards

enhancing statistical systems as critical contributors in the decision-making process both at the public and private level. He also stressed that the OIC-StatCom will be functional in establishing a ground for comprehensive learning, sharing experience and expertise, transfer of knowledge among the NSOs of the Member Countries in a concerted manner as well as in fostering the recognition and use of statistics across a wider spectrum of all relevant stakeholders.

Mr. Mohanna Al-Mohanna, Director General of CDSI, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia underlined in his message that the NSOs of OIC Member Countries should work together in the Commission to identify unique areas of cooperation to become more flexible in responding to the requirements and expectations arising from the new challenges.



In the first day, following the lively discussions in the session of “OIC-StatCom: Expectations, Goals, and Operational Principles”, the delegates endorsed the Rules of Procedure for the Commission, appointed

SESRIC as the Secretariat of the Commission and stated their expectations from the Commission.



During the Session with the theme “Effective Cooperation for Statistical Capacity Building”, delegates from Malaysia and Bahrain respectively made a presentation on “Strengthening the Statistical Capacity Building in the OIC Member Countries” and “Accreditation of Statistical Professionals to Improve Competency in OIC Member Countries”.



These presentations were followed by the presentation of the IDB on “IDB-STATCAP and Challenges So Far”. After these presentations, delegates exchanged their views on shaping effective mechanisms of cooperation and collaboration among the member countries, and between the member countries and international organisations.

On 12 April 2011, the second day of the Commission, a break-out session with the theme “Enhancing Statistical Awareness and Outreach” took place. The delegates of the NSOs of the OIC Member Countries and representatives of international and supranational organisations were gathered into four separate groups to discuss ways and means to enhance the visibilities

and outreach of NSOs in disseminating quality assured statistics. During the first part of the break-out session, the discussions proceeded within the groups and during the second part; the reporters of each group shared their conclusions reached within their groups with all of the delegates.

Following the Break-out Session, the session with the theme “Concerted Efforts, New Prospects and Future Challenges in Statistics” took place. The delegates of the OIC-StatCom were briefed by Department of Statistics of Jordan about the outcome of the Expert Groups Meeting on “Islamic Statistics: Towards the Future”. Afterwards, the activities of OIC Statistical Working Group (OIC-SWG) were presented by the IDB. Finally, Mr. Pieter Everaers of EUROSTAT made a presentation on new prospects and future challenges in the field of statistics.



In the Closing Session, the delegates of the Commission discussed and adopted the draft Final Communiqué and formalised the decisions of the First Session of OIC-StatCom.

For more information and documentation access, please visit: <http://goo.gl/nSUko>



The participants discussed on "Enhancing Statistical Awareness and Outreach" during the Break-out Session

Training Course on Education and Training Statistics



The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) organised a training Course on “Education and Training Statistics” at the National Statistical Institute (INS) of

Niger from 12 to 15 January 2011. The course was provided by Dr. Bruno Magloire Kamgho Tezanou, an expert from the National Statistical Institute of Cameroon, and was attended by twenty staff members of the INS.

The training course on “Education and Training Statistics” mainly covered the following subjects:

- Measures of Access to the System of Education;
- Measures of Participation in Education;
- Measures of Internal and External Efficiency;
- Educational Costs and Expenses,
- Need for an Information System for Educational Management of (ISEM)

The aim of this training course was to improve the statistical capacity building and performance of the INS in Niger on “Education and Training Statistics”.

Third Meeting with the Delegates from the National Statistical Offices of the OIC Member Countries during the Forty-Second Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission



The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) organised the Third Meeting of the National Statistical Offices (NSO) of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Member Countries on 24 February 2011 as a side event during the Forty-Second Session of the United Nations

Statistical Commission (UNSC) held at the United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York, United States of America. Dr. Savaş Alpay, Director General of SESRIC, and Ms. Münevver Nilgün Egemen, Senior Researcher, represented the Centre thereat. The meeting was attended by the delegates from the NSOs of twenty-five OIC Member Countries together with representatives from the Statistical Office of European Union (EUROSTAT) and the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS). The main aim of this meeting was to present and discuss proposed agenda items for the forthcoming First Session of OIC Statistical Commission to be held in Istanbul, Turkey from 11 to 12 April 2011.



At the beginning of the meeting, Dr. Alpay informed the participants about the importance of the First Session of OIC Statistical Commission. He stressed that this initiative would be an important platform for

enhancing coordination and cooperation among the NSOs of the OIC Member Countries, and thus active participation and valuable contributions by the NSOs would be an integral component of the undertakings and the performance of the Commission. He also mentioned that the Commission is expected to bring a new dynamism to statistical capacity building activities at the OIC level. After the introduction of Dr. Alpay, a short presentation on the potential topics that should be included on the agenda of the First Session of the OIC Statistical Commission was presented by SESRIC. The proposed agenda items included, among others:

1. Expectations from the OIC Statistical Commission: Aims, Functions and Organisational Principles;
2. Awareness Raising for National Statistical Systems;
3. Accreditation of Statistical Professionals to Improve Competency in the OIC Member Countries (Proposed by the Central Informatics Organisation [CIO], Bahrain);
4. Improvement of the Efficiency of Statistical Cooperation Activities among the OIC Member Countries (Proposed by the Turkish Statistical Institute [TurkStat], Turkey);
5. Strengthening Statistical Collaboration among OIC Member Countries and International Organisations;
6. OIC Statistical Working Group (OIC-SWG): Achievements and Prospects;

7. Recent Developments and Future Challenges in Statistics.

All delegations confirmed their commitment for making the OIC Statistical Commission a successful platform for enhancing the National Statistical Systems of the OIC Member Countries as well as their willingness to work together. Majority of the delegates indicated that the OIC Statistical Commission would also serve a very important function by being a platform to develop the methodologies and standards for statistical indicators reflecting the common values of the OIC Member Countries. The delegates finally identified the following items to be included in the agenda of the First Session of the OIC Statistical Commission :

1. OIC Statistical Commission: Expectations, Goals, and Operational Principles
2. Effective Cooperation for Statistical Capacity Building
3. Enhancing Statistical Awareness and Outreach
4. Concerted Efforts, New Prospects and Future Challenges in Statistics

At the end of the meeting Dr. Haidar Fraihat, Director General of the Department of Statistics Jordan, briefed the participants on the outcomes of the First Expert Group Meeting on Islamic Statistics, that was co-organised with SESRIC from 21 to 22 December 2010 in Amman, Jordan.



For the proposed agenda of the OIC Statistical Commission, please visit: <http://goo.gl/8MUI5>

Islamic Development Bank Launches Joint Scholarship Program with University of Oxford

Dr. Ahmed Mohamed Ali, President of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group and Prof. Andrew D. Hamilton, Vice Chancellor of the University of Oxford, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to launch the IDB-University of Oxford Clarendon Scholarships.

The signing of the MOU took place on 11 April 2011 at the Corpus Christi College in presence of senior



officials and dignitaries of the University of Oxford and IDB, together with a number of beneficiaries of IDB scholarships currently studying in universities located in the

United Kingdom.

The joint program is launched within the scope of IDB Merit Scholarship Program for Science and High-Technology and Clarendon Fund of the University of Oxford to place talented and meritorious students from IDB member countries for three-year doctor philosophiae (D.Phil.) study and research programs at the University of Oxford. Through this new partnership, twenty-five new graduate scholarships have been created for students from the member countries of the IDB at the University of Oxford. The IDB-Oxford Clarendon Scholarships will provide full funding for students on D.Phil. courses in the Divisions of Mathematics, Physical and Life Sciences (MPLS); Social Sciences, or Medical Sciences. The cost of the Scholarships will be split between the IDB and the Clarendon Fund, covering University and college fees and providing a generous maintenance grant to each scholar. Five scholarships will be available every year for the next five years.

The IDB has been conducting the Merit Scholarship Program for over seventeen years now with the objective of developing human resources of its member countries in science and high-technology sectors that they are lacking but that are crucial for their sustainable development. This joint program with the University of Oxford, a highly renowned and top-ranked university of the world in research and higher education, would significantly enhance IDB's efforts to contribute to the development of its member countries in need of human resources in advanced science and technology sectors.



In his speech at the ceremony, Dr. Ali thanked the Vice Chancellor and authorities of the University of Oxford for partnering with the IDB and giving a hand to enhance its efforts of developing science-

based human resources in IDB member countries. He stressed that such partnership would help to build future leaders in developing countries to champion development in all sectors.

The Vice Chancellor of the Oxford University termed launching of this joint program as historic and expressed his satisfaction that IDB and Oxford University will jointly sponsor a diverse group of students from IDB member countries.

It is worth mentioning that IDB has launched a similar joint scholarship program with the Cambridge University since April 2009. So far fourteen students from IDB member countries have benefited from different scholarships in science and high-technology in Cambridge University.

Who is Eligible?

Candidates should be applying to start any new full-time graduate course in the MPLS (D.Phil. of Statistics degree is offered under the MPLS Division), Medical Sciences and Social Sciences divisions, with the exception of postgraduate certificate and postgraduate diploma courses.

Candidates should also be from one of the IDB member countries and be nominated by the IDB for the scholarship, having submitted successful applications to the relevant office of the IDB Governor, through their nominating institution.

As the Scholarships are being made in partnership with the Clarendon Fund all candidates must have applied and been selected for a Clarendon Scholarship.

What does the Scholarship Cover?

The combined IDB-Oxford Clarendon Scholarship will cover tuition fees and college fees in full as well as providing a grant for living expenses. Awards are made for the full duration of a student's fee liability for the agreed course. The continuation of your scholarship each year is subject to an annual renewal process based on satisfactory academic progress.

How do the Candidates Apply?

Eligible candidates will be considered automatically by the University, provided that they submit their application for graduate study by the January deadline (6 January 2012 for Medical Sciences and Philosophy; 20 January 2012 for all other subjects). The candidates must have secured a place on their chosen programme of study by the expected final decision date (17 March 2012). Applications with an outstanding admissions

decision after this date, or applications which are re-evaluated against the later March deadline field, are not eligible for scholarship consideration. Candidates must also apply directly to IDB*.

Announcement of Successful Candidates

Candidates must have been nominated by both the IDB and the University, through their parallel selection procedures, in order to receive their scholarship. The webpage accessible at <http://goo.gl/iXr7m> will be updated to show when all decisions have been made. If the candidates have not heard from the University by the time this notice is posted, then their application to this scheme have been unsuccessful. Due to the volume of applications the University receives, they are unable to contact unsuccessful applicants individually or provide feedback on applications.

* For more information about the scholarship application procedures of the IDB, please visit: <http://goo.gl/SoMos>

Annual Meeting of the Directors of the National Statistical Institutes of the Mediterranean European Neighbourhood Policy Countries

The 2011 Joint “Statistical Office of European Union” (EUROSTAT) and “Mediterranean Statistical Cooperation” (MEDSTAT) Meeting of the Directors of the National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) of the Mediterranean “European Neighbourhood Policy” (ENP) Countries was held on 13 April 2011 in Istanbul, Turkey following the First Session of OIC-Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom).

The meeting was organised by EUROSTAT within the MEDSTAT III Programme, a regional statistical cooperation programme of the Mediterranean Countries and the European Union. The Mediterranean partners of the Programme are: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia. All partners of the Programme except Lebanon were present in the Meeting. The European Commission Development and Cooperation Directorate General (EuropeAid), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA), World Bank, Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS) and Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic

Countries (SESRI) also participated in the meeting. Ms. Münevver Nilgün Egemen, Senior Researcher, represented the Centre thereat. The main objectives of the meeting were to discuss the work programme prepared in the last Task Force Meeting and to develop regional strategy for statistical cooperation post-MEDSTAT III.

The meeting started with the welcoming remarks of Mr. Pieter Everaers, Director for External Cooperation, Communication and Key Indicators, EUROSTAT; and Mr. Jesus Lavina, Head of Sector of the Environment, EuropAid.



At the beginning of the meeting, work programmes prepared in the last Task Force Meeting for Medstat III were presented and approved by the participants. Then, the Mediterranean-Household International Migration Survey (MED-HIMS) Project aiming to develop a common migration survey for the partner countries and the list of the harmonised set of social indicators specific to the region were presented. All participants agreed to set up a small Technical Task Force (TTF) to develop the proposed list of the indicators according to the needs of partner countries.

The long-term and sustainable regional strategy prepared by the experts to replace the MEDSTAT Programme was presented. According to the report, potential areas to be handled in the future have been proposed to be as employment, social statistics, implementation of the System of National Accounts (SNA) 2008, agriculture, business and short-term statistics and measuring progress of well-being. Following the MEDSTAT III Programme, Mediterranean partner countries expressed their strong desire to extend the EU-Mediterranean cooperation. After the discussions, it was decided to involve also other international organisations active in the region as well as take in to consideration key areas addressed by the ENP such as trade, environment, labour and migration in developing the regional strategy. At the end of the Meeting, the date of the next Directors of the NSIs of the Mediterranean ENP Countries Meeting has been decided as 16-17 November 2011.

For the presentations of the meeting, please visit: <http://goo.gl/y0SKU>

Training Course on Geographic Information Systems



The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), organised a training on “Geographic Information Systems” (GIS) at the Central Statistical Office (CSO) of the State of Kuwait, from 5 to 7 June 2011. The course was provided by Mr. Mohamed Montaser Mohsen Hussin Mohamed, an expert from the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) of Egypt, and was attended by five staff members of the CSO.

The GIS training course mainly covered the following subjects:

- Introduction about GIS
- Role of GIS in implementation of census work
- Completing the environmental infrastructure to participate in the implementation of the census
- Building geographic databases for digital maps for administrative boundaries
- Production and update of detailed maps and building geographic databases
- Production of survey maps and numbering roads and maps signing census figures
- Entering number census of building
- Linking census data to digital maps at various administrative levels
- View of Imbebo's experience and some application of census results
- Review of Projects implanted by administration with GIS system for various regions of state's favour (project of Healthy Egypt's Map- Egyptian Education Initiative- development of unsafe areas)

Training Course on National Accounts: Supply and Use Tables



The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) organised a training on “National Accounts:

Supply and Use Tables” at the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) of the Arab Republic of Egypt from 6 to 8 June 2011. The course was provided by Mr. Mehmet Kula, an expert from the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) and was attended by twenty-two staff members of the CAPMAS.

The training course on “National Accounts: Supply and Use Tables” mainly covered the following subjects:

- Supply/Use and Input/Output Tables
 - Compilation of the supply and use tables (SUTs)
 - Valuation matrices
 - Data sources
- Classifications used by industry and by products:
 - International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC)
 - Central Product Classification (CPC)
 - Classification of Individual Consumption according to Purpose (COICOP)
 - Classification of the Functions of Government (COFOG)
 - Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS)
 - Balance of payments (BOP)
- Non-observed economy
- Questionnaires used in annual accounts by sectors
- Discussions on questionnaires by industries which will be used for the compilation of SUTs
- Assessment of current situation on the compilation of SUTs
 - Information on Egyptian National Accounts and SUTs by CAPMAS Calculation methods by sectors
 - Calculation methods by sectors
 - Agriculture, animal husbandry, forestry and fishery
 - Mining and quarrying, manufacturing industry and energy
 - Construction, trade and hotels and restaurants
 - Transportation and communication, other business and personnel services
 - Public administration, defence and compulsory social security
 - Taxes and subsidies on products and production
 - Foreign trade statistics
 - Balance of payment statistics for services imports and exports
 - Household budget and labour force surveys
 - Price indices
 - Consumer Price Index (CPI)

- Producer Price Index (PPI)
- Industrial Production Index (IPI)
- Export and Import Prices Indices
- Analysis of available data by industries and by products
 - Price analysis for margins by products
 - Calculation of non-observed economy by industries
 - Calculation of incomes for trade and transportation sectors
 - Evaluation of mission and discuss to-do list for SUTs
- Discuss and plan together with CAPMAS future activities and missions concerning this issue, if they need technical assistance.

Dr. Savas Alpay Visited the High Planning Commission and National Statistics Office of Morocco



Dr. Savaş Alpay, Director General of the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), and Mr. Hüseyin Hakan Eryetli, Director of Information Technology and Publications Department, visited Dr. Jamal Bouchachen, Secretary General of the High Planning Commission (HPC), and Dr. Mohamed Taamouti, Director General of Statistics, of the Kingdom of Morocco on 14 June 2011, at the HPC headquarters in Rabat, Morocco.

Dr. Bouchachen expressed his gratitude for the visit and briefed the SESRIC delegation on general activities of the HPC. Dr. Taamouti, highlighted the expertise they accumulated over the years in statistics especially in the fields of national accounts, service sector statistics, transport and communication statistics. Dr. Taamouti also mentioned their need of capacity building especially in the field of environmental statistics.

On his part, Dr. Alpay expressed his thanks to Dr. Bouchachen and Dr. Taamouti for their warm

hospitality, and briefed them on SESRIC's Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme activities conducted since 2007. Dr. Alpay mentioned that the Programme has so far recorded significant impact and progress and received positive response from many Member Countries of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC). Dr. Alpay also emphasized the importance of human resources development and human resources quality achieved through the StatCaB Programme.

Dr. Savaş Alpay also gave information on the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom) and the future plans of SESRIC as the Secretariat of the OIC-StatCom. In this regard, he thanked Dr. Mohamed Taamouti for their support in the First Session of OIC-StatCom held in April 2011 and their interest in participating in the Working Group for the Development of a Strategic Vision of the OIC-StatCom.

Expert Group Meeting on Opportunities and Advantages of Enhanced Collaboration on Statistical Information Management in Asia and the Pacific

The Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on “Opportunities and Advantages of Enhanced Collaboration on Statistical Information Management” organised by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (UNESCAP) Secretariat was held from 20 to 22 June 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Delegates of the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) from eleven UNESCAP Member Countries including Malaysia and Kazakhstan participated in the EGM. Additionally, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), International Labour Organisation (ILO) Regional Office for Asia and Pacific; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Organisation for Economic Cooperation and



Development (OECD), Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21), Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and DevInfo Group attended the Meeting. Ms. Zehra Zümürüt Selçuk, Researcher at the Statistics and Information Department, represented the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESERIC) thereat.

As the information environment is changing rapidly in the global world due to the technological improvements, the future role of official statistics needs to be transformed. In this regard, the NSOs, being the primary intermediaries of official statistics, face significant challenges and opportunities in terms of statistical information management. Recognizing the quality and cost-effectiveness of collaborative work, this EGM was established to act as a regional platform to define the agenda of regional cooperation on statistical information management, to develop related concepts, standards, tools and capacity development programmes for respective transformation processes within national statistical systems.

In this context, the participants shared country experiences and perspectives, reviewed relevant regional and international initiatives (Task Force on Metadata Framework for NSOs [METIS], Management of Statistical Information Systems [MSIS], High-Level Group for Strategic Directions in Business Architecture in Statistics [HLG-BAS]) and discussed the potential of emerging statistical business process models, including common metadata frameworks and standards (Data Documentation Initiative [DDI] and Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange [SDMX]), for improving data quality, production efficiency and information technology systems.

The delegates underlined the need for continuation of efforts to promote the modernizations of statistical information systems in the world and particularly in the Asia-Pacific region. In support of this, and to advocate and raise awareness of the need for leaders and development partners to engage in the

modernization of statistical information systems, participants agreed to bring the outcomes of the EGM to the attention of heads of national statistical systems and the global statistical community.

For documentation access, please visit: <http://goo.gl/2K0dP>

Organisation of the Islamic Conference Changes Its Name to Organisation of Islamic Cooperation

As of 28 June 2011, the OIC stands for “Organisation of Islamic Cooperation” instead of the name given to the Organisation when it was established over 40 years ago. This is a milestone in the history of the OIC and it is meant to reflect the reforms and developments it has achieved since its early days.

In 1969 Muslim leaders met in a historic Islamic Summit Conference and decided to establish an organisation that unified their efforts towards common objectives. Consequently, in 1970 the foreign ministers met and established a General Secretariat for the Organisation of the Islamic Conference as the collective voice of the Muslim world that represents its interests and defends its causes. The name chosen for the Organisation reflected the occasion for its establishment.

While Al-Aqsa Mosque and Palestine remain the central issues for the Organisation, its activities and role have expanded in the past forty years to meet the demands and expectations of the Muslim world. Since 1969, the number of Member States has increased, Observer states have been accepted, and various Subsidiary, Specialized and Affiliated institutions have been created to serve the Muslim world. Furthermore, the role of the Organisation itself in the international arena has become more prominent and active.

The Thirty-Eighth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) made the decision based on article eleven of the Ten-Year Program of Action (TYPOA) adopted by the Third Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah Al Mukarramah from 7 to 8 December 2005 on:

“Reform the OIC through restructuring and consider changing its name, review its Charter and activities...”



Being aware of the importance of changing the name of the Organisation and choosing a new name that better reflects the functions and objectives of the Organisation, and recognizing the importance of preserving the acronym by which the Organisation has been known throughout its long history (OIC), the CFM made this historic decision to change the name to Organisation of Islamic Cooperation.

New Emblem of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation

In line with changing the name, it was also decided to change the emblem of the OIC to further reflect the new phase in the history of the OIC.

The decision to change the emblem was made by the Thirty-Sixth CFM in 2009 as part of the OIC's Fortieth Anniversary celebrations. Hence, an international design competition was conducted on the occasion of

the Fortieth Anniversary for selecting a new emblem for the Organisation.

The new emblem of the OIC, designed by Ms. Raciha İpek Öke from Turkey, contains three main elements that reflect its vision and mission as incorporated in its new Charter. These elements are: the Holy Ka'bah, the Globe, and the Crescent.

At the center of the design is the Holy Ka'bah, the focal point of the Islamic world, symbolizing its unity.

Surrounding the Holy Ka'bah is the Globe with the meridian lines drawn to represent the diversity of humanity in its many nations and tribes within the universal context represented by the emblem.

And the Crescent, symbolizing Islam, embraces the Muslim world, indicating that Islam is the guiding motive, protective and unifying force of the OIC.



The new logo of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation was announced on 28 June 2011 in Astana, Kazakhstan

Member National Statistical Offices in East Asia and the Pacific

Brunei

Population and Housing Census 2011 in Brunei

The Department of Economic Planning and Development (JPKE) has started conducting the Population and Housing Census (BPP) for year 2011 in Brunei which is the fifth such census conducted in Brunei. The earlier censuses were conducted in 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2001.

The main objectives of BPP 2011 are:

1. To collect comprehensive and latest information on the total count as well as demographic, social and economic characteristics of the population; and
2. To collect comprehensive and latest information on the total number of living quarters with housing characteristics and the availability of household amenities.

BPP 2011 is conducted in two stages. The first stage is the house-numbering stage by kampung/area in each district throughout the country. The house-numbering stage has been carried out from 1 to 30 April 2011. Along with the house-numbering during the first stage of BPP 2011, a listing of business establishments has also been carried out in each kampung/area. Meanwhile, the second stage for interviewing every person has started on 20 June 2011 and will be finalised on 3 July 2011.



Acting Director of Statistics for JPKE Hjh Mariah Hj Yahya stated that the questionnaire was designed with input from all ministries and government agencies to see what data they needed in formulating policies. She also added that the JPKE implements

register-based data-compilation approach to assist in cross-checking the census with relevant agencies such as the Immigration Department, Employees' Trust Fund (TAP), and the Civil Service Department.

The BPP 2011 includes new questions on home ownership and an individual's plans to obtain a house, if they do not own one already, whether it is applying for subsidised government housing, buying a house on

the market, or buying land and constructing their own house. The questionnaire also asks respondents on their preferred mode of home financing and the availability of household amenities. In terms of education data, more questions on education attainment were also included to have better knowledge of the level of education among the populace.

For the BPP 2011, the JPKE held a three-day briefing for some 2000 census officers at the beginning of June 2011 to inform the officers the necessary information that needs to be collected from the houses visited. The officers would visit the houses for two weeks where they will collect the census forms that had been distributed to the houses earlier on. Upon collection of the census forms, officers would also conduct interviews with residents of the houses to confirm the information given in the forms. Each of the elected officer is given the responsibility to collect data from forty to fifty houses.

For more information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/72VQk> and <http://goo.gl/Y0My9>

Indonesia

New Admissions for Institute of Statistics

The Institute of Statistics (STIS), a four-year higher education institution under the administration of Statistics Indonesia (BPS), has announced the requirements and schedule for Admissions in the 2011/2012 Academic Year. The STIS has two undergraduate departments; namely Department of Statistics and Department of Computational Statistics. The Department of Statistics also offer two areas of specialisation; Economic Statistics and Population/Social Statistics. During the study period, all students receive a scholarship. The graduates are awarded the Bachelor of Applied Sciences degree upon successful completion of their studies and appointed as civil servants under the BPS.

For more information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/e5JYE>



BPS-Statistics Indonesia Attended the International Comparison Program Experts' Round Table Discussion



Dr. Rusman Heriawan, Chief Statistician of BPS-Statistics Indonesia, and Dr. Sasmito Hadi Wibowo, Director of Price Statistics Department at BPS-Statistics Indonesia attended the International Comparison Program (ICP) Experts' Round Table Discussion from 8 to 10 June 2011 in Kathmandu, Nepal which was organised by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and attended by sixteen ICP experts and heads of National Implementing Agencies.

The discussions focused on methodological and technical issues in the computation of the 2009 purchasing power parities (PPP); interpreting and linking the 2005 and 2009 PPPs; pricing the construction output for the 2011 ICP; and finalizing the content of the 2009 PPP Updates publication.

For more information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/aDZJh>

Malaysia

Malaysian Institute of Microelectronic Systems Joined the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative

On 1 January 2011, Malaysian Institute of Microelectronic Systems of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia joined the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative (DCMI) Membership Program. MIMOS Berhad is a strategic agency under purview of the Malaysian Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI). The DCMI provides core metadata vocabularies in support of interoperable solutions for discovering and managing resources.



The DCMI Members provide an important link between the DCMI as a worldwide activity and the local and regional activities of practitioners. They promote the adoption of Dublin Core specifications, thereby increasing the global network value for all. They help assure the availability of authoritative

documentation and maintain translations of base DCMI standards and documentation as appropriate for the locale. Members can help focus a local concentration of expertise to promote deployment and development of DCMI metadata and architectures within the context of a given locale and language environment. Members are a critical link in promoting DCMI standards through educational and training offerings, as well as bringing local concerns to the attention of the larger metadata community, thereby improving the international coherence of the overall architecture and semantic content of metadata. A DCMI Member has a designated geographic region, typically a country, although Members may represent more than one country when the natural interests of a region so dictate.

For more information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/v9vr0>

Member National Statistical Offices in Europe and Central Asia

Albania

Census in Albania Postponed to October 2011



In its routine meeting on 4 January 2011, the Central Census Commission decided on postponing the Census date for Albania. According to its Chairman, Mr. Genc Pollo, Minister for Innovation, Information Technology and Communications, the change in the date was necessary in order for it not to coincide with another important process such as that of the Local Elections. The census shall take place in October 2011 because the Local Commissions are focused on the local elections, and one needs to take this fact into account given the weight of these commissions in the Census process. This postponement in the date has been discussed with, and consequently agreed with senior officials of the Statistical Office of the European Union (EUROSTAT) and international/foreign expertise.

Another issue that was discussed in this meeting was regarding reporting of some sectors in the Albanian Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) to the Central Census Commission on the work done so far. The Mapping



Sector identified the work done so far, about the division of the country into Enumeration Areas (EAs) for statistical purposes. There are a total of eleven-thousand-nine-hundred-forty EAs and one-million-two-hundred-thousand household units, and at this stage it is necessary to conduct the quality control and the printing of the maps. Also, a suggestion was made to make a comparison with the Census of 2001.

The logistics unit decided on the number of staff that will be hired for the process of Census of 2011, including approximately: twelve-thousand enumerators, two-thousand-four-hundred controllers and two-hundred supervisors. The recruitment terms for each category are as follows:

- one and a half month for the enumerators;
- three months for the controllers, and
- five months for the supervisors.

The Information Technology Sector mentioned the introduction of a system for monitoring the work. This system will be built to manage the work that will take place in the field. In 2010, a testing of the scanners was made possible through assistance of Swedish experts, and this process is being fine-tuned. INSTAT is in the process of improving the questionnaires and to this end it will organize workshops with international experts.

In the meeting it was also requested to have technical specifications in place regarding the security/safety elements of the rooms/halls that will be rented.

One suggestion was made to involve students in the process because of their young age and enthusiasm. It will be preferable for the enumerators to come from the areas where the enumeration will take place.

Mr. Genc Pollo recommended the launching of a public awareness raising campaign, which needs to start in June 2011, after the elections process is over, so that the public will not confuse these two processes.

Albanian Institute of Statistics Participated in the Fourth Meeting of the Technical Coordination Group for South East Europe



The Albanian Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) participated in the Fourth Meeting of the Technical Coordination Group for South East Europe (TCG) held on 28 January 2011 in

Ljubljana, Slovenia. The other participating countries included Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia, and Turkey. The Ljubljana Meeting was about the current situation and the steps to be taken for the Census process. The topics discussed in this meeting were focused on expenditure, communication process, compression of data, and questions on religion and ethnicity.

For the Census of 2011, expenses shall be mainly covered by the international donors. Regarding communication with the public, Albania has already a specifically tailored webpage for the Census. INSTAT is planning a special campaign tailored for the Roma population, with the view to increase their participation in the process, and has prepared a detailed plan of activities to raise public awareness about the importance of participation in this process.

In Albania, like the rest of the above mentioned Balkan countries (with the exception of Turkey), the questionnaire will include questions about religious belief and ethnicity. These questions, according to the rights of the individual and in line with the purpose for which they are collected shall be based on the principle of self-declaration. This means that each individual shall be free to express himself/herself about religion or ethnicity through self-declaration (with no documentation).

During the closure of this section, it was decided for the next meeting of the TCG to take place in the beginning or by the end of June 2011. INSTAT will be hosting the next meeting in Tirana.

Albanian Digital Geographical Database has been Completed

The Mapping Sector in the Albanian Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) has continued without interruption on the work it started since 2009 for the preparation of the maps for the Census of 2011.

As of 7 February 2011, the work has been in its final phase for the establishment and preparation of the necessary geographical information system (maps) to ensure a successful Census. The process for the establishment of the digital geographical database was completed, alongside with the division of the territory into small statistical areas (EA). The final control and verification process also took place in order to avoid any potential problem. Upon completion/entry of the entire information on the geographical database, and upon determination of the format for the enumeration maps, work will follow for their printing.

The main activities carried out by the Mapping Sector included work in the field for updating the maps, and collection of information, preparation and printing of maps and forms for the activities in the field. Updating of the maps for the identification of household units and the lists, collection and control of materials, and the maps and forms for the buildings. Another very important process for the mapping sector is that of digitization and codification of information.

The objectives of the enumeration geography included:

- To support the process of planning of enumeration during the phase prior to the enumeration; to support operations and activities in the field during the enumeration phase;
- To contribute in the statistical analyses and the publication of the census data during the phase after the enumeration; and
- To support the establishment of a Spatial Data Infrastructure for statistical purposes.

The activities that will be carried out by this sector in the future include:

- Preparation and printing of maps at the commune and municipality levels;
- Preparation and printing of maps at the EA level (two copies);
- Preparation and printing of maps at the supervisor and controller level;
- Review and final draft of the operational manual for the maps;



- Preparation and printing of the maps for the post enumeration survey;
- Updating of the geographical database with the information and changes collected after the enumeration in the field;
- Testing of the digital conversion of the EAs with those of 2001 census;
- Determination of the strategy for the publication of the census data according to the geographical division;
- Preparation and publication of the Population Atlas with the census data; and
- Introduction and implementation of web-GIS for the publication of the data.

Meeting with the European Union Experts on Census Questionnaire Improvement



In line with the calendar of activities for the Census 2011, the Albanian Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) organized a series of meetings, and convened working groups with local and international experts. The purpose of the meeting series was to review the enumeration material, mainly the review of the questionnaires. During the period of January-February 2011, two working groups came together for 3 days at the premises of INSTAT for the discussions of the questionnaires and the enumerators manual.

The first purpose of these working groups was the review of the questionnaires, i.e. reformulation of certain questions in order for them to be as clear and as comprehensible as possible, both for the enumerator that will be asking the questions, but also for the respondent that will be answering them. In the reformulation of the questions, everything was based on the experience of the pilot enumeration which took place by the end of April 2010, as well as on the experience of other countries presented by their representatives participating the events. The recommendations of the United Nations and the Statistical Office of the European Union (EUROSTAT) were paid special attention.

The second purpose was the elimination of some questions from the questionnaire. Some questions which were deemed to be problematic and were found as such during the pilot enumeration were left out of the questionnaire. This decision was taken not only in light of the length of household interviews, but also because

some of these questions were open ended questions or the answers to them led to confusion.

The revised version of the questionnaire was planned to be tested in order to look again at the problems that may be encountered with the questions.

First Meeting of the Steering Committee for the European Union Grant

The First Meeting of the Steering Committee on the Grant Agreement and on the Population and Housing Census 2011 was organised on 17 March 2011 at the premises of the Albanian Institute of Statistics (INSTAT). The purpose of the meeting was the presentation of the Initial Phase Report, actual situation analysis, presentation of the action plan, and taking decisions for the organization of Census in line with the European standards and international recommendations.

Ms. Ines Nurja, General Director of INSTAT, thanked the representatives of European Union (EU) Delegation in Tirana, the Albanian Government and all the donors for their financial contribution and technical assistance provided for having a successful General Census of the Population and Housing 2011 in Albania.



Mr. François Bégeot, Head of Administration of the Delegation of the European Union to Albania reminded the requirements of EU for the implementation of the activities under the Grant, such as full transparency in the management and allocation of EU funds.

Ms. Elda Kapllani, Manager of the Census Unit, presented all the work conducted by INSTAT in relation to the Grant, starting from preparation of fish-project and the application for financial support by the Council of Europe delegation under the framework of Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance 2009. She thanked the representatives of EU Delegation for the full support provided to INSTAT during this process as it was the first experience with the EU Grants for INSTAT.

The conducted activities during the initial stage of the Population and Housing Census; such as, the approval from the Census Steering Committee for postponing the Census date to 1 October 2011; review of the legal framework for the Census, undertaken processes on the Census logistics etc.; were implemented by the INSTAT experts.

The Grant was provided to support INSTAT for the implementation of operational activities on the General Population and Housing Census 2011 in Albania including the tasks conducted by the Geographic Information Systems and Cartography Sector, and Census Logistics Sector; such as, the preparation of the recruitment plan for the census staff, scheme of training for the staff on site especially the enumerators, establishment of the Census regional offices, questionnaire scanning, completion of the tender procedures on the questionnaires and other materials for the Census, preparation of the final version of the questionnaire and its approval by the Central Election Commission (KQC) on the printing process. An important activity supported by the Technical Assistance of EU on the Population and Housing Census was the preparation of the final version of the questionnaire and of the registration forms.

Mr. Roberto Bianchini, Director of the Technical Assistant Project, underlined, among other things, the main findings during the initial phase of the project needed to conduct the general enumeration of the population and dwellings as well as the increase of capacities on the processing, analyzing and publishing of the census data.

International Experts Discussed Census 2011 Questionnaire



A meeting was organised by the Working Group supported by the European Union (EU) project finance on the “Population and Housing Census 2011” from 22 to 23 March 2011 in Tirana, Albania. The Meeting aimed at discussions on the preparation of the final version of the questionnaire and other Census forms. The Meeting was attended by the Albanian

Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) demographers and sector specialists, and six other experts from the University of Tirana, New York University, Office for National Statistics of the United Kingdom (ONS-UK), National Institute of Economic Development of France (INDE France), University of Thessaloniki, and Institute of Statistics of Hungary.

The meeting was moderated by Mr. Bart de Bruijn, main expert of the project in the field of methodology and on-site operations. He stated that there was a need for a review on the draft of the questionnaire for simplification.

Mr. François Bégeot also underlined the need for having the Law on Census as soon as possible and testing the improved questionnaire on-site.

Ms. Elda Kapllani, Manager of the Census Unit, expressed her thanks for the contribution provided for the improved questionnaire and enumerators' manual. As to the issue of replacing the term “Registration” with “Enumeration”, Ms. Kapllani declared that this should be consulted with experts of linguistics. She underlined as well that the term “Registration” has been used since 1923.

Mr. Roberto Bianchini, team leader of the Census Technical Assistance Project, supported the idea of a New Census Pilot Project. During this phase, different tests have been planned to be conducted by comparing the reviewed questionnaire with the previous Pilot Census of April 2010.

Among other items, the discussions focused on the review of the enumerators' manual, the identification of the potential difficult situations for the enumerators and the sharing of respective instructions for solving them.

During the discussions of the experts on the questionnaire, the lessons learnt from the experience of the previous Census of 2001 as well as the needs for deriving information from Census 2011 were also laid on the table.

The participants proposed that the first page of the questionnaire to include a part of the Census Law which obliges individuals to respond. The Working Group also prepared the final version of the Census questionnaire which will be sent later for approval to the Central Census Commission.

Census Staff Visited Statistical Office of Kosovo

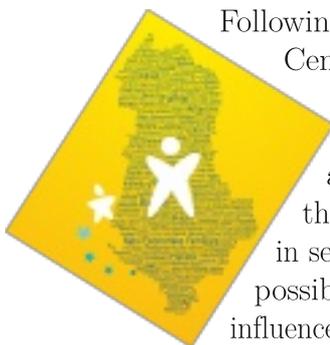


The Population and Housing Census Unit of the Albanian Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) paid a study visit to the Statistical Office of Kosovo (SOK) in Pristina, Kosovo from 10 to 12 April 2011. The purpose of the study visit was to gain experience in managing on-site operations during the Kosovar Census from 1 to 15 April 2011, staff recruitment for enumeration, establishment and functions of the Census regional offices as well as the exchange of experiences between two institutions on the Population and Housing Census.

The INSTAT delegation had working meetings with Mr. Ibrahim Shabani, Acting Chief Executive Officer of SOK, as well as with other staff to discuss issues regarding the logistics management of the Census. The INSTAT delegation visited the Gjilan Commune to observe the Kosovar Census 2011 closer and exchange views regarding on-site process organisation. The INSTAT delegation also received information on the composition, tasks and functions of the Census Commission of Gjilan Commune which was established in February 2011 with nine members.

For more information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/gPJwq>

Census Questionnaire Tested in Several Districts



Following the final review of the Census questionnaire, the Albanian Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) announced on 21 April 2011 that it conducted on-site tests in several districts to identify the possible problems that would influence the Census outcome. Before the testing phase started, the directors of INSTAT regional offices had been trained for how to fill in the Census questionnaire at the premises of INSTAT. In accordance with the decision of INSTAT, the test phase with a quota of five questionnaires for each district was performed by the staff of regional offices.

The testing phase was followed by the submission of the filled-in questionnaires together with an

“Assessment Report” to the INSTAT. The “Assessment Report” served to reflect the problems encountered in the field of the methodology used and logistics during the testing phase.

The questionnaires and “Assessment Reports” were checked by the Methodology Unit of INSTAT for identifying all problems regarding filling-in the questionnaires. A summary report including problems encountered in each district prepared by the Methodology Unit was discussed with the whole Census group which took decisions on making final changes. These changes were mainly on formulating better questions to eliminate the previously presented problems.

Azerbaijan

Fourth Steering Committee of the European Union Twinning Project

The Fourth Steering Committee of the European Union Twinning Project took place in the premises of the State Statistical Committee (SSC) of Azerbaijan on 13 January 2011.



Mr. Leonhard Fix, Project Manager, presented the activities from the fourth quarter outlining project progress since the start. Six activities were undertaken, three of them being study visits. Nevertheless, Component 2 (Non-Observed Economy) activities have already been almost completed; some positive changes in the missions' plan were emphasized including newly planned additional mission (workshop on Business Statistics) in January 2011 as an output of efficient cooperation during the last study visit to Bulgaria. At the end of this period, the achievement of the first benchmarks for all the Components had to be checked. All the activities within the following Component 4 (Producer Price Index) were fixed as well including study visit to the Czech Republic in the following quarter.

Mr. Nuru Suleymanov, Leader of Component 1 (National Accounts) and 2, stressed that in spite the fact that the project does not go in strict parallel with their Annual Plan, it helps bringing practical solutions and that way coincides with their tasks and



answers the division's demands. After the completion of any project activity, the management is briefed on the progress of the project. Results and outcomes of the study visit to Lithuania were widely discussed in the Colloquium. Decisions were approved aiming at the improvement of Non-Observed Economy estimations and National Accounts. The division expects to get feedback from the tax inspectors with support of the Ministry of Taxes by May 2011 for improving the additional calculations to evaluate the data distortion in the reports presented to the statistical bodies by statistical units.

- In order to apply survey results in balancing National Accounts, the production and expenditure indicators per person by separate groups by enterprises' size at level of three-digit codes by economic activities, to be assessed and to be applied to the calculation of National Accounts indicators for 2010.
- A method for holding gain and losses evaluation was elaborated and the scheme has already been applied to the SSC of Azerbaijan accounts.
- Methodology for evaluation of the illegal activities was developed.
- A working group for estimation of natural resources was established.
- An agreement on more close collaboration with the Central Bank of Azerbaijan on data exchange was achieved.



Mr. Yusifov, Leader of Component 3.2 and 3.3, underlined that the study visit to Bulgaria had been very well organized. He assumes that the following activities could be realized as a result from the study:

- Elaboration of an Information Handbook on Structural Business Statistics (SBS);
- Elaboration of a concept on statistical management;
- Introduction of a unified Questionnaire form on SBS;
- Implementation of DEMETRA software.

Mr. Elchin Haji noted that unfortunately there was no activity in the Business Register sub-component but work on data collection had been done. The sub-component leader continued that despite the lack of activities stemming out from the previous



activities, data usage of administrative sources has been extended. The negotiations were under way with four state bodies as the Central Bank, the Social Fund, the Tax Office, Insurance. The agreement with the Tax Office has been expected to be implemented soon.

For Component 4 (Price Statistics), Ms. Natella Guliyeva stressed that there were some changes regarding the activities as the component is sharing work with National Accounts. National Accounts and Price Statistics have linked their work. Besides implemented missions, two surveys were carried out. System of National Accounts and Price Statistics Departments have elaborated joint tables. The tables were expected to be discussed after the study visit to the Czech Statistical Office to take place in February 2011. She expressed her belief that there would be much more to comment following the study visit.



Training on Geographic Information Systems



The State Statistical Committee (SSC) of Azerbaijan received from 24 to 28 January 2011 a training on "Geographic Information Systems (GIS)" delivered by Mr. Alexander Kotsev, Assistant Professor at Sofia University, Bulgaria within the framework of the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX) Program of the European Commission.

This training consisted of three stages:

- Introduction to GIS;
- Training experts of the Information Technology Department on the GIS software;
- Map generation and ceremony for presenting the outcomes of the training to the SSC of Azerbaijan staff and users.

After the introduction of GIS notion and GIS software training, the SSC of Azerbaijan experts prepared several thematic maps on population, education, science, culture, environment, health, crime and

transportation for selected regions of Azerbaijan under the guidance of Mr. Kotsev. In the last day of the training, the participants exhibited their maps to the SSC of Azerbaijan staff.

In the future, the SSC of Azerbaijan plans to display digital maps on its website which will enable users get statistics on all regions of Azerbaijan.

Workshop on Development of the Statistical Metadata System



The State Statistical Committee (SSC) of Azerbaijan held a workshop on the Development of the Statistical Metadata System from 2 to 3 February 2011 in Baku, Azerbaijan. The Workshop was organised within the framework of the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX) Program of the European Commission and with the cooperation of the National Statistical Institute (NSI) of Bulgaria. Twenty-two participants from the several departments of the SSC of Azerbaijan attended the Workshop. Ms. Gaul Stateva, Chief Expert on statistical metadata, classifications and standards; Ms. Emilia Quelentzova, Chief Expert on statistical metadata, classifications and standards; and Ms. Svaetlana Qaneva, Expert, from the NSI of Bulgaria were invited for the Workshop.

The invited experts of the NSI of Bulgaria shared their experiences regarding the development of the statistical metadata system of the NSI of Bulgaria. They also made presentations on the following topics:

- Metadata found in the Statistical Business Process and in line with the requirements of the European Union;
- Development of the Statistical Metadata System of the NSI of Bulgaria;
- Main types of metadata; their standardisation and compliance with the requirements of the European Union;
- Statistical classifications and usage of classifications found on the website of the NSI of Bulgaria.

A demonstration for the electronic statement collection mechanism of the system of SSC of Azerbaijan was also done during the Workshop. The development of the statistical metadata system of the NSI of Bulgaria started in 2002 and is currently in-progress status.

State Statistical Committee of Azerbaijan Experts Visited Czech Statistical Office



Two experts of the State Statistical Committee (SSC) of Azerbaijan; Ms. Rana Lazimova, Head of the Environment and Health Statistics Unit under the Department of Demographic and Social Statistics, and Mr. Ferhad Aliyev, Senior Consultant at the Department on Coordination of Statistical Works, paid a visit to the Czech Statistical Office (CZSO) from 14 to 18 February 2011. The purpose of the visit was program development for secondary education institutions regarding the importance of statistics as well as exchange of experience on international relations.

During the visit, the following issues were discussed:

- Activities of the CZSO and possible international cooperation fields between two institutions;
- Work organisation and main issues regarding information provision;
- Internet presence of the CZSO;
- Mini-Census 2010 carried out in the Czech schools;
- Support for information services and users;
- Central Statistical Library, publication catalog, bookshop;
- European Statistical System;
- Legal frameworks for statistics in the European Union; and
- Statistical coordination outside of the Council of Europe and regional cooperation.

Ms. Iva Ritschelová, President of the CZSO, received the SSC of Azerbaijan delegation, as well. The SSC of Azerbaijan delegation brief Ms. Ritschelová on the national statistical system of Azerbaijan, its history, technical capabilities of SSC of Azerbaijan, Statistics Council, SSC Board of Azerbaijan, Scientific Methodology Council, legal basis of the statistical system activities, programs conducted for the development of statistics, international cooperation agreements, statistical publications, and classifications, etc.

State Statistical Committee of Azerbaijan Experts Participated in New Techniques and Technologies for Statistics Conference

Mr. Nuru Süleymanov, Head of National Accounts Statistics Department, and Mr. Yusif Yusifov, Head of Industry, Transport and Communication Statistics Department of the State Statistical Committee (SSC) of Azerbaijan participated in the “New Techniques and Technologies for Statistics (NTTS) Conference” organised by the Statistical Office of the European Union (EUROSTAT) from 22 to 24 February 2011 in Brussels, Belgium.

The NTTS is an international scientific conference on the impact of new technologies on statistical collection, production and dissemination systems. The Conference is intended to stimulate and facilitate the preparation of new innovative projects, to encourage co-operation and possible building of consortia by researchers with the aim of enhancing the quality and usefulness of official statistics and to prepare activities for the next Framework Programme for Research and Development in Statistics.

NTTS conferences have been organised in 1992, 1995, 1998 and 2001. The last one has been organised jointly with the Exchange of Technology and Know-How (ETK) seminar in 2009 in Brussels. The Conference topics included research and development aspects related to innovative methods and techniques for official statistics with particular accent on automatic and information and communications technology-based methods and on collecting data; producing data; distributing, presenting and accessing data and microdata; analysing data; and use and influence of indicators for policy making.

For more information, please visit the Conference website at <http://goo.gl/PGs7m>.



Fifth Steering Committee of the European Union Twinning Project

The Fifth Steering Committee of the European Union Twinning Project took place on 5 April 2011 in the premises of the State Statistical Committee (SSC) of Azerbaijan.



Mr. Raupach, European Union Member State Project Leader, reported that twenty-five activities out of thirty-five were already implemented while one study visit out of six has been left. The main target Component for the next quarter will be National Accounts. At the time the Fifth Steering Committee Meeting was convened, all the activities in Component 2 (Non-Observed Economy) were completed.

Ms. Natella Guliyeva, Component 4 (Price Statistics) Leader, stressed that during the study visit to the Czech Statistical Office (CZSO) on 14-17 February in 2011 the participants got detailed knowledge on the practice in the CZSO related to the use of Producer Price Indices for compilation of the National Accounts and double-deflation. The main topics were:



- Compilation of “Supply and Use” tables;
- Balance of commodities and deflation of intermediate consumption using price indices;
- Output and intermediate consumption matrices;
- Final consumption of Gross Domestic Product;
- Compilation of matrices of annual and quarterly System of National Accounts;
- Deflation methods in annual and quarterly accounts.

Experts of the CZSO presented Price Statistics in four subject matter sections, namely in consumer, producer, import-export and services. Ms. Guliyeva underlined that, unlike the practice in Azerbaijan, the Price Statistics Department in the CZSO calculates some additional price indices for services along with indices for services like transport, post, communication and other. These additional indices are calculated for the following sectors:

- Information advertisement
- Communal services
- Book-keeping services

- Financial services
- Information technology services
- Judiciary services

Ms. Guliyeva made a proposal to organize an additional mission apart from the already scheduled two missions to cover calculation price indices for financial service sectors or at least to investigate where this is used in the European Union (EU) Member States.



Mr. Nuru Suleymanov, Component 1 (National Accounts) and Component 2 Leader, stressed that there were neither short-term missions nor study visits in the reporting period but the joint study visit already mentioned by the Component 4 Leader. Notwithstanding unplanned

benchmarks Component 1 continued its work and finalized the improvement of the deflation process on the basis of Supply-and-Use-Tables, namely, the tasks related to the Producer Price Index and deflation. A Pilot Survey on Tax Auditors was also completed and effective data had been obtained for use in Component 2. Mr. Suleymanov supported the proposal to search for an optional additional combined activity on Financial Intermediation Services Indirectly Measured (FISIM) and financial services price indices from a country where this kind of estimations are applied. He stressed that the work in the twinning project is in compliance with the State Statistical Programme and the decisions of the Board of Statistics.

Mr. Yusifov, Component 3.2 and 3.3 Leader, underlined two activities, first of which was a study visit to Federal Statistical Office of Germany (DESTATIS) on assistance for establishing and further development of



Structural Business Statistics (SBS) where the use of SAS software in SBS was demonstrated and beneficiary country participants had a chance to meet DESTATIS experts from almost every sector. A comprehensive presentation was made on the improvement of a unified survey form and data system on Business Statistics. Since metadata and data quality management are priorities in the SSC of Azerbaijan, he proposed a second additional activity to complement the additional Workshop on SBS, emerging from the beneficiary's new initiatives with the participation of Bulgarian and German experts was undertaken. The objective of the Workshop was to give last-minute instructions and

support for the implementation of the data collection approach according to the EU Member State practice and calculation of seasonal adjustments.

Mr. Elchin Haji presented the results from the last mission on Business Register (BR) that was implemented from 21 to 24 February 2011. The SSC of Azerbaijan participants got acquainted with the specifics of the BR in Germany by Mr. Gerhard Stock, German expert, and were impressed about some particular solutions. Although the EU legislation in the field of BR is unified for all the countries from a practical point of view, each country has a different approach to statistical systems at least in BR. He gave arguments for the need for an additional activity - study visit to Germany that will enable SSC of Azerbaijan members to compare the organization, functioning and maintenance of BR.



Workshop on "Inflation in Azerbaijan: What? How? Why?"



The Price Statistics Department of the State Statistical Committee (SSC) of Azerbaijan organized a workshop on "Inflation in Azerbaijan: What? How? Why?" on 22 April 2011. The Workshop was attended by a total of twenty-three participants from the Ministry of Economic Development, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Ministry of Industry and Energy, Central Bank of Azerbaijan, Urban Planning and Architecture Committee, State Committee on Property Issues, Secretariat of the Tariff Council, Azer-Turk Bank, Treasury Offices No. 8 and No. 10 of the State Treasury Agency under the Ministry of Finance Treasury Office, SSC Departments of Agriculture Statistics, and Demographic and Social Statistics.

The Workshop touched on inflation as an economic factor and indicator determining the living standards of the population, as well as the state's economic and

social development. The Workshop provided extensive information regarding the price indices system. The Workshop participants also exchanged views on the indices. The Workshop was finalized with a Question and Answer Session.

Meeting for the Results of Global Assessment of the National System of Official Statistics of the Republic of Azerbaijan

The State Statistical Committee (SSC) of Azerbaijan held a meeting on 26 May 2011 to share the results of the “Global Assessment of the National System of Official Statistics of the Republic of Azerbaijan” carried out in 2010 by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), European Free Trade Association (EFTA), and Statistical Office of the European Union (EUROSTAT). Participants from ministries, committees, universities, institutes, banks, international organisations and media representatives attended the meeting.

In his speech, Mr. Arif Veliyev, Chairman of the SSC of Azerbaijan, provided detailed information on the importance of the Global Assessment regarding the intensification of political and economic relations between Azerbaijan and the European Union and its role in adapting to the European standards.

In the first part of his speech, Mr. Rauf Salimov, Deputy Chairman of the SSC of Azerbaijan, informed the participants about the principles, purpose, scope of the Global Evaluation and its logistics side. Mr. Salimov, then, summarized the results and recommendations of the Global Assessment.

The Meeting ended with a Question and Answer session with Mr. Veliyev.

For the "Adapted Global Assessment of the National Statistical System of Azerbaijan", please visit: <http://goo.gl/WQYRf>



Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan Participated in the Workshop on Improving Science and Technology Indicators in Central Asia



Kazakhstan participated in the Workshop on Improving Science and Technology Indicators in Central Asia which took place in Almaty, Kazakhstan from 6 to 8 April 2011. The workshop brought together fifty-six experts either producers of science, technology and innovation (STI) data or data users from agencies, governmental organisations from the Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA) region. The aim of the workshop was to define possible “pilot activities” that put emphasis on regional networking or contributes to better national STI data production by applying internationally accepted guidelines. Notably, attention was paid to the broad usage of innovation statistics in the European Union member countries.

Six experts provided input during the three days workshop, interactive working sessions aimed at identifying future strands of regional co-operation and for the improvement of the national STI statistics. Focusing on the basic science and technology indicators defined in the Frascati-family manuals and in the more advanced innovation statistics provide a good overview how quality STI statistic data can be produced. The invited co-organiser United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Institute of Statistics demonstrated with an international overview the take over of guidelines for producing reliable STI data and the white spots in some of the concerned countries. For more information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/fH4Hn>

Agency on Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan Launched Information Analytics System "Taldau"

The Agency on Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan launched "Taldau", its information analytics system, in June 2011. The information analytics system "Taldau" is a new approach to presenting statistical information on Kazakhstan, and a main component of the "e-Statistics", an integrated information system of the Agency, which was launched in 2010.

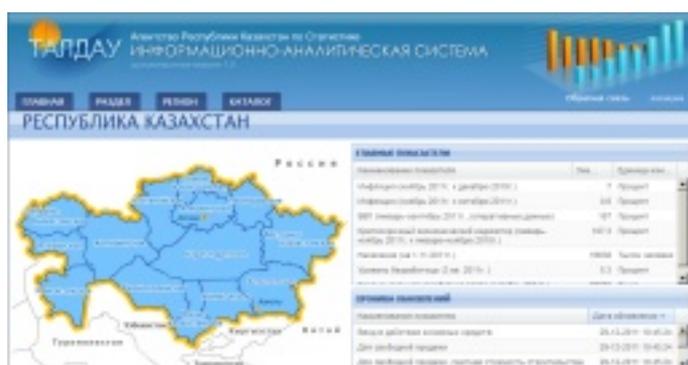
After a test phase for "Taldau", all users have been granted access to the system which hosts 350 statistical indicators in its database. The system is composed of three main modules:

- "Section": A list of statistical indicators for twenty-two categories;
- "Regions": A panel for spatial data for the regions of Kazakhstan; and
- "Directory": A hierarchically classified tree structure for all statistical indicators hosted on the system.

The data found on "Taldau" can be downloaded as Microsoft Excel Spreadsheet (xls) and Portable Document Format (pdf) files. The development of the "Analytics" module as a part of "Taldau" is planned for implementation in 2011. It will contain several analysis models, including correlation analysis; comparisons with international statistical data; construction of forecast data; and cross-analysis.

Another planned module for implementation is "Private Office", a personalised account for users to prepare reports and store them. Before 2011 ends, the Agency plans to upload all statistical indicators to "Taldau", which will provide data access to a wide range of users in a convenient way.

For more information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/dhty0>



Kyrgyz Republic

Technical Cooperation Activities of National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic



During the first half of 2011, the National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic continued to actively cooperate with:

- Statistics Finland in the framework of development project on Finno-Kyrgyz technical cooperation in the area of statistics for 2009-2011.
- Statistics Norway in the framework of statistical technical cooperation between Statistics Norway and the National Statistical Committee in the Kyrgyz Republic financed by the Ministry of Finance of Norway.

Tajikistan

Training on Calculation of Industrial Production Physical Volume Index



The experts of the Agency on Statistics under President of the Republic of Tajikistan (TAJSTAT) received a training on "Calculation of Industrial Production Physical Volume Index" within the framework of "Strengthening the National Statistical System Project of Tajikistan" from 7 to 14 February 2011 in the premises of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic in Bratislava, Slovakia.

As an extension of the training, the TAJSTAT experts visited Banská Bystrica, one of the industrial regions of Bratislava, and observed the activities regarding collection, production and analysis of company reports. The TAJSTAT experts had the chance to see "Slovalco", an aluminium manufacturing company, where they witnessed aluminium production processes. The experts also examined the statistical reports on the activities of the company.

Study Visit on Questionnaire Design



The staff of the Agency on Statistics under President of the Republic of Tajikistan (TAJSTAT) paid a study visit from 15 to 18 March 2011 to the Federal Statistical Office of Germany (DESTATIS) in Wiesbaden, Germany, on design of standard questionnaires.

The main objective of the study visit was to learn the procedures of planning and developing questionnaires in DESTATIS, and also to develop capacity on the rules and procedures regarding the preparation of standard questionnaires for official statistics.

The study visit also included examining the German experience in developing standard questionnaires for statistical surveys and its adaption into the National Statistical System of Tajikistan.

Expert Mission on Development of Quarterly National Accounts

Mr. Andrej Mikus, expert at the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, visited the Agency on Statistics under President of the Republic of Tajikistan (TAJSTAT) regarding the development of quarterly national accounts within the framework of "Strengthening the National Statistical System Project of Tajikistan" from 28 March to 2 April 2011.

The main objective of the expert mission was the pilot calculation of the gross domestic product (GDP) on quarterly basis in Tajikistan.



In his previous mission, Mr. Mikus who has been working on the development of the quarterly national accounts for Tajikistan for the last three years, briefed the TAJSTAT staff members about the international methodology for quarterly calculation of GDP. The TAJSTAT staff members also had the chance to learn the Slovakian and German experience. After approval of the pilot calculations of quarterly GDP, the Agency will adopt the quarterly GDP calculation in 2011.

Consultative Meeting on Multi-year Integrated Statistical Program for 2011-2016



A delegation of the Agency on Statistics under President of the Republic of Tajikistan (TAJSTAT) headed by Ms. Mukhammadieva Bakhtiya Ziyodulloevna, Director of TAJSTAT, visited the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) in Bonn, Germany from 8 to 13 April 2011 within the "Strengthening the National Statistical System of Tajikistan" project.

The purpose of the visit was to conduct consultative meetings for the development of Multi-year Integrated Statistical Program (MISP-2) for 2011-2016. A recently established TAJSTAT Working Group prepared a draft MISP-2 document with the support of experts from the consortium countries including Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Slovakia, and Czech Republic. The draft document will then be submitted to the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, ministries and agencies and international organizations based in Tajikistan.

Consultative Meeting on Agricultural Census

Ms. Mukhammadieva Bakhtiya Ziyodulloevna, Director of the Agency on Statistics under President of the Republic of Tajikistan (TAJSTAT), had a meeting with Mr. Marian Mraz, senior expert at the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), and Mr. Immo Wernicke, expert at the Federal Statistical Office of Germany (DESTATIS) within the framework of the "Strengthening the National Statistical System of Tajikistan".

The main objective of meeting was to exchange views regarding preparations for the Agricultural Census in



Tajikistan. The parties agreed on mutual cooperation to develop materials for the first Agricultural Census in Tajikistan.

The parties came to the conclusion that Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper for 2010-2015 (PRSP), Report on Food Security, Labor Force Survey-2009 and recommendations of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) should be taken into consideration regarding the preparations for the Agricultural Census in Tajikistan.

Mr. Mraz briefed the participants about the GIZ project on “Macroeconomic Policy” and suggested and stated that welcomed the opportunity to cooperate with TAJSTAT for the Agricultural Census.

Mr. Norov Kiyomoddin Davlatboevich, Deputy Director of TAJSTAT, informed the participants about the goals and objectives of the Agricultural Census, and pointed out that TAJSTAT welcomes international expertise in development of a document to be submitted to the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan in July 2011.

Expert Mission on Agriculture Statistics



An expert mission of Statistics Denmark (DST) including Ms. Lene Riberholdt and Mr. Karsten Larsen visited the Statistical Agency under President of Republic of Tajikistan (TAJSTAT) within the framework of the “Strengthening the National Statistical System of Tajikistan” project from 11 to 16 April 2011.

The survey questions regarding the dekhan (private farm) households were the main discussion point during the meeting. The two sides also exchanged views on the sampling technique, household stratification, conduct of the survey, and final results of dekhan household surveys in district, regional and national levels.

The experts also got familiar with rural household survey results conducted in November and December 2010. Final results of the survey were published at the end of June 2011.

Expert Mission on Input-Output Tables

Services	Ele	Pre	Reent	Comm	Manuf	Wgpy	Const	Transp	Trade	Other
Ele	2442	348	1228	10239	4811	2222	2218	7818	9452	20213
Pre	819	11	1244	102859	147	78	81	86	2816	1194
Reent	2095	102	1048	84048	388	2843	218	2213	8301	9181
Comm	3848	2278	28078	224711	2034	23863	792	12303	48912	14857
Manuf	83	73	8424	22848	819	428	24	469	17687	1801
Wgpy	1818	27	2424	1843	107	387	13	183	4388	873
Const	187	82	204	1028	21	18	81	18	401	814
Transp	4245	59	551	8728	893	368	21	468	12116	14846
Trade	2028	103	28034	23821	3821	2023	83	2218	7238	7882
Other	83	83	83	83	7818	83	83	83	14188	14887
Ele	8485	1288	182718	24225	2819	7449	468	785	1212	78819
Pre	2083	1218	18343	8785	4389	23823	1424	8813	7889	4428
Reent	22803	7843	10482	18882	28753	8318	211	12883	28128	18888
Comm	2705	6811	8225	2871	8225	9387	78	3843	7845	819
Manuf	8901	23	83	2881	108	1887	48	148	823	818
Wgpy	14228	818	1888	525	1728	9887	821	4814	18879	88911
Const	18	83	83	73	81	88	83	83	83	21
Transp	1018	53	143	2408	247	277	78	83	1413	807
Trade	1878	88	8844	8888	278	688	43	2813	388	802
Other	18871	2753	48725	1511	2747	2828	281	12886	11786	18886
Ele	5288	82	525	784	818	842	81	788	283	2833
Pre	22858	188	744	2285	2248	1071	822	2215	10282	15886
Reent	1788	187	188	188	188	283	13	827	213	828
Comm	287	87	187	78	52	83	84	18	51	46
Manuf	7878	282	819	283	102	1218	283	807	7118	1874
Wgpy	1474	848	1485	478	2389	2874	752	1027	1412	1138
Const	2215	103	108	83	281	818	17	828	213	718
Transp	8828	2888	88881	88284	18724	23844	882	18278	178118	188881
Trade	8785	282	78888	88278	2483	8888	828	2843	18781	18887
Other	285	88	221	4381	45	17	82	48	118	478
Ele	8878	2882	78778	782882	14828	23887	878	17878	188881	24888

An expert mission on input-output tables from the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic visited the Statistical Agency under President of Republic of Tajikistan (TAJSTAT) within the framework of the “Strengthening the National Statistical System of Tajikistan” project from 18 to 23 April 2011. The expert mission included the preparation of an experimental calculation of the input and output (I/O) table on all components for 2008.

In the first expert mission, Ms. Viera Hajnovicova, expert at the the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, analysed all data sources. Based on these analyses, some components of the I/O table were prepared. The TAJSTAT staff also studied the international methodology for the preparation of the I/O table, and familiarized themselves with the Slovak experience in I/O table preparation. In this second expert mission, Ms. Hajnovicova together with TAJSTAT staff checked up the formulated I/O table including all components.

Workshop on Government Finance Statistics Manual 2001



The Agency on Statistics under President of the Republic of Tajikistan (TAJSTAT) hosted a workshop on International Monetary Fund's Government Finance Statistics Manual 2001 from 26 to 28 April 2011 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The experts of TAJSTAT and

Ministry of Finance participated in the workshop. The workshop was delivered by the experts of Statistics Denmark within the framework of "Strengthening the National Statistical System Project of Tajikistan".

The need for the workshop was a result of a study visit in 2010 which indicated that the classification of the state budget on incomes and expenses of Tajikistan should match with the Government Finance Statistics Manual 2001.

The workshop participants got acquainted with the Government Finance Statistics Manual 2001 and its basic parts. They also had the chance to compare its implementation on Danish government finance registries.

Training Workshop on ADePT Software

The Agency on Statistics under President of the Republic of Tajikistan (TAJSTAT) hosted a training workshop on ADePT software from 3 to 6 May 2011 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The training workshop was funded by the World Bank and the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID). A total of sixteen experts from TAJSTAT, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Investment Committee, Management of the State Property and non-governmental organisations attended the event.

Given by Mr. Michael Lokshin and Mr. Zurab Sajaia, experts at the World Bank, the training workshop included theoretical and practical sessions for the AdePT software, and also dealt with questions regarding analysis of poverty and income inequality, and efficiency of social protection programs.



ADePT is developed in the Poverty and Inequality Group of the Research Department of the World Bank. The name ADePT stands for "Automated Development Economics Poverty Tables".

Project Completion Ceremony for Strengthening the National Statistical System of Tajikistan

The Agency on Statistics under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan (TAJSTAT) held a ceremony in Dushanbe, Tajikistan on 18 May 2011 to present the results of the World Bank project on Strengthening the National Statistical System of Tajikistan. A total of seventy-five participants including the staff of the President's Office, ministries and agencies of the Republic of Tajikistan, World Bank, and twinning partners attended the ceremony.

The Strengthening the National Statistical System of Tajikistan began in July 2006. The project was funded by International Development Association (World Bank), Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) and the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan. Total amount of the project is five million eight hundred fifty thousand United States Dollars. The main objective



of the project was to provide assistance in the modernization and the improvement of the efficiency and effectiveness of the national statistical system in order to provide relevant, timely and reliable data for evidence-based policy making in support of governments poverty reduction strategies and the process of economic development. As of May 2011, the following accomplishments were realised:

- Revision of the Statistics Act,
- Conduct of Business and Population Census in 2010,
- Conduct of surveys in the fields of waste, labour, construction operations, income and living conditions, goods transport, agricultural holdings and households,
- Conduct of user survey to improve user orientatiton,
- Introduction of a new corporate design for publications and revamping of TAJSTAT website,
- Installation of local area network system and wide area network system between the Regional TAJSTAT Offices and Headquarters,
- Acquisition of eighty computers for the Births, Marriages and Deaths Registry Offices under the Ministry of Justice to improve the record registration,
- Acquisition of hundred-thirty-seven computers, printers and RISO printer-duplicators for all TAJSTAT Regional and District offices, and
- Acquisition of thirteen vehicles.

During the project period, more than thirty-three study visits to eight countries including Kazakhstan and Turkey took place for hundred-seven TAJSTAT members. More than hundred-forty consultations and training activities were carried out between 2006 and 2011. On the whole, TAJSTAT was advised and trained by eighty international experts for a period exceeding one-thousand workdays.

Along with the results of the current project, first draft of the Multiyear Integrated Statistical Program for 2011-2016 (MISP-2) was shared with the participants.



The document has been drafted with the recently established TAJSTAT working group and support of the experts from the consortium countries (Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Slovakia and Czech Republic). The main goal of the circulation of the MISP to wider audience was to get feedbacks from local and international stakeholders prior to submission to the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and donor organisations.

Expert Mission for Assessing Non-Observed Economy in Tajikistan



Within the project of "Strengthening the National Statistical System of Tajikistan", an expert mission from the Czech Statistical Office was carried out for the assessment of non-observed economy (NOE) in Tajikistan from 26 May to 1 June 2011 .

The main objective of the expert mission was to estimate NOE in Tajikistan by using the methodology developed during the previous missions, and also records of the settlement data in system of national accounts.

This was the fifth expert mission from the Czech Republic for the NOE assessment in Tajikistan. In previous missions, Mr. Jiri Vopravil, an expert from the Czech Statistical Office, analysed all data sources and prepared some recommendations. The TAJSTAT staff reviewed the international methodology for NOE assessment, and acquainted with the experience of the Czech Republic in this regard.

Mr. Vopravil together with TAJSTAT staff prepared a methodology for NOE assessment and the inclusion of NOE in national accounts as a major component of the work.

At the end of the expert mission, a presentation was delivered to TAJSTAT staff on the implementation of the developed methodology.

Turkey

Technical Cooperation Activities of the Turkish Statistical Institute Financed by the Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency



The following activities, which were financed by the Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA), were realized by the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) in the first half of 2011:

Palestine



In order to solve the problems in accessing reliable data in Palestine, a cooperation protocol was signed between TIKA, TurkStat and Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) in December 2008. The following training programs were organized at TurkStat in the context of the protocol:

- Agricultural Statistics from 15 to 18 February 2011 for two experts from PCBS
- Tourism Statistics from 7 to 9 March 2011 for one expert from PCBS
- Livestock Statistics from 20 to 22 April 2011 for two experts from PCBS

Azerbaijan



It is planned to provide the State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan with technical support on fishery statistics, annual business statistics, survey on time use, labour force statistics, information technologies between 2011-2013. In the first half of 2011, a consultancy service on "Fishery Statistics" was given from 25 to 29 April 2011 in Azerbaijan by two experts of TurkStat.

Moldova



As per the request of Statistical Office of Moldova, an expert from TurkStat provided a consultancy service on "Statistical Classifications and Sampling Techniques" from 2 to 6 May 2011 in Moldova.

Bilateral Cooperation Activities

Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

TurkStat has been carrying out cooperation activities with the State Planning Organisation (SPO) of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC). In this context, a cooperation protocol was signed between TRNC SPO and TurkStat in May 2011 to share the experience gained from the harmonization studies to the *acquis communautaire* implemented in TurkStat.

Iraq

A mission comprising three high level officials from Iraq visited TurkStat from 19 to 21 April 2011 to get information about water statistics.

Iran

In the framework of a project supported by the World Bank, one mission from Iran visited the TurkStat in June 2011 to get information on Purchasing Power Parity.

Turkmenistan

Memorandum of Understanding Signed for Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey



A Memorandum of Understanding between the State Committee of Turkmenistan on Statistics (TurkmenStat), Ministry of Public Health and Medical Industry of Turkmenistan, and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) was signed in April 2011 for conducting the Fourth Round of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS-4) in 2011 and 2012.

The MICS-4 aims to:

- obtain objective information on the situation of children and mothers in Turkmenistan;
- monitor key indicators in light of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Plan of Action "A World Fit for Children" (WFFC), the National Programme "Strategy of Economic, Political and Cultural Development of Turkmenistan until 2020";
- identify the factors to further improve the situation of children and mothers, which will be considered

by the Government of Turkmenistan in implementation of national socio-economic development, in particular, the "National Program of Socio-Economic Development of Turkmenistan for 2011-2030," "Health", etc.;

- supplement the statistical database on children and mothers (in particular, Genstat Region, TurkmenInfo);
- improve the skills of employees of the TurkmenStat and Ministry of Public Health and Medical Industry of Turkmenistan in methodology, organisation and conduct of sample surveys in the social field.

Meeting for Preparation and Conduct of Population and Housing Census of Turkmenistan 2012



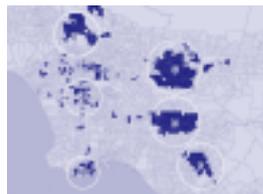
The State Committee of Turkmenistan on Statistics (TurkmenStat) held a meeting for the preparation and implementation of Population and Housing Census of Turkmenistan 2012 on 4 June 2011 in its headquarters. The

meeting was attended by the representatives of the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan, various ministries, departments, provincial administrations, and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Turkmenistan.

The meeting heard reports on progress and priority measures of TurkmenStat and its regional bodies for 2011. A presentation was made by the contractor company on the activities regarding the preparation of cartographic material. The officials stated their desire for the acceleration of the work's completion. The selection and remuneration of temporary census staff was explained to the representatives of the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare of Turkmenistan. The UNFPA representatives were informed about the necessity of the close relationship between TurkmenStat and the media, and the need to raise awareness about the upcoming Census. The TurkmenStat officials expressed their wishes to adopt the centralized data processing capabilities for the Census.

In the final part of the meeting, Mr. Akmurad Mammedov, Chairman of TurkmenStat, summarized the results of the meeting, objectives and priority measures for the second half of 2011 to provide training for the Census in 2012.

Workshop for the Implementation of Geographic Information Systems in Census 2012



A workshop in the field of cartography and use of geographic information systems (GIS) in Census 2012 was conducted from 6 to 10 June

2011 in the headquarters of the State Committee of Turkmenistan on Statistics (TurkmenStat). The workshop was organized with the assistance of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Mr. Bolaji Femi Taiwo, spatial scientist specialised in the field of Census Cartography, Remote Sensing and GIS, delivered the workshop to the participants from the central and provincial offices of TurkmenStat.

The workshop focused on the monitoring progress of the census and data processing. The workshop also covered production of interactive thematic digital maps designed for a wider range of non-professional users. These maps will display the socio-economic, demographic and other factors on the results of the Census 2012.

Uzbekistan

State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Statistics Organized Workshop for Census Supervisors



The State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Statistics (Goskomstat) organised a workshop for fifty supervisors consisting of qualified staff from the Goskomstat and the Institute for Social Research from 30 March to 1 April 2011. The objective of the Workshop was successful and timely execution of the Resolution No. 71 of the Cabinet of Ministers from dated 14 March 2011 "On Measures for Preparation and Carrying out of Statistical Sample Survey of Population Size". The content and rules of use of the "Procedure and summarizing of statistical sample survey of population size", the basic methodical rules of conducting census in cities, rural settlements and makhallyas (communities) have been discussed in detail at the Workshop. After the Workshop, the census questions has been tested by the census supervisors. The Census supervisors also delivered workshops in their settlements of responsibility to enumerators from 4 to 11 April 2011.

State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Statistics Received Distance Learning Training Course on Introduction to STATA

The State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Statistics (Goskomstat) received a distance learning training course on “Introduction to STATA” from the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) on 19 April 2011 with assistance from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

This distance-learning training course on “Introduction to STATA” was a complementary or preparatory training for the Second Group Training Course in Application of Information Management and Related Information and Communications Technology (ICT) for Official Statistics which was conducted jointly by SIAP and JICA from 11 May to 16 July 2011 at the premises of SIAP with the objective to strengthening the statistical capability of developing countries in the Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) region. The course curriculum was designed for official statisticians of the Goskomstat to introduce STATA software for statistical data inspection and data analysis.

The main objectives of this distance-learning training course were to:

- increase the basic capability of trainees in the use of STATA software;
- provide trainees with the basic skills to inspect statistical data and carry out descriptive analysis using STATA; and
- prepare trainees for further statistical training courses, namely Tokyo-based, regional, sub-regional and country courses.

The course covered topics such as getting started with STATA and basic commands to inspect datasets. There were two sessions and each session lasted in 50 minutes and between two sessions participants had a break of 15 minutes.

For more information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/qmkKM>



State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Statistics Conducted Mini-Census

The State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Statistics (Goskomstat) conducted a mini-census at the end of April 2011 covering ten percent of the country's population.



According to the Resolution No. 71 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated 14 March 2011 “On Measures for Preparing and Conducting Sampling Survey of Population”, the nationwide mini-census took place between 21 and 25 April and its results were expected to be collated by 20 June 2011.

The Uzbek Police Forces accompanied survey teams in order to reassure citizens and encourage participation in the census containing twelve questions. The government allocated an amount close to three-hundred-forty-three-thousand-four-hundred United States Dollars for the population survey.

The last census in Uzbekistan was held back in 1989. Uzbekistan has held no census since then and demographic indicators have been based on data provided by civic registrars.

Member National Statistical Offices in Latin America and the Caribbean

Suriname

Adviser Mission on Rebasing National Accounts in Suriname

The National Accounts Statistics Adviser (NASA) of the



Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre (CARTAC) conducted a one week mission to Suriname within the CARTAC activity period from November 2010 to March 2011. The Suriname project is elaborate in the sense that it involves not only the rebasing of the constant price series from base year 1990 to 2007 but also a revision of the current price series, and exploring the use of administrative data sources to supplement the low response rates from the survey.

The mission together with the General Bureau of Statistics (GBS) staff improved the methodology and the corresponding worksheets for all industries. Major improvements in the methodology and spreadsheet data model are related to the consistency check of the current and constant price estimates, the set up of a time series spreadsheet by industry for the 2004-2009 period, and the plausibility check of the growth rates by industry.

The major outputs of the mission were:

- improved understanding of national accounts compilation as a result of the hands-on training provided,
- improved methods for compiling GDP in current and constant prices according to the new international standards contained in the 1993 SNA Manual,
- a spreadsheet data model containing the appropriate formulas for GDP in Statistics: current and constant 2007 prices,
- consistent time series for the 2004-2009 period,
- metadata describing needed changes,
- an action plan containing the steps forward.

Member National Statistical Offices in Middle East and North Africa

Algeria

Events and Technical Assistance Missions under the Euro-Mediterranean Statistical Cooperation Programme



- A second technical assistance mission and national training-of-trainers course took place from 17 to 26 January 2011 in Algeria to improve the capacity of the National Statistical Office of Algeria

(ONS) staff to implement its own training programme.

- A technical assistance mission on the compilation of Energy Balances and Energy Efficiency Indicators was undertaken by the Key Expert to Algeria from 20 to 24 February 2011.

Bahrain

Central Informatics Organisation Launched "Bahrain e-Atlas"

Dr. Khalid Abdulrahman Al-Haidan, Director of the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Directorate under the Central Informatics Organisation (CIO) announced in early June 2011 that the CIO of Bahrain launched the "Bahrain e-Atlas". He said that users can browse the pages of the e-Atlas with ease through simple tools that are available through official website of the CIO, Bahrain locator and Bahrain Spatial Data Infrastructure (BSDI). The launch of the e-Atlas corresponded with the overwhelming response from several entities for the paper-based of Bahrain Atlas.

Dr. Al-Haidan explained that the e-Atlas is based on the latest satellite images. It contains spatial information related to addresses roads area names and blocks. He added that e-Atlas is part of series of achievements outputs and services provided by the CIO in this field. It comes within the CIO and is provided through the management of GIS Directorate services such as Bahrain locator. It also comes in the context of continuous development and keeps up with the latest technology to serve the geographic information sector in the Kingdom.

According to Dr. Al-Haidan, the GIS Directorate is keen to implement projects that positively reflect on the development and serving the citizens and residents. The Directorate has managed in a short period to form a geographic database and the atlas is the product of advanced geographic databases. He opined that GIS Directorate hopes there will be a positive reflection for the 'Bahrain e-Atlas' amongst individuals, tourists, government and non-government institutions. For more information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/BA06p>



الجهاز المركزي للمعلومات
Central Informatics Organisation

Egypt

Cooperation Protocol Signed between Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics and Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research



A cooperation protocol was signed on 2 January 2011 between Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) and Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MoHSR). The protocol was signed at the MOHSR with the presence of Dr. Hany Helal, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research and Mr. Abu Bakr El-Gendy, President of CAPMAS.

The purpose of the protocol is coordination, cooperation, technical and scientific exchange of researchers and experts between both parties, exchanging of data, studies, and publications. The protocol aims the cooperation between both parties by holding seminars, workshops, and joint conferences on higher education statistics and the contribution of statistical data in decision making process. The two sides agreed on to work for the development of new indicators for the future of education, science, technology, and scientific research in Egypt.

Both parties also agreed on to form a joint permanent committee to follow up the protocol. The committee is in charge of with making additions or amendments related to provisions of the protocol.

Delegation of Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa Visited Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics



The delegation of Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) visited the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) of Egypt from 8 to 12 May 2011 to discuss the national statistics of foreign trade and services and how to develop it. The visit was held under the supervision of Mrs. Awateef Emmam, Head of Central Department of Economic and Financial Statistics, and attended by specialists from CAPMAS.

Iran

South Korean Delegation Visited Statistical Centre of Iran

The delegation of Statistics Korea (KOSTAT)



visited the Statistical Centre of Iran (AMAR) from 2 to 4 May 2011. The visit took place on the basis of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the two statistical offices. During the visit, two sides had discussions on the following statistical subjects:

- Survey methods using information and communication technology devices
- Data processing for the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Census
- Register-based population and housing census

The South Korean delegation also paid a one-day visit to Statistics and Information Office of Fars Province to get familiar with provincial statistical activities in Iran.

Jordan

Jordan Actively Embraces DevInfo Technology, Launching Multiple Databases to Track Development

In late 2010, the Government of Jordan, with support from partners such as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), has intensified efforts to make data a public good, releasing multiple databases using DevInfo technology to monitor and track development progress in different sectors of the country.

In August 2010, the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology (ICT), in partnership with the Jordan Department of Statistics (DOS), successfully launched ICTInfo, an online database built on DevInfo technology. The impetus behind the creation of this database was to collect and disseminate



accurate data on indicators related to Jordan's information and communications technology as well as data on other basic socio-economic indicators.

Subsequent to this launch was the global release of JordanInfo, launched by the DOS on the occasion of World Statistics Day (20 October 2010). Also adapted from DevInfo, JordanInfo contains the most recent national data available on the country's current human development situation. It represents the culmination of intensive efforts by the DOS, with support from UNICEF, to prepare an online national human development database.

Following the success of these two DevInfo adaptations, the DOS and the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC), with support from UNDP, aim to disseminate data on the newly-developed Living Standards Index (LSI) using DevInfo technology.

The LSI was conceived as a new approach to quantify a multi-dimensional assessment of poverty for Jordan's citizens. Starting with data collected from the Household Expenditure and Income Survey conducted every two years by the DOS, the LSI also factors in data on education, health, housing, neighborhood services, economic status, and social and personal security. Different weights are assigned to the various LSI data components, resulting in a composite index that gives policy makers a more comprehensive picture of poverty and well-being.

Officials at DOS and MOPIC clearly recognized the importance of making the LSI data readily available to decision makers at all levels. With UNDP support, they selected the DevInfo software as the platform to disseminate the LSI data, building on recent successful DevInfo implementation efforts in other sectors.

“The goal of the LSI database is to highlight the needs of the poor and to safeguard the standards of Jordan's middle class,” explained Mohammad Assaf, Director of Population and Social Statistics Directorate, DOS.

Added Majida Alassaf, Poverty Analyst, UNDP Amman, “Our vision is that government officials responsible for planning and decision making, as well as donor agencies and UN partners, can use the LSI data to help assess the needs of the population, as well as for budgeting and planning purposes.”

Work on additional DevInfo adaptations is ongoing in Jordan. The Greater Amman Municipality (GAM), with UNICEF support, is planning to launch a database tracking a set of child-friendly indicators in Amman, in accordance with UNICEF's Child Friendly Cities initiative.

For more information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/HHU0G> and <http://goo.gl/YXCzu>

Kuwait

Central Administration for Statistics Conducted Census 2011 of Kuwait

Kuwait Law No. 27 of 1963 stipulates that a general census of Kuwait's population and buildings is to be conducted every ten years. The United Nations Economic and Social Committee has proposed that all nations undertake a general census in the year 2010. This proposal has been adopted by the Supreme Council of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) via its resolution to conduct a census for all GCC countries between 2005 and 2014.

The General Census for the State of Kuwait was conducted by the Central Statistical Office from 21 April to 31 May 2011 to address all individuals and families residing in Kuwait, both Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti, as well as homes, apartments, and buildings. Entities and institutions such as banks, schools, and companies were included in the 2011 Kuwait General Census.

The 2011 Kuwait General Census collected information on the socio-economic characteristics of all Kuwait's residents, such as: age, gender, employment, level of education, nationality, marital status, and special needs.

For more information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/ofXaT>



Central Statistical Office of Kuwait Cheered the Establishment of Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf's Statistical Center



The Central Statistical Office (CSO) of Kuwait cheered the approval of its proposal for setting up a statistical center of all Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) Member States on 18 May 2011.

In a press statement, the CSO hailed the contributions of its former leadership, which firstly put up the idea and worked to turn it into a reality. It was pointed out that in 2005, the Planning Ministry in cooperation with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) conducted a comprehensive study of the proposal and presented a complete vision about the future center and its administrative structure and budget. Kuwait then presented the proposal to the governors of the GCC central banks in 2006 and they included it in the GCC development plans.

A CSO delegation, headed by its Chairman Abdullah Yussef Sahar, presented the initiative for the Heads and Deputy Heads of the GCC National Statistical Agencies who met in Abu Dhabi from 15 to 16 May 2011 and approved it.

Meanwhile, the Central Census Administration (CCA) reviewed on 18 May 2011 the development of the general electronic and field censuses of the Kuwait's population, buildings and institutions for 2011. The CCA officials urged all citizens and expatriate residents in Kuwait to cooperate with its workers for the success of this national project which would end by 31 May 2011.

Lebanon

Technical Assistance Mission on Transportation Statistics to Central Administration of Statistics of Lebanon



Under the Mediterranean Statistical Cooperation Programme III (MEDSTAT III), Mr. Thierry Coulet, Key Expert, carried out a technical assistance mission to the Central Administration of Statistics (CAS) of Lebanon from 31 May to 3 June 2011 to deal with the development of maritime freight transport flows statistics. At the end of the

mission, recommendations were given to the CAS for the improvement of the dissemination of maritime transport statistics in their statistical yearbooks. The same expert also carried out the same technical assistance mission to Jordan from 27 to 30 June 2011.

Palestine

Palestine Central Bureau of Statistics Visited Statistics Department of Morocco



The statisticians of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) paid a study visit to the Department of Statistics under the High Commission for Planning of Morocco from 29 June to 2 July 2011 to examine the results of the Moroccan migration survey and compare it with the Palestinian experience. An important issue of the study visit was the measurement of international migration of entire households. The study visit was accompanied by the Mediterranean Statistical Cooperation Programme III (MEDSTAT III) short-term expert Mr. Youssef Courbage who has already provided technical assistance to PCBS for the evaluation of their survey.

Qatar

Qatar Statistics Authority to Upgrade Qatar's Human Development Indicators to Global Standards



The Qatar Statistics Authority (QSA) has decided to upgrade the human development indicators being used in Qatar to match those developed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Report Office (HDRO) last year.

In a statement on 7 May 2011, the QSA said it would add three new indicators to measure human development index like Inequality-Adjusted Human Development Index, Gender Inequality Index and Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index. For this purpose, the QSA organised a workshop on methodology and measurement of human development in the GCC countries in collaboration with UNDP from 9 to 11 May 2011.



The workshop was attended by Sheikh Hamad bin Jabor bin Jassim al Thani, President of the QSA, and Mr. Milorad S. Kovacevic, Head of the Statistical Unit at the UNDP HDRO, and participants from the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC)

statistical agencies and human development reports teams, besides representatives from the office of the UNDP in New York and regional office in Abu Dhabi.

The workshop was intended to set an understanding of the new standards, in order to help concerned attendances prepare human development reports, as well as develop the human development report teams' and political analysts' capacities for using human development indicators. This was to promote and support human development policies in the Gulf Region.

The workshop covered the human development concept, the features of human development's new indicators, the role of national, regional and international information providers in providing human development data, encourage adaptation as well as using human development measures in support and planning.

Qatar Took Part in Twenty-Fifth Meeting of National Statistical Offices Heads of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf



The State of Qatar took part in the Twenty-Fifth Meeting of Heads of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) National Statistical Offices which was organised from 15 to 16 May 2011 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

Sheikh Hamad bin Jabor bin Jassim Al Thani, President of Qatar Statistics Authority (QSA), headed Qatar's delegation to the two-day event.

The meeting discussed a number of memoranda adopted by the GCC Secretariat General, including:

- Minutes of the Sixth Meeting of the Demographic and Social Statistics Committee;

- Memorandum on the Sixteenth Meeting of the Technical Committee for the Census; and
- Memorandum on the Establishment of the Statistical Centre of the GCC Member States.

Participants also studied the GCC Statistical Strategy, Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) for 2012, development of a statistics system on agriculture, fishery and related fields and means of developing data collection methods from administrative records.

Saudi Arabia

Central Department of Statistics and Information Examined Electronic Statistical System of Dubai

The Delegation of Central Department of Statistics and Information (CDSI) of Saudi Arabia, headed by Mr. Mansour bin Khamis Al Damas, Director of Management of Systems Programming, visited the Dubai Statistics Center (DSC) on 22 February 2011 to examine DSC's experience on establishing electronic statistical system.

Mr. Mansour bin Khamis Al Damas stated that the visit was in the context the comprehensive study performed by the CDSI to establish a national information system within the Kingdom based on the best practices in this field. He added that the DSC was their main destination, because it enjoys a distinguished reputation amongst the statistics centers in addition to the pioneering achieved by establishing an electronic statistical system.

Mr. Arif Obaid Al Muhairi, Chief Executive Officer of DSC, said that after the delegation examined the different phases of studies and the executive phases of the project and the technical aspect, electronic



connection mechanism and software were highlighted as well as the statistical tools used in the system, indicating that DSC was completely concerned with providing all the information which may form value of the visit. Mr. Al Muhairi explained that the electronic statistic system is one of the pioneer initiatives in the Government of Dubai, which is included in the policy made by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum for the electronic transformation in managing the governmental work and in presenting the electronic services for the various categories of customers. He considers that the system resulted in a shift in providing the informational support for the decision makers and planners.

Mr. Al Muhairi praised the work and achievements of CDSI, especially in light of the vast geographical area in Saudi Arabia and the large number of its institutions.

The difficulties and technical and administrative challenges that face the establishment of this system and the ways to overcome the same are from the most prominent topics of the visit which extended for two days, as the connection of the various systems to the different establishments, nature and rules of its procedural databases and how to convert the same to statistical databases represent great challenge, which shall be studied integrally before the commencement of the project. Mr. Al Damas confirmed that the visit achieved its targets and the level of cooperation from the side of persons in charge of the center was distinguished.

For more information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/1Uesk>

United Arab Emirates

Dubai Launches New Database to Disseminate Latest Health Survey Results



In February 2011, the Dubai Statistics Center (DSC) released the Dubai Health Info, a new health database, to disseminate the results of

the 2009 national health survey carried out in the Emirate of Dubai. The database is a customized adaptation of the DevInfo database system endorsed by the United Nations for monitoring and tracking progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and other national priorities.

Available on CD, Dubai Health Info represents a collaboration between the DSC and the Dubai Health Authority. This database comes a year after the successful online launch of DubaiInfo, a comprehensive DevInfo database intended to track human development data for the Emirate of Dubai.

For more information on Dubai Health Info, please contact Mohammed Ahmad Abu Aishah, Demographic Statistics Analyst, at maabuaishah@dsc.gov.ae. For more information on DubaiInfo, please visit: <http://goo.gl/oMmwf>

Statistics Centre-Abu Dhabi Signed Memorandum of Understanding with Australian Bureau of Statistics



The Statistics Centre-Abu Dhabi (SCAD) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) on 12 February 2011. The MoU, which will be effective for two years, is intended to manage and enhance all forms of mutual support and cooperation between the parties in the field of official statistics.

The MoU was signed at the headquarters of SCAD in Abu Dhabi by His Excellency Butti Ahmed Mohammed Bin Butti Al Qubaisi, Director General of SCAD, and Mr. Brian Pink, Head of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The MoU aims to promote, support and manage cooperation between the SCAD and ABS in such areas as the development of human resources, technical support, sharing of knowledge and data, etc.

The parties emphasized the need to promote the development of human resources and joint training activities. In this regard, SCAD and the ABS agreed on the exchange staff on a temporary basis. The conditions under which these exchanges will take place

shall be agreed between the parties as well as the employees concerned. The aim of this form of collaboration is to increase the technical knowledge and professional experience of the SCAD and ABS staff. In the area of joint training activities, the SCAD and ABS agreed to inform each other about their respective opportunities for participation in the workshops and training courses they might organize and to look into the possibility of organizing joint training activities.

The SCAD and ABS also agreed to promote mutual technical support through audit works and study visits. In this regard, each side will audit as requested the work done by the other party in the field of official statistics. This audit works may include, but are not limited to a review of the methods and procedures followed in the production of official statistics. Furthermore, the parties agreed to facilitate the exchange of visits and the sharing of relevant information and experience.

Both sides also stressed the need to support the exchange of statistical knowledge, experiences, ideas and best practices in all areas of activity in order to strengthen and improve the performance of the ABS and SCAD and optimize the use of new technologies in the field of official statistics, with due care being taken by both sides to protect the confidentiality of shared data.

His Excellency Al Qubaisi and Mr. Pink reiterated the desire of both sides to foster closer cooperation between the two institutions and to forge a fruitful strategic partnership through the development of an overall framework for collaboration in different statistical areas to benefit from shared experiences and research and to improve the quality of statistical work.

His Excellency Al Qubaisi commended the agreement, adding that it would be extremely beneficial to SCAD's official statistics, given the fact that the ABS is the body responsible for the preparation of official statistics and all related activities in Australia, pointing to the significant timing of the memorandum, as SCAD gears up to embark on a wide range of statistical projects as part of the centre's first strategic plan (2010 - 2014), which aims to develop an advanced statistical system for the Emirate of Abu Dhabi that meets the highest standards of excellence worldwide in terms of accuracy, reliability and timeliness of statistics and their relevance to the needs of users at various levels.

For his part Mr. Pink expressed his delight at the signing of the MoU with the SCAD pointing out that the memo represents a continuance of existing cooperation with SCAD, the official body responsible for the collection of statistical data pertaining to the Emirate of Abu Dhabi and the formulation of statistical plans that serve the emirate's development programs, in addition to conducting social, demographic, economic, environmental and cultural surveys across the emirate.

A high-level delegation from SCAD headed by His Excellency Al Qubaisi had visited Australia in October 2010 in the context of the strategic policy of Abu Dhabi Government for adopting the best international practices to learn from exemplary international experiences in upgrading the standard of work in the local departments and putting it on a par with developed nations. The delegation discussed ways of enhancing joint cooperation for the development of statistics and all areas of statistical research in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. The talks also touched on a number of issues related to the latest statistical systems and practices in the conduct of field surveys and censuses, statistical reporting and questionnaire design, to ensure the accuracy of the data collected, since it represents the basis for the statistical analyses that guide decision making. During the visit, the delegation was briefed on the ABS work systems and the technology it applies in conducting field work, the bureau's experience in the application of the latest communication technology to statistical surveys and the various monitoring and evaluation processes.

The discussion also dealt with Bureau's style in coordinating with the institutions concerned, methods of measuring the quality of statistical products, questionnaires, publication calendar and programmes for enhancement of statistical awareness among data providers and users.



Statistics Centre-Abu Dhabi Launched a Series of Lectures on Official Statistics

The Statistics Centre-Abu Dhabi (SCAD) inaugurated on 14 February 2011 a series of specialized lectures as part of the Centre's strategic initiative for "Promotion of Statistical Awareness". The series started with a lecture on "Official Statistics" presented by Mr. Brian Pink, Head of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The lecture was attended by His Excellency Butti Ahmed Mohammed Bin Butti Al Qubaisi, Director General of SCAD, SCAD's senior officials and representatives from a number of government departments from Abu Dhabi and other Emirates of the United Arab Emirates Federation.

SCAD welcomed the lecturer, who is one of Australia's outstanding statistical experts. Mr. Pink previously held several positions including the Head of Australia's Mission to the United Nations Statistical Commission. SCAD explained that the purpose of the lecture is to highlight the importance of statistics as a source of government data, and its role in supporting the culture of excellence among both individuals and establishments.

The lecture focused on four main themes, beginning with the ABS and the key features of the national statistical system in Australia, providing an overview of the objectives, governance structure and the overall strategy for the ABS.

Mr. Pink indicated that the ABS consists of several advisory and executive bodies and that the Bureau's operation is governed by an act issued in 1957 and followed by another act passed by the Australian Parliament in the mid-seventies, setting out the functions and responsibilities of the Bureau. This empowered the ABS to foster close relationships of cooperation with the federal government and with local governments in Australia, as well as with the private sector, enabling the Bureau to play a vital role in the production of data and the training of government officials in support of development in Australia.

Mr. Pink remarked that the Bureau's modus operandi and the multiplicity of statistical sources it deals with have helped it carry out its development role.

Prominent among these stakeholders are the Australian Government Statistical Forum (AGSF), which meets semi-annually to discuss the agenda set for official statistics, a non-governmental statistical forum comprising some forty entities and committees from all sectors of the Australian society, business and non-governmental organizations, to discuss their views and their needs of economic-, social-, labor- and other statistics. He added that one of the tools used recently was bilateral meetings with head of departments every six or nine months, to help the Bureau develop a mechanism of action every ten years, and report to the government agencies concerned about the activities and achievements of the ABS and the bodies under its purview.

The lecturer also reviewed the development and planning of the population and housing census project in Australia, scheduled for 9 August 2011, pointing out the particular importance of this census, which coincides with the Centennial Anniversary

of the First Census in Australia in 1911. The significance of the

upcoming census also lies in the fact that it will involve enumeration of the population and housing to provide up-to-date information on the size and characteristics of the population, the indigenous people, immigrants, refugees and

nomads, in addition to other

classifications of the composition of the Australian society. The proportion of indigenous peoples for instance, was found to be two percent in some areas according to the census of 2006, which was regarded as a disturbing indicator that necessitated the development plans in response. The census also detailed demographic characteristics of this population structure and geographical distribution of the inhabitants, even in the remote areas and islands of Australia.

Since 2001, the ABS has introduced the so-called "time capsule", which includes statistics and data belonging to people who prefer to keep it confidential during their lifetime by retaining such name-identified information in the national archive for ninety-nine years, noting that the percentage of those who chose this capsule grew slightly from fifty-three percent in the 2001 census to fifty-six percent in the 2006 census, i.e. the proportion remained nearly constant.



Elaborating further on the census, Mr. Pink mentioned that a budget of four-hundred-million Australian Dollars has been allocated for this project, adding that the per capita cost of the census is estimated at nineteen Australian Dollars. The planned census is set to be largest such operation ever to be conducted in Australia, involving about forty-three-thousand staff, targeting the enumeration of nine-million-five-hundred-thousand dwellings across Australia. Data collection will be either through electronic forms via the Internet or on paper forms, which requires a personal visit. The form, he added, consists of fifty questions, the same questions of the Australian population censuses for hundred years, with only minor changes to account for some new things in people's life.

Following the field work stage, the data capture, analysis and documentation, will be conducted by about eight-hundred employees in a span of ten months.

In the third theme of the lecture, Mr. Brian Pink, focused on the experience of the ABS in the use of administrative data for official statistics, and the shift from secondary to strategic use administrative data, and the importance of this in the service of many sectors of the Australian community, such as childhood sector and education, health, security, transportation, etc. The data pertaining to these sectors are obtained from federal and local agencies, and are then reproduce and compared with data from non-government sources to serve the development of these sectors.

The lecturer also touched on the ABS's dissemination mechanism explaining that the Bureau made significant progress in facilitating access to the official statistics over the past ten years, adding that it took the ABS about seventy years of statistical work to reach this level of expertise.

The lecturer concluded by highlighting the challenges facing statistical work in the first half of the twenty-first century, pointing out the daunting task of coping with the rapid developments at all levels and the need to act proactively, taking advantage of electronic analysis and classification methods.

Finally, the lecturer answered questions from the audience, and praised the achievements of SCAD in the service of development across all sectors, pointing out that the center has recently made vast strides in this regard. Mr. Pink also commended SCAD's

ambitious strategy, noting that the Centre is able to put it into effect if it can maintain its current pace.

In conclusion, His Excellency Butti Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Qubaisi, Director General of SCAD, thanked the lecturer and the audience, adding that the Centre looked forward to continued cooperation with the ABS. SCAD's Director General remarked that the Centre would continue to organize such lectures to support its initiative for promotion of statistical awareness.

Statistics Centre-Abu-Dhabi Organized a Special Media Training Course to Promote Statistical Awareness

As part of its strategic initiative "Promoting Statistical Awareness," the Statistics Centre-Abu Dhabi (SCAD) organized a special media training course on the best media approaches to cover statistical news. The course lasted for five days from 6 to 10 March 2011. The course was held in collaboration with "Two Four 54" Media Company, a subsidiary of the Media Zone Authority – Abu Dhabi.

The training course was inaugurated by His Excellency Butti Ahmed Mohammed Bin Butti Al Qubaisi, Director General of SCAD, at the headquarters of "Two Four 54" and attended by a number of sector managers and leaders of the Centre, in addition to Noura Al Kaabi, representative of Media Zone Authority in Abu Dhabi; Faiden Faz, Head of the Training Academy in the company; Sami Al Aboudi, Head of Training Department in Thomson Reuters; Joseph Anthonys, Academic Director; and Jawad Siquili, Head of Sales Department. Many representatives for most of the print, audio-visual and electronic mass media organizations in the country also participated in the course.



During the opening ceremony, His Excellency Butti Ahmed Mohammed Bin Butti Al Qubaisi, Director General of SCAD, gave a speech in which he welcomed the audience of "Two Four 54" officials and trainers as well as all the journalists and media professionals participating in the course. He paid tribute to the company for cooperating to organize this training course wishing that it would be successful and fruitful.

He also thanked journalists for their distinguished coverage of SCAD's news, stressing that supporting the strategic partnership between the Centre and the media is the main objective of the course due to the significance of the data and the exact figures that are made public through SCAD's press releases. He also highlighted the need to treat statistical data cautiously because of their impact on various development sectors in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, a notion that reflects SCAD's active role in boosting development plans through providing the most updated and accurate statistical data for decision makers, the business sector and the public. His Excellency Butti Ahmed Mohammed Bin Butti Al Qubaisi referred to the remarkable role played by the statistical data released by the Centre as well as the exceptional press coverage they receive in enhancing statistical awareness and in propagating statistical culture among the reading public.

His Excellency Al Qubaisi emphasized the fact that SCAD is the official organization authorized and responsible for the collection, compilation, storage, analysis and dissemination of official statistics and releasing the results of questionnaires and social, demographic, economic, environmental and cultural researches in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, and that the Centre seeks to fully cooperate with all local governmental authorities to conduct statistical research and to develop the whole statistical system of the emirate. This helps in fulfilling the requirements for the plan "Abu Dhabi 2030" under the guidance of our wise leadership.

The course gave the participating media practitioners access to the basic principles of mathematics, basic statistical terms such as Consumer Price Index (CPI), Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and its components, unemployment rates, the index of construction materials and other statistical terms that may appear in specialized press releases issued by the Center, as well as in economical reports. The course also covered the basic concepts of macroeconomy, business cycles,

long-term economic growth, reports on companies and stock exchange markets, basic accounting and law: the balance sheet and income statement or profit and loss account, the statement of cash flows, reports on fiscal policy, monetary policy and bond markets, monetary policy and government budgets, monetary policy and central banks, the activity of the central bank and foreign exchange markets, currency assessments and exchange rate systems. Moreover, the course also addressed the principles of journalism such as accuracy, fairness, clear and quick writing skills, news sourcing, critical thinking and techniques for building a news story.

Dubai Statistics Center Received Delegation of Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf

The Dubai Statistics Center (DSC) received on 28 March 2011 the delegation responsible for devising the plans in the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) as part of the fifteenth meeting organized by the Ministry of Economy. The delegation comprised of Mr. Jamal Bin Mohammed Al-Khamees from the GCC General Secretariat; representatives of Qatar including Mr. Mohamed Ali Al Marzouqi, Director of Shared Services in Qatar Statistics Authority, Ms. Aziza Al-khalafy, Researcher at the Department of Social Development, Mr. Abdul-Hadi Al-Marri, Researcher at the Department of Economic Development; representatives of Kuwait including Mr. Abbas Jaber Qabazard, Ms. Wissal Abdul Aziz Mdoh and Ms. Mona Rashid Al-Rashidi, and representatives of Saudi Arabia including Mr. Mohamed Zafari Al-shahry, Mr. Essa Abdullah Al-Issa, Mr. Saud Abdulaziz Al-khareef and Mr. Walid bin Abdulrahman Al-Awad. His Excellency Arif Obaid Al Muhairi, Chief Executive Office of DSC, was among the first recipients of delegation.



The aim of the delegation's visit was to review the DSC's experience in the statistical field and electronic transformation in collecting and disseminating statistical data and indicators. At the beginning of the meeting, the delegation was introduced to the role of DSC as regards to collecting and providing the data in the Emirate, the most important tasks of Center's Departments and Divisions. The delegation also reviewed the mechanism of linking the system with the various sources of data such as the governmental, quasi-governmental and private institutions and departments of the Emirate, along with the e-Statistics System and the smart tools provided by the system to prepare the reports and to carry out the statistical analysis in addition to form the interactive graphics.

The delegation has praised the achievements made by the DSC during the short period since its establishment, and they are keen to cooperate with the Centre in future forums.

For more information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/Tdeq0>

Dubai Statistics Center Launched Monthly Statistical Indicators for Decision Makers

The Dubai Statistics Center (DSC) announced on 21 April 2011 that it launched a new system entitled "Dubai Statistics Indicators" to provide services to all leaders, decision-makers and policy-makers in the Emirate in an immediate and careful manner at any time around the clock. It is one of the best international practices in this area and the first of its kind in the region.

The system provides database of statistical surveys carried out by the Center. It also connects twenty-four governmental and semi-governmental institutions whose data flow to a unified base to be available to users. It provides updated data and figures on a monthly basis after the statistics and figures were issued by the Center in a yearbook. The upcoming phase aims to reach the specialization levels which enable users to have access to the latest detailed and specialized statistical information according to their needs.

The system allows the leaders, decision-makers and planners to cope up with developments in various sectors with regular periodicals without the need for technical and statistical support or even without the need to refer to DSC's staff, as the system displays the up-to-date information and on periodical basis through

smart and interrelated charts enabling the user to have access to different details of information.

The system can display the chronological sequence with various periodicals depending on the nature of information. It features the possibility of conducting scenarios and future forecasts, based on the information induction which reflect the status quo and the historical information for the databases. This is done through direct reading of the databases of electronic statistics system without the need for any intervention by the user in designing or programming reports.

Mr. Abdullah Abdurrahman Al Shaibani, Secretary General of the Executive Council of the Emirate of Dubai, launched the system on 19 April 2011 in the presence of Mr. Arif Obaid Al Muhairi, DSC Chief Executive Office, and Mr. Ahmed Ali Dashti, Director of DSC Information Technology. Mr. Shaibani saw the system as a great and excellent support for the decision-makers and planners in the Emirate and one of the leading achievements of Dubai Government in the implementation of the strategy aiming at excellence in the management of government performance and electronic provision of services.

He further explained that what increases the importance of the system is that the planning and decision making processes in the Emirate of Dubai are based on scientific grounds, and the decision is made based upon the information data that lead such a decision to optimally achieve its objectives.

"The system constitutes an application of the Center's strategy aiming at the automation of the statistical work in the Emirate of Dubai, which is an extension of the Strategy of the Government of Dubai. Such strategy pays a strategic attention to the e-transformation. The system achieves one of the most important strategic objectives pursued by any statistical institution. That is, the consolidation and provision of statistical information sources through a



unified portal, no matter how many resource there are", said Mr. Arif Obaid Al Muhairi.

"The Center, over the forthcoming period, will conduct a diagnosis and study the governmental leaders' needs, separately, in order to design their own statistical display screens. The system displays the key and ancillary statistical information and indications through its main screens to various sectors.

However, the phase to come aims at reaching the professional levels which enable the users to view the latest detailed and specialized statistical information according to their needs. Moreover, the system was designed to be flexible in providing the statistical information and indications whether on the Emirate's level or on the level of a specific department or institution and follow up the statistical indications relevant to its functions resulted from its operations", he added.

Mr. Ahmed Al Dashti pointed out that in addition to the statistical surveys databases performed by the Center and which could be directly read by the system in order to provide the statistical indications as per the decision-makers' needs, the system links forty-two governmental and semi-governmental institutions whose data are flowing to the consolidated database in the Center and are available to the system's users.

He underlined that the importance of the system springs out of the monthly provision of modern data and figures, after the data and numbers were issued in a yearbook by the Center.

However, the Center has connected the statistical data resources to a main database in the Center, which cause the data flow to all the stakeholders in a monthly basis, instead of anticipating the yearbook.

He explained that the system is flexible and has the potential of designing large screens to display the data or adding any elements, at any time, according the users' needs. Special screens were designed for the leaders, separately, to enable them to follow up the course of work in their institutions, and in other sectors related to their functions.

The system also provides the latest key statistical indications such as population, inflation, tourism, transportation, and other statistical indicators.

Statistics Centre-Abu Dhabi Conducted a Pilot Population Census in All Regions of the Emirate

The Statistics Centre-Abu Dhabi (SCAD) successfully concluded a pilot population census that has covered a selected sample of the population in all regions of Abu Dhabi Emirate. The pilot census was a small scale practice of the census that was carried out as part of the groundwork for the real major national project of "Abu Dhabi Census 2011" which is scheduled to take place during the final quarter of 2011. The census will provide official statistics and build an up-to-date database on the demographic characteristics of all the people living in the different regions of the emirate in Abu Dhabi, Al Ain and the Western Region, whether urban or rural. Moreover, the census is expected to depict a full and realistic picture of the population of the Emirate, both nationals and non-nationals.

Statistics Centre-Abu Dhabi has announced that the data collected on the population during this pilot census related to a specific night; the night of 14-15 May 2011 which is called the Reference Night. The Census Reference Night is meant to take a snapshot of the population residing in the selected regions at one point in time.

Despite the fact that questionnaires have been distributed among large numbers of people, the actual count has only covered ten-thousand people, a number which, SCAD believes, fulfills the objectives of the pilot. The pilot shed light on all the fieldwork technical details and it also enabled the Centre to test some of the proposed solutions for whatever obstacles the experiment has revealed.

SCAD indicated that the Centres enumerators participating in this pilot have amounted up to 200 volunteers, working either as fieldwork enumerators or as support team members in the census centres. They interviewed every household in the areas selected to conduct the pilot. Interviews were held in the afternoon between four and nine pm and sought to identify any technical or organizational obstacles that might hinder census fieldwork, so that new plans could be set to overcome them in the real census.

During the pilot census, the head of the household or a responsible adult wrote the names of all the people who usually live in the family, in



addition to all the visitors who spent the Census Reference Night there, and answered questions on their behalf. In case of individuals living in Share households, each answered questions about himself/herself. To facilitate this process, the Centre's enumerators had distributed the questionnaires for the pilot census before the census reference night.

The Centre added that the enumerators contacted heads of households or any other substitute responsible adults and arranged for interviews so that the enumerator could collect basic information about the household during the two weeks following the census reference night.

To ensure that the pilot census was conducted in accordance the highest statistical standards, the Center carried out three types of training: a technical training, a technology training to use the mobile electronic devices and a fieldwork training that lasted for a week in six census centres.

According to the law pertinent to the establishment of SCAD, all information and individual data, collected or stored by the Centre, in relation to any survey or census, shall be deemed confidential. Neither the Centre nor any of its employees may disclose any such information and data to any person or public/private entity, nor use it for any other purpose than statistical. The Centre undertakes, upon disseminating any official statistics, not to disclose any individual data in order to maintain its confidentiality.

For more information, please visit:
<http://goo.gl/6YhUx>

Dubai Statistics Center Organized "Second Knowledge Forum"



The Dubai Statistics Center (DSC) organized the Second Knowledge Forum titled "Exploring the Future" at the campus of Hamdan Bin Mohamed Electronic

University on 24 May 2011. The Forum of this year hosted lecturer Prof. Ayub Al Ayub. "Exploring the Future" was selected as the title for the Forum due to its importance for policy and decision makers.

The Knowledge Forum is an annual forum that comes within the framework of the Knowledge Management

Programs implemented by the DSC. In general, such programs are designed to develop and promote human resources. The Forum is different from the other training programs in that it covers a segment of not less than eighty-percent of DSC staff, and thus to significantly takes part in refining and improving the employees' experiences in order to promote his general performance besides the development of the behavioral and typical aspect. One of the Forum's features is the careful selection of the topics that do not address a certain specialization or professional aspect, but rather they are selected to be modern scientific topics that contribute to the promotion of the level of thinking or behavioral patterns which enhances the employee's functional performance and positively affects the employee's social aspect.

In order to enrich the Forum with different experiences and to promote the cooperation and partnership with the Center's partners of governmental departments, authorities and organizations, a number of governmental departments, authorities and organizations which maintain a strategic partnership with the Center were invited to participate in the Forum, which has had a significant impact on enriching the Forum with constructive dialogue and exchange of experiences and ideas besides the promotion of partnership relationships between the Center and its partners.

In addition to the DSC staff members, the Forum was attended by Engineer Jamal Bin Kreshan, Vice President of the Air Traffic Services in Dubai Airports Foundation, Winner of the Outstanding Government Employee; Mr. Rashid El Motawa, Director of Strategy and Institutional Excellence of the Public Authority for Youth and Sports; Mrs. Fadilah Al Moainy, Head of Studies and Editorial Supplements Department of Al Bayan Foundation. The Forum was also attended by the members of the Statistical Coordination Committee in the Emirate of Dubai who represent nine government institutions, as well as a number of Dubai Courts' staff members and Mohamed Bin Rashed for Housing.

Dubai Measured Religious and Cultural Awareness of the Society

The Dubai Statistics Center (DCS) announced on 29 May 2011 that it launched a special questionnaire with the Islamic Affairs and Charitable Activities Department (DIACA) to measure the religious and

cultural awareness in the Emirate of Dubai. This questionnaire is a strategic joint venture aiming primarily at providing an up-to-date database on the religious and cultural awareness levels of the different segments of the society in order to set the strategies and programs that are capable of promoting the outstanding and ideal level of co-living among diverse nationalities, cultural and religious backgrounds in the Emirate.



Dr. Hamad Al Shaibani, Director General of DIACA, stated that the Department had designed the questionnaire to gauge the religious awareness of Islamic values and practices of Dubai Islamic and non-Islamic inhabitants. This questionnaire comes within the Department's endeavors to spread several concepts, such as, tolerance, acceptance of the other and mutual respect among people of different religious beliefs. He has also shown that this questionnaire is being executed for the first time in Dubai through joint efforts of the Department and DSC. Knowing that, the Centre has provided its best experiences to make this pioneer project a success through specialized competencies well-known for executing questionnaires and results analysis as an example to be followed for achieving cooperation between governmental departments in an attempt to achieve the government vision and strategy. He asserted that current cooperation between the Department and the Centre is a part of the Department's role in activating partnerships with governmental departments and concerned private and public institutions, considering that Dubai meets society needs by providing high quality social services.



Mr. Arif Obaid Al Muhairi, Chief Executive Officer of DSC, said that the questionnaire comes within the framework of the new strategy of Dubai government regarding statistical work, whereby the statistical support provided by the Centre to governmental agencies and institutions has been expanded. He also showed that besides providing informatics support for the planning process and making decision represented in statistical indicators and reports on different demographic, social and economic segments, the Center has started executing surveys and questionnaires on behalf of

governmental institutions according to the latest standards and methodologies by using the latest software and technological methods. This execution is done in an attempt to ensure the highest accuracy and wholeness while conducting opinion surveys, which occupy a major strategic importance coming out of plans on which they are built and decisions taken upon its results. Knowing that the Department initiative for executing this questionnaire is a credit to it, since it shows that planning processes generally in Dubai and specifically in the Department are made according to scientific and studied methodologies and are built upon necessary information data.

He also referred to that the questionnaire is hundred percent executed electronically via developed statistical software used in the Centre through different stages of data collection and revision and results issuance. This way mainly contributes to decreasing time, effort and cost of the execution of the questionnaire, besides ensuring highest precision levels of results and the quickness of its issuance.

Mr. Ahmad Ali Al Dashti, Information Technology Department Director of DSC, has also stated that the questionnaire was distributed about a week ago and that the collection of its related data will be completed by the end of the next week. He has explained that the sample covers ten-thousand individuals of different nationalities and religions. These individuals have been selected by specialists; through drawing samples in the Centre. He also cleared that the questionnaire has met a high response from people; regarding that filling it up does not take more than three minutes, as being electronically –made, asserting in the same time that the questionnaire has been reached electronically to the required segment. In addition, the questionnaire does not include passing feature; meaning that no one can pass it or distributed to others.

Moreover, DIACA and DSC called all individuals covered by the questionnaire to interact with, and respond to, the questionnaire with absolute transparency; since its results and policies and decisions on which they are built will be for their benefit as individuals, families and community in general - a cultural mixture.

Mr. Arif Obaid Al Muhairi hailed the role played by DIACA in discharging its functions and responsibilities within the framework of government policies based on equality among all the members of the society. Dubai

became one of the best countries world-wide that provide quality life and a model for social and cultural co-existence incubating more than two-hundred nationalities. Thus, it is one of the biggest countries in terms of the multiplicity of cultures and nationalities. In addition, the crime rate is below the international rates generally in United Arab Emirates and specifically in the Emirate of Dubai which that shows how effective the strategies and policies made by our rational leadership are, besides the advanced method to execute such strategies in reality by governmental departments, agencies and institutions, each according to their competencies.

Statistics Centre-Abu Dhabi Organized a Lecture on the Latest Developments in Official Statistics

The Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi (SCAD) organized on 13 June 2011 a lecture entitled "Critical Developments in Official Statistics" by Prof. Paul Cheung, Director of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), as part of a series of specialized lectures in statistics, organized in the context of SCAD's strategic initiative for promotion of statistical awareness.

The lecture was attended by His Excellency Butti Ahmed Mohammed Bin Butti Al Qubaisi, Director General of Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi, His Excellency Rashid Al Suwaidi, Director General of the National Bureau of Statistics and a number of the members of SCAD's Advisory Committee and senior

officials, besides representatives from various local departments and government bodies and a crowd of researchers and statisticians.

SCAD welcomed the lecturer, pointing out that he is one of the most prominent statistical experts in Singapore, and serves as Director of the UNSD. Prof. Cheung organized the first-ever World Day of Statistics, on 20 October 2010, with the active participation of more than one-hundred-forty countries and forty organizations worldwide.

At the outset Prof. Cheung praised the tremendous development in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi and the Emirate's success in overcoming the global financial crisis. In fact, Prof. Cheung used this approach to shed light on some global issues and the way they are affected by statistics, focusing on the economic crisis and pointing out that developed countries are not equally successful in navigating their way through the crisis, while some developing nations have shown stronger indicators of success in overcoming the crisis.

According to Professor Cheung, there are some new crises looming on the economic horizon, such as a "currency war" and the protectionist policy pursued by some states, triggering serious problems at the international level. The lecturer also touched on the strategic issue of food security, which is one of the most important problems facing humanity, adding that climate change is another potential source of international crises.



Prof. Paul Cheung was especially interested in throwing light on development issues in the Middle East. He remarked that the Middle East is one of the areas least affected by the global financial crisis compared to other regions of the world, citing the region's limited ties to global markets, which keeps it at bay from a host of economic risks.

Prof. Cheung explained that there are many challenges confronting world countries in the implementation of their development policies, such as drawing appropriate plans to secure national interests in the face of globalization, as the success of every country in the managing globalization and addressing the intense competition is a major determinant for the future of that country. In this regard countries need to work on increasing efficiency and encourage innovation and creativity.

In a ranking of the world financial centres, United Nations official, Prof. Paul Cheung showed that London was in the forefront, followed by New York, Hong Kong, Singapore and Tokyo.

Prof. Cheung also shed the spotlight on the key drivers of sustainable development in a turbulent world, emphasizing the need for responsive, unified and smart governments and calling for re-examination of the government role, with government intervention being seen as necessary as in risk and crisis management. He also stressed the need to enhance the resilience of the domestic economy, nurture new economic engines and build strong institutions and infrastructures.

According to Prof. Cheung, this requires building an effective national information and official statistics system as key strategic driver of competitiveness. It is also important to ensure that data are aggregated and analyzed for quick decision support, which in turn requires the “one government” paradigm.

Prof. Cheung stressed to the role of official statistics as the source of strategic information for decision-making and an aid in rapid assessment of sectoral performance, forecasting and early warning, monitoring of risks and vulnerabilities, including the risks and contingencies associated with computers.

Prof. Cheung for professional further added that credibility of centres require the availability of certain basic criteria, such as independence, trustworthiness, accountability and transparency and statistical

soundness and accessibility, stressing the need for an institutional framework for the collection and dissemination of data, in addition to the coordination of statistical activities in the country to minimize duplication in the collection of statistics.

Professor Cheung discussed some of the latest methods of collecting statistical data, which include Internet based surveys and database updating and data capture imaging techniques. He emphasized the role of information technology in bringing about the aspired development in data collection and analysis through a high level system for the management, storage and integration of information with maps and geographic platforms.

Prof. Cheung reviewed the key and latest approaches in the areas of economic and social statistics as applied to the world population census programme in 2010, as well as to the consumer price index and household surveys.

Prof. Cheung pointed out that the GDP is not a sufficient indicator of as a measure of economic well-being, adding that the United Nations prefers to look at the indicators of income and consumption rather than production in measuring the levels of well-being. The lecturer also drew attention to the need to distinguish between the current assessment of well-being and the assessment of its sustainability.

Prof. Cheung concluded the lecture with a discussion of environmental statistics and the most important global environmental issues such as the strong impacts of climate change, with a focus on the challenges facing statistical work in the first half of the 21st century, the daunting efforts needed to cope with rapid developments of the modern era and the need to act proactively, taking advantage of electronic analysis and classification capabilities.

Finally, the lecturer answered questions from the audience and praised the efforts and achievements of SCAD in the service of all sectors of development in the Emirate, adding that the Centre has made substantial achievements recently. According to Prof. Cheung, SCAD's plan is ambitious and achievable if the Centre progresses at the same pace.

In conclusion His Excellency Butti Ahmed Mohammed Bin Butti Al Qubaisi, Director General of SCAD, thanked Prof. Paul Cheung, re-iterating the Centre's

desire for continued cooperation with theUNSD, praising the UNSD's role in supporting the development of the global statistical system, setting of international statistical standards, dissemination of statistical data and provision of technical advice to member countries on the development of national statistical systems, plus a range of other important activities. His Excellency Al Qubaisi also indicated that SCAD will continue to organize similar lectures in the context of the Centre's initiative for the promotion statistical awareness.



His Excellency Al Qubaisi remarked that the lecture highlighted the importance of official statistics as a source of government data, emphasizing their role in nurturing the culture of excellence among individuals and organizations alike, by

highlighting the challenges that hinder development, including the need to maintain a high degree of appropriateness of policies to the actual needs in the area of official statistics, and the introduction of new methods of data collection method and the official statistics, using advanced techniques to improve the quality and efficiency of statistical production and dissemination, with the importance of analyzing the data.

The SCAD had begun a series of lectures last February with a lecture on "official statistics", by Professor Brian Pink Chief Statistician of the government of Australia and Director of the Australian Bureau of Statistics, who presented the lecture during an official visit to the Centre.

Yemen

Yemen Organized Training Workshop on Using DevInfo to Promote Gender Equality

The Republic of Yemen's Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MPIC), General Department of Women, organized a training workshop from 5 to 9 March 2011 on how to use DevInfo database technology to promote greater gender equality in Yemen. The workshop was supported by the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), working with MPIC to strengthen gender equality in Yemen.



Specifically, the workshop focused on using DevInfo to provide access to gender data and to highlight data gaps and areas for programme strengthening at the national and sub-national levels, consistent with the gender equality objectives outlined in the Fourth Socio-Economic Development Plan 2011-2015.

In collaboration with other development partners, MPIC plans to develop and launch a new database - GenderInfo-Yemen - in the near future, to provide global access to gender equality data collected through the 2006-2010 National Plan (Third Socio-Economic Development Plan for Poverty Reduction) for Yemen.

For more information, please contact Ali Kawara, DevInfo Focal Point, Republic of Yemen, at kawara2005@gmail.com.

Member National Statistical Offices in South Asia

Afghanistan

Central Statistics Organisation of Afghanistan Received Statistical Training in South Korea

Under the existing twinning arrangement, "Joint Technical Cooperation Programme" for capacity development of Afghan civil servants, between the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Afghanistan, a statistical training programme was organised for twenty participants from the Central Statistics Organisation (CSO) of Afghanistan from 26 May to 11 June 2011 in the premises of the Statistical Training Institute (STI), Daejeon, South Korea.



The main objective of the program was to make the participants aware of the statistical system, international comparisons, and strategies for advancement of the statistical system. The course contents included methods of population projection, indicators of vital statistics, population structure and demographic dividend, poverty estimation from household survey, etc.

The main benefit of the program to the participants was to get good overview of different elements of statistics related fields. As a result of the programme, the participants became equipped to contribute to the economic development of Afghanistan. Specifically, the participants gained knowledge on how changes occurred in Korean society and statisticians role haven been recognized. The participants extensively participated and learned statistics mainstreaming policies, statistics mainstreaming tools, and statistics important enhancement. The combination of lectures and study visits provided an opportunity to the participants to understand the program subjects more thoroughly.

For more information, please visit:
<http://goo.gl/ZUoKZ>

Delegation of Central Statistics Organisation of Afghanistan Visited India

A study and exposure visit to Delhi, India for senior officers of the Central Statistics Organisation (CSO) of Afghanistan was organised by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Afghanistan under its National Institution Building Project (NIBP) from 29 May to 4 June 2011.

A twinning Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed on 30 May 2011 between the CSO of Afghanistan and the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) of India for a capacity development support from MoSPI to CSO in the field of statistics.

Following the signing of the MOU, the Afghan delegation led by Mr. Abdul Rahman Ghafoori, President General of the CSO, visited the subordinate/associated organizations/institutes of MoSPI such as National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), National Academy of Statistical Administration (NASA), Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) and Central Statistics Office (CSO) of India. The visits and discussions resulted in finalization of initial thrust areas for capacity development support such as

- human resource development of Afghan statistical personnel through training at institutes in India;
- priority to Afghan trainees in international training programmes undertaken for other countries including the SAARC countries;
- provision of PhD programme and masters programme in quantitative economics; and
- research in quantitative economics for provision of expertise on various policy matters.

A significant result of the exposure visit was the agreement on accommodating Afghan officers in different training programmes such as induction training for Indian Statistical Service, reserving certain percentage of slots for Afghans in the foreign training programmes and support for development of legal framework for strengthening provincial statistical system.

The study and exposure visit sensitized the senior management of CSO about best practices in the area of data collection and interpretation for official statistical system in India. The Afghan delegation identified some potential areas which they would like to adopt for improving data collection and interpretation for the official statistical system in Afghanistan.



Central Statistics Organisation of Afghanistan Visited Agency on Statistics of Tajikistan



A delegation of the Central Statistics Organisation (CSO) of Afghanistan headed by Mr. Safdar Radzhabekov, Project Coordinator, with the participation of Mr. Said Vahid Reza Shah, Financial Management Specialist, and Mr. Yakub Ali Mousavi, Procurement Specialist, visited the Agency on Statistics under President of the Republic of Tajikistan (TAJSTAT) from 21 to 24 June 2011. The purpose of the visit was to establish a cooperation linkage between the two countries and familiarize with the results and achievements of the project for strengthening the national statistical system of Tajikistan as a similar project called “Strengthening the National Statistical System in Afghanistan” funded by the World Bank is under implementation.

The CSO delegation has also been received by Ms. Mukhammadieva Bakhtiya Ziyodulloevna, Director of TAJSTAT. During the meeting, Mr. Bakhtiyor Safarov, TAJSTAT Project Coordinator, briefed the CSO delegation on the results of “Strengthening the National Statistical System of Tajikistan”.

Bangladesh

Census Training for the Master Trainers and Other Staff



An intensive training programme had been initiated for one-hundred-thirty master trainers of the census at the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) Auditorium from 22 to 24 February 2011. During the training session mock training and video display were also introduced as a part of the national event due to deployment of officers from other departments of the government. They worked as District Census Coordinators (DCC) and Zonal Officers (ZO) in this census. This participation in the population census was a reflection of national spirit of unity and the ownership of data.

At the first day of training, the Honourable Minister for Planning Air Vice Marshall (Retired) A. K. Khandker (Bir Uttom), Member of Parliament, was present to encourage the master trainers for their active

participation in the census. The Secretary of Statistics Division, Director General of BBS and other senior officials were also present in the occasion. The Secretary of Statistics Division said that the names of DCCs would be included into the published national reports of the census. She requested all DCCs to be very sincere to this challenging work against any obstacle.

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics Successfully Conducted Population Census



Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) successfully conducted the Fifth Population and Housing Census of Bangladesh from 15 to 19 March 2011. The counting of population in the census started at the zero hour of 15 March 2011. To conduct the census in a systematic manner, a total number of three-hundred-thousand enumerators and forty-three-thousand-one-hundred-ninety-two supervisors from local unemployed youths both male and female were employed for a particular length of period and they all were placed under the direct supervision of Upazila Census Coordinators (UCC) and Zonal Officers (ZO). During the census five-hundred-thirty UCCs and two-thousand-six-hundred-twelve ZOs were supervised by one-hundred-thirty District Census Coordinators (DCC). The whole country territory was divided into one-hundred-thirty census districts. According to the census procedure, the Secretary of Statistics Division acted as the Chief Census Coordinator. The Director General of BBS was the National Census Coordinator and both Joint Secretary and Deputy Director General were the Deputy Census Coordinators of the National Census. A compact efficient strength of census personnel were deployed at the field to carry out the gigantic census operation following the census schedules.



The National Census Programme was launched by registering first the Honourable President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh at 12:01 hour of 15 March 2011 at his presidential residence. Counting started at 12:01 in all over the country. Honourable Planning Minister, Secretary of Statistics Division, representatives of

European Union (EU), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and Project Director were present during the counting. From mid-night until 06:00 a.m. all the floating people of the country were counted. Especially, all persons who were staying at hotels, guest houses, railway stations, bus terminals, markets, etc. and patients residing in hospitals had been counted.



Subsequent morning at 09:30 a.m. Honourable Prime Minister of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh had been registered at Ganobhaban premises. Honourable Minister for Planning, high government officials and the Residential Representatives of EU, UNFPA and USAID were present during the counting. Honourable Speaker of the Parliament at the National Assembly was counted in the same morning at his residence in the parliament premises.

The preparation work started from a year prior to the main counting from 15 to 19 March 2011. Two zonal operations were conducted to finalize the three-hundred-thousand enumeration area (EA) maps and a quick counting the number of households in each EA. During second zonal operation, a preliminary list was prepared to recruit enumerators and supervisors. Final selection was made when the ZOs went to field for training of enumerators and supervisors. A video training manual was used to have a standardized publicity campaign. BBS has undertaken a number of publicity measures to spread awareness among people.

A strategy has been planned with mass media, public outreach and use of digital media as the main pillars for the census publicity among people. At the secondary stage, widely miking and postering were done in local areas, street video plays were displayed at public places. Rallies using banners and posters were organized at different cities and towns. Religious centres, primary & secondary education institutions had also been requested to propagate the census information to individuals. Special publicity effort was undertaken to include the elderly, infants, disabled and females during census counting. Hand-sketched repository enumeration area maps using satellite imageries of mauza maps and field manuals were supplied to each of the enumerators. The day of 20

March 2011 was fixed for the inclusion of left outs during regular census counting. This information was circulated widely to people on specific areas using various publicity measures.

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics Participated in the Workshop on Dissemination of Census Data in Support of Monitoring Millennium Development Goals Indicators for Policy and Decision Making

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics participated in the workshop on “Dissemination of Census Data in Support of Monitoring Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Indicators for Policy and Decision Making” in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from 12 to 14 April 2011. The workshop was organised by the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) with collaborative assistance from the Statistics Division of Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Sub-Regional Office, and the National Statistics Office of the Government of Mongolia (MNSO). The workshop was conducted as a component under the United Nations Development Account Project on “Supporting MDGs-based Developing Strategies through Integrated Regional Action”.

The workshop brought together participants from National Statistical Offices (NSO) and line ministry officials of the governments who are dealing with monitoring of MDGs in the selected countries in Asia Pacific region. The countries were invited to share and experience the best practices in census dissemination and MDG data production and utilization through effective communication. In total there were fourteen participants; seven participants from NSOs representing Laos, Mongolia, Nepal and Bangladesh, while seven participants from line ministries and academia mainly from the host country Mongolia attended the workshop.

Mr. Gamini de Silva, SIAP faculty member; Ms. Margarita Guerrero, Regional Advisor on Statistics; and Mr. Arman Bakhtnia from UNESCAP Statistics Division conducted the workshop with the support from Ms. Roslinda Bautisa, the resource person from



the government of Philippines during the three days. The workshop was designed to increase awareness of national, regional and global MDG monitoring processes and the relevance and use of disaggregated MDG-related data in policy and decision-making. It also strived to enhance skills in disseminating and communicating Census data and indicators for effective use by policy makers, developing relationships with different audiences and presenting data in a way that can be easily understood and used for effectively disseminating and communicating MDG-related data by the participating countries.

In terms of improving the user producer relationships and communication strategies, the workshop helped data users better understand how statisticians work and produce the statistical indicators while at the same time helped statisticians from NSOs understand how they should present and communicate the statistics enabling users and advocates to utilize these effectively in their work. The need for disaggregated data and the use of special tools such as small area estimations were highlighted. The importance of having a master sample frame in the countries was emphasized in the workshop and follow up discussion were held to improve the capacities of the countries in using the tools mentioned in the workshop.

Workshop was conducted for three days and included ten sessions which covered following topics:

- Issues and challenges on MDG assessments in policy dialogues and formulation at global and regional levels: User perspectives;
- Identifying and learning from good practices;
- How should an appropriate tabulation plan be formulated to cater to different user needs?
- Analytical methods;
- Strategies and use of appropriate tools for dissemination of disaggregated census results;
- Small Area Estimation (SAE) for monitoring the MDGs at the sub-national level;
- Master Samples (MS) for household surveys.

For more information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/sQuQ1>



Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics Received Professional Training on Census Data Processing



A three weeks' professional training was provided to nineteen officials of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) on Census and Survey Processing System (CSPPro) beginning on 29 May 2011 for enrichment of data processing system in computers. The training was conducted by joint collaboration of BBS and the United States (US) Census Bureau at the Information and Communication Technologies Laboratory of BBS Headquarters. Two officials from the US Census Bureau carried out the training programme from 29 May to 15 June 2011 and trained up the BBS officials to upgrade the data processing system. On 16 June 2011, a closing ceremony was held in the presence of the chief guest, Secretary of Statistics Division and certificates were distributed among trainees for their excellent performances done in the course. Director General of BBS was the Chairperson. BBS is currently processing the census data in large scale using the latest i-CADE scanner and software in computers under the close supervision of the expert team of the US Census Bureau. Air Vice Marshal (Retired) A. K. Khandker, Minister for Planning, visited the census data processing system.

The Fifth Population Census data are being captured in computers using modern technologies. To expedite data capture of about thirty million households in intelligent character recognition (ICR) machines, the highly sophisticated seven Integrated Computer Aided Data Entry (iCADE) scanners with supportive software have been installed. Meanwhile, data on tally sheets of filled-in questionnaire books have been captured to prepare preliminary report of the Population and Housing Census 2011 under the supervision of the technical team from the US Census Bureau working in BBS. All ICR scanners are being used in BBS.

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics Received Country Training Course on Survey Methodology for Industrial Statistics

The Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), in collaboration with the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan, conducted a Country



Training Course on Survey Methodology for Industrial Statistics from 30 May to 3 June 2011 at the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), Chiba, Japan. The main objective of the course was to strengthen the capacity of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) for improving its industrial statistics.

The course provided a comprehensive view of the issues and topics relating to collection of data on manufacturing sector through surveys, processing of establishment survey data and their use for official statistical work. Specifically, the course enhanced the participants' understanding of the scope and alternative sources of data, methods of data collection and international recommendations for industrial statistics. Participants were also introduced to the related issues, for instance inadequate frames, incomplete responses, response errors, and faulty data processing systems, and techniques for improving quality of survey results using appropriate estimation procedures, editing and imputation.

Besides a comprehensive view of the standard practices and international recommendations on Industrial Statistics, the participants also got an exposure to the system of collection and compilation of industrial statistics in Japan.

A total of nine participants from different units of BBS Headquarters as well as its Regional Offices participated in the training course. All the participants were selected by the BBS. It was a mixed group of experienced and freshly-recruited officials engaged in various stages of survey sampling for industrial statistics in Bangladesh.

In accordance with the Core Skill Framework, more practical sessions were included in the course, which proved to be very effective and was appreciated by all the participants. Most of the participants found the

time allocated for discussions adequate. The discussions and the issues raised during these sessions indicate that all the participants could gain a fairly comprehensive understanding of:

- the framework of economic statistics – System of National Accounts (SNA) 2008;
- scope of industrial statistics;
- possible strategies for collection of industrial statistics;
- appropriate sample designs; and
- issues relating to processing of manufacturing survey data.

The course is expected to have equipped the participants with the basic ideas of the issues relating to survey data quality in practical survey work and develop suitable methods of resolving them.

For more information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/Cb4p1>

Former Secretary and Director General of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics Passed Away

Dr. Ghulam Rabbani, Former Secretary and Director General of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) passed away on 4 June 2011. He was the first Secretary of Statistics Division and Director General of BBS at the same time after its creation. He had much dedication and contribution to statistics and worked at different capacities for the National Statistical Organisation (NSO) of Bangladesh and its up-gradation over more than ten years. On 11 June 2011, the Statistics Division and “Bangladesh Statistical Association” jointly held a Condolence Meeting at BBS Auditorium in the presence of both Finance Minister and Planning Minister. Mrs. Rabbani was also present in the condolence meeting. A long discussion was held on his life and deeds, and great sympathy had been shown to the expired and his grief-stricken family and prayed for the departed-soul on behalf of both organisations as well as employees.



DevInfo Training Workshop Conducted in Bangladesh

A DevInfo training workshop was recently held at the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) offices in Dhaka, Bangladesh from 7 to 11 June 2011. Organized by the Bangladesh Office of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the five-day workshop was attended by fourteen participants from UNICEF Bangladesh, BBS, the Bangladesh Department of Women, and the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

The training highlighted the use of BDInfo 2.0, a country adaptation of the DevInfo database software containing national human development data from a wide range of sources, including Bangladesh Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) and the Bangladesh Economic Census.

Special emphasis was placed on database management techniques like data standardization and harmonization, as well as on mapping skills and adaptation customization techniques.

Commenting while observing the workshop, the Director General of the BBS, Mr. Shahjahan Ali Mollah, affirmed that “the BDInfo application is very useful and I encourage the participants to incorporate these skills in their respective fields.”

Workshop organizers confirmed that the intention behind the training event was that participants would take these newly acquired skills back to their various organizations to support the implementation of BDInfo as a monitoring and reference database for line ministries and UN partners in Bangladesh.

The workshop was closed by Dr. Dipankar Roy, Project Director, BBS, who thanked the participants for attending as well as UNICEF Bangladesh and the DevInfo Support Group for their role in the event.

For more information regarding Bangladesh's progress in implementing DevInfo, please visit: <http://goo.gl/ho0Hg>

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics Delegation Visited Indian Registrar General and Census Commissioner's Office

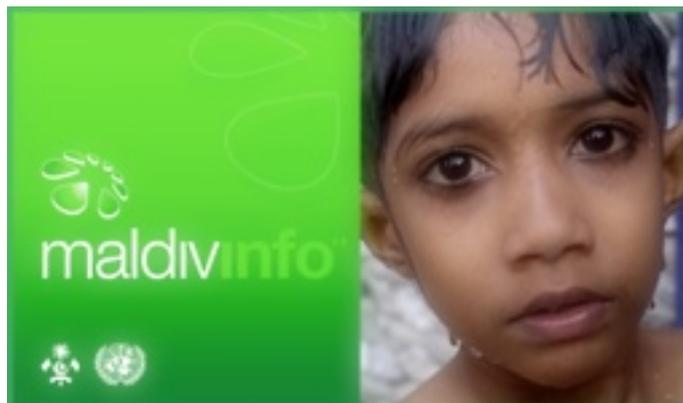


The delegation of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) composed of five members consisting of both administrative and technical officials paid a visit to India to share knowledge on automated form processing using new intelligent character recognition (ICR) technology in census and National Population Register bulk data capture and biometric data collection. The Secretary of Statistics Division led the BBS delegation during the visit lasted from 27 to 29 June 2011. The BBS delegation visited the Indian Registrar General and Census Commissioner's Office located at New Delhi, India. The BBS delegation exchanged their views and experiences in the respective field. The BBS delegation also met the Secretary of the Statistics and Program Implementation and discussed bilateral issues. The Indian Secretary assured providing all possible supports and training to BBS staff.

Maldives

Maldives Moves Ahead with DevInfo to Assist with Monitoring Human Development

The Government of Maldives took steps over the first half of 2011 to position MaldivInfo, a customized adaptation of the DevInfo database system endorsed by the United Nations for monitoring and tracking progress towards achieving the Millennium



Development Goals (MDGs) and other national priorities, as a key tool for monitoring human development.

The Maldives Department of National Planning launched the latest version - MaldivInfo 2.0 - in conjunction with World Statistics Day on 20 October 2010. This version reflects the latest data, including new data from the Tsunami Recovery Impact Assessment and Monitoring System (TRIAMS), the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) and the Statistical Yearbook of Maldives.

MaldivInfo is currently being used as a national MDG monitoring tool, providing key data on the situation of Maldivian women and children to support evidence-based decision-making on their behalf. The software has helped government officials formulate strategies to tackle current development challenges in line with the MDGs. Furthermore, MaldivInfo is being used to generate tables, graphs and maps for use in MDG-related presentations and reports.

To build national capacity in the use of MaldivInfo, the Statistics Division of the Department of National Planning has conducted various training workshops targeting different user groups. These have included training programmes for policymakers at different government agencies, students from higher secondary schools, and college students.

Depending on the audience, these training workshops are intended to accomplish various objectives, including (1) promoting the use of statistics, (2) building awareness of MaldivInfo as a statistical database resource, (3) teaching the use of data for decision making, and (4) explaining how MaldivInfo can help monitor MDGs and other national priorities.

Future plans include updating the MaldivInfo database with final results from the Demographic Health Survey; conducting more training workshops for government officials, university students and the media; and developing new advocacy materials and instructional videos.

For more information, please contact Ashiyath Shazna, Assistant Director, Statistics Development and Coordination Section, Statistics Division, Department of National Planning, at shazna@planning.gov.mv.

Pakistan

Cooperation Agreement among Population Census Organization of Pakistan, United Nations Human Settlements Programme and United Nations Population Fund



The Population Census Organization (PCO) of Pakistan signed an agreement with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to jointly enhance and develop the capacity of the existing geographic information systems (GIS) for the Census Offices in Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar and Quetta.

Mr. Khizar Hayat Khan, Chief Census Commissioner, and Mr. Siamak Moghaddam, UN-HABITAT Country Programme Manager, signed the cooperation agreement MoU on 2 June. The two-year project is funded by UNFPA and One Fund.

The PCO, UN-HABITAT and UNFPA will also help train those using the systems in modern technology and the latest GIS software. The Global Urban Observatory of UN-HABITAT coordinates the monitoring of the Habitat Agenda and the Millennium Development Goals world-wide as part of a quest to help cities ensure they have reliable and up-to-date urban indicators at the local, regional, country levels.

In Pakistan, the UN-HABITAT office is implementing a comprehensive project entitled, GIS automation and capacity building for the statistics division at Federal and Provincial Census Offices as part of the One United Nations Joint Programme Output-1, Institutional Capacity of GIS Laboratories of the PCO.



Member National Statistical Offices in Sub-Saharan Africa

Benin

National Institute of Statistics and Economic Analysis of Benin Took Part in the Meeting of Experts on Civil Registry



The National Institute of Statistics and Economic Analysis (INSAE) of Benin took part in the Meeting of Experts on Civil Registry with the theme “Improving

Civil Status Registration Systems and Combating Document Fraud” within the framework of Support for the Rabat Process on Migration and Development from 9 to 11 May 2011 in Warsaw, Poland. Ms. Mémounath Bissiriou Zounon represented the INSAE during the Meeting.

The overall objective of the Meeting of Experts was to address the issue of civil registration and document fraud in an international mobility framework, exchange expertise and best practices, as well as formulate proposals for transnational cooperation which will strengthen the relevant capacities and exchange of information. The meeting was based on four axes:

- Assessing the situation of civil registry in African and in Europe.
- Improving civil registration systems and ensuring universal access.
- Securing documents and fighting document fraud.
- Facilitating international cooperation among relevant administrations

For more information and documentation access, please visit: <http://goo.gl/mbgSh>

Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso Officially Launched BurkinInfo Database

An official ceremony was held at the Directorate General for Development Cooperation (DGCOOP) in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso on 30 June 2011 to launch BurkinInfo, a national adaptation of the DevInfo database system intended to monitor human and national development goals.

Chaired by Mr. Antoine Zoungrana representing the Minister of Economy and Finance, the launch ceremony was attended by



high-level representatives from various embassies, United Nations (UN) agencies, line ministries and the media.

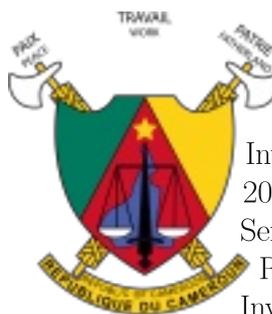
The Director of Information Technology and Broadcasting at the National Institute of Statistics and Demography (INSD), Lassina Paré, presented the numerous features that make BurkinInfo a user-friendly software for decision makers and other stakeholders.

Available on CD-ROM and on the web, the database provides basic disaggregated socio-economic statistics at the national, regional and provincial levels. Intended to support national decision making, the software tool contains hundred-ninety-six indicators from the Strategic Framework for the Fight against Poverty (PRSP), hundred-thirty-two indicators related to the Millennium Development Goals and eighty-five indicators related to monitoring the Priority Action Programme (PAP). The indicators are categorized into ten sectoral themes for national development.

With the support of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), a database management committee involving all stakeholders in the national statistical system has been established to manage future database updates. The BurkinInfo Database is available at <http://goo.gl/N0Lqu>. For more information, please contact Martine Fyato, Information Technology Engineer, INSD, at martinefyato@yahoo.fr.

Cameroon

Seminar on Activities of Integrated Public Use Microdata Series International



A seminar on the Activities of the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) International took place on 15 April 2011 in Yaounde, Cameroon. The Seminar was delivered by Prof. Robert McCaa, Principal Investigator of IPUMS International, and coordinated by Mr. Barnabas Okouda, Head of the Department of Coordination, Cooperation and Research in the National Institute of Statistics (INS) of Cameroon.

At the outset of the Seminar, Mr. Joseph Tedou, Director General of the INS, delivered the opening remarks and emphasized that IPUMS offers a platform for the use of population censuses from various countries. He concluded his remarks by stating that such a project can be viable if anonymity for the individual data is guaranteed to each country wishing to take part in this initiative.

Following Mr. Tedou, Prof. McCaa took the floor and introduced the philosophy of IPUMS International to the audience. He mentioned that the objective of IPUMS International is to disseminate census microdata and metadata from different countries to researchers in the world while ensuring confidentiality. Following the presentation of significant concepts in IPUMS, Prof. McCaa exhibited some features available on the web interface of IPUMS International.

The Seminar continued with a Question and Answer Session and then ended with a luncheon hosted by the INS. For more information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/RWLO2>

Gambia

New Gambia Information Database Launched



The new GAMInfo database, containing the most recent human development data for the Gambia, was officially launched on 1 June 2011 in Banjul by the Vice President of the Republic of the Gambia, Madam Dr. Isatou Njie Saidy. Efforts to develop GAMInfo were led by the Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBoS) with support from the United Nations system in the Gambia. The database contains data on indicators required for monitoring national and international frameworks and programmes, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper and Vision 2020.

In her speech, the Vice President stressed that the GAMInfo launch was very important, given the paucity of human development data in the country. “We need to invest seriously in enhancing capacities in data collection, analysis and dissemination, as an important pre-requisite for effectively measuring progress.”

She urged stakeholders to make the best use of the new database, including using the data in all aspects of planning, noting that it was regrettable that till now, many useful research findings lay scattered around in various offices gathering dust in shelves without being used for decision-making.

The Vice President recounted the process of the development of GAMInfo, noting that the GAMInfo initiative had gone through several hurdles before its successful launch. One major challenge related to the absence of uniform data sets for key indicators used for monitoring national and international targets, resulting in the need of the GAMInfo team to harmonize conflicting data. “It is our fervent hope that GAMInfo will be effectively utilized as a powerful advocacy tool in the promotion of evidence-based policy making, programme monitoring and evaluation,” she shared.

The Vice President further noted that the database will be continuously updated with the latest data from national surveys and censuses, as well as data from other institutions and agencies. “Every institution should recognize the collaborative nature of such ventures and ensure that their datasets are available to GBoS on time to update this invaluable data dissemination platform.”

Following the Vice President's remarks, Alieu SM Ndow, Statistician at GBoS, told the gathering that the main aim of the GAMInfo tool was the creation of a common national database that represents all sectors, to enable easy access of data on key development indicators for effective planning, monitoring and decision-making. He further explained that with minimal training, users can easily retrieve and organize data on indicators according to areas of interest and then present the information through graphs, maps, tables.

The GAMInfo database is available online at <http://goo.gl/RH5Xj>. For more information, please contact Lamin Dibba of GBoS at lbldibba2001@yahoo.com.

Gambia National Assembly Members Trained in GamInfo

The Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBoS) conducted a five-day training on the national GamInfo database for National Assembly Members from 27 June to 1 July 2011. GamInfo was launched in June 2011 by GBoS in collaboration with the United Nations (UN) System.

The objective of the training was to equip members of the National Assembly with greater knowledge on key development indicators and skills to access development data from the GamInfo database, to support more effective and efficient planning and decision-making.

Speaking on the occasion, Honourable Fatou Mbye, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, said the training was not only worthwhile but timely. "The training will enhance our knowledge on certain sectors as well as [beef up] information on the country," she affirmed. "It will help us in our planning," she added, while commending GBoS for giving them the opportunity to receive such training. Hon. Mbye asserted that the knowledge gained from the training would trickle down to other development partners, citing the importance of data in any planning and decision-making process.

Aliou S.M. Ndow, GBoS Statistician General, in his remarks shared that the UN System has been supportive of their initiative, adding that GBoS works closely with other government sectors, ministries and agencies in data collection.

National Assembly Member for Serrekunda West, Honourable Sulayman Joof, while delivering the vote of thanks, applauded GBoS for the training opportunity and described the training as "one of the best so far" they have had in terms of relevance and importance.

For more information, please contact Lamin Dibba, GamInfo Administrator in GBoS at gaminfo2009@gmail.com.



Mozambique

Mozambique Forges Ahead with DevInfo Implementation to Support National Development



The National Institute of Statistics (INE) of Mozambique continues to forge ahead with DevInfo implementation, in support of national development efforts. The country adaptation of the DevInfo database system, ESDEM (Estatísticas Sociais, Demográficas e Económicas de Moçambique), was originally launched by INE in 2002 and is now in its fifth version, ESDEM Web.

ESDEM Web contains two important databases used for tracking the status of human development in Mozambique. The first, Info Moçambique 2011, helps monitor the nation's progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other national level plans such as the Poverty Reduction Action Plan (PARP). The other database, CensusInfo Moçambique, contains data on the three national censuses held since independence (1980, 1997 and 2007).

INE has appointed an ESDEM Database Administration and Management team consisting of three full-time staff who liaise with various government line ministries to collect data and update the databases. INE has also been active since 2005 in building capacity at the national and provincial levels through trainings, with a total of six-hundred people across the country having been trained in using ESDEM to generate data for decision making.

Since 2005, ESDEM has been used as the main information source by all Working Groups to develop the country's MDG Reports. ESDEM is also being used by consultants and other stakeholders to monitor the implementation of the Population Project in Zambezia province. Inspired by ESDEM, the DevInfo database software is also being used by other institutions, including the National Institute for Calamity Management (INGC) and various government

departments, to create databases for organizing, storing, and disseminating data. ESDEM has proven to be a key tool to support planning and programming activities in Mozambique, contributing to the country's socio-economic development.

The ESDEM is available online at <http://goo.gl/ID6GB>. For more information, please contact Laura Duarte, Head of Department of Vital and Social Statistics, INE, at laura.duarte@ine.gov.mz or Iva Pires, Mozambique Office of the United Nations Children's Office (UNICEF), at ipires@unicef.org.

Niger

Workshop to Update National Database Conducted in Niger



The Niger Institute of Statistics (INS), in partnership with the United Nations (UN) system, recently conducted the first of two annual workshops held to update the NigerInfo database. NigerInfo, a rich statistical database containing national and sub-national data on three-hundred-six indicators from various socio-economic sectors, is an adaptation of the DevInfo database system endorsed by the United Nations Development Group for monitoring progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and other national priorities.

Themed “Data for Decisions”, the three-day workshop was held from 1 to 3 June 2011 in Sadoré, about fifty kilometers from the capital Niamey. Twenty participants were in attendance, with varying expertise in the production, management and dissemination of statistical data. By the end of the workshop, the assembled team was able to update two-hundred-thirteen of the three-hundred-six indicators in the database. INS aims to update the NigerInfo database in 2011 in an effort to make available reliable and updated national human development information to all participants in the

upcoming Niger Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy 2008-2012 revision exercise.

The NigerInfo Database is available at <http://goo.gl/c2JJI>. For more information, please contact Ousmane Souleymane, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Niger Office of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), at osouleymane@unicef.org.

Nigeria

Nigeria Launched New Web Portal to Share Census Data

The National Population Commission, under the authority of the Federal Government of Nigeria, launched NigeriaInfo, an online portal intended to disseminate the country's most recent census data, in June 2011. The NigeriaInfo adaptation is a key component of the Nigeria Census Portal Project, executed under the National Population Commission. The purpose of the Nigeria Census Portal Project is to disseminate data from the recent 2006 national census and other demographic data collected by the Commission. Launched with the support of the European Union, the project provides global online access to aggregated demographic macro data from the 2006 census, such as data on migration, vital registration, housing and education.

The NigeriaInfo presents census data at three different geographic area levels: national, state and local government area. The database contains data for a broad spectrum of human development indicators, both Millennium Development Goal (MDG) related and country specific.

The NigeriaInfo is available at <http://goo.gl/zbKHW>. For more information, please contact the Nigeria Census Portal Project Administrator at geportal@population.gov.ng.



News from Other International Organisations

Conferences, Forums, Meetings and Sessions

Expert Group Meeting on the Post-Ministerial Conference Activities on Improving Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems in Africa

The Expert Group Meeting on the Post-Ministerial Conference Activities on Improving Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems in Africa was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 17 to 21 January 2011. The meeting was attended by fifty-four invited experts from twenty-one countries, representing national statistical and civil registration offices, statistical training centres and representatives of young statisticians. International organisations were also represented, and the organizing partners sent their own experts to coordinate and facilitate the meeting, and contribute to the discussions.

The experts have concluded their meeting requesting premier regional organisations and other development partners to support the implementation of the Regional Medium-Term Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Plan and the Call to Action document based on the declaration made by the Ministers responsible for Civil Registration during the conference held in August 2010.

During the five-day meeting, the experts reviewed and finalized the Regional Medium-term CRVS Plan whose draft the ministers endorsed last August 2010. The expert meeting concluded by endorsing a set of recommendations on various initiatives that are critical in speeding-up the implementation of the resolution of the first ministerial declaration.

For more information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/0Ehv7>

Expert Group Meeting on the Analysis of the Second Round of Cognitive Testing on Disability

As part of United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)'s work to strengthen national statistical offices' capacity to collect comparable data on disability, the UNESCAP Statistics Division organised an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) from 1 to 3 February 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand to review the results of a second round of cognitive testing

of the Washington Group (WG)/UNESCAP extended question set to measure disability through surveys. The specific objectives of the Expert Group Meeting (EGM) were to:

- i. discuss the results of the second round of cognitive testing of a question set on disability, in particular on the domains of communication, hearing, affect, pain and fatigue;
- ii. further train senior statisticians from Asia-Pacific on the skills required to undertake the analysis of cognitive interviews; and
- iii. discuss future areas of work on disability data collection and measurement.

The meeting was attended by representatives of five countries including Maldives as an OIC Member Country, and resource persons from the National Centre for Health Statistics (NCHS) of the United States of America. Sessions evolved around the analysis of the cognitive test using the web-based software Q-Notes that has been developed by the NCHS for this purpose. Participants followed a three-step approach while discussing the results:

- i. within interview analysis, to address basic response errors;
- ii. across interview analysis, to observe patterns of interpretation and processes on what questions capture based on interviewees' responses; and
- iii. across sub-group analysis, to address potential bias for different group categories.

The meeting concluded with a final recommendation on questions to be used in an extended set for surveys.

As a follow-up to UNESCAP and the WG's efforts to develop question sets to measure disability, participants underlined the importance of further in-country advocacy to familiarize government ministries/agencies, disabled persons organisations and policy-makers in the use of the World Health Organisation International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) approach to measuring disability. Country representatives also suggested taking a more strategic approach by including the WG short and extended questions sets as separate modules in their household and labour force surveys as well as in censuses, such as Maldives did in their 2009 Demographic and Health Survey, the Philippines in its 2010 Census and Sri Lanka in its 2011 Census. UNESCAP and the WG agreed to support countries in these efforts and to

provide them with a framework to analyse and disseminate data obtained through this novel approach.

For more information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/pkjVj>

Global Forum on Trade Statistics: Measuring Global Trade - Do We Have the Right Numbers?

The Global Forum on Trade Statistics with the theme "Measuring Global Trade - Do we have the right numbers?", organised jointly by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and the Statistical Office of the European Union (EUROSTAT), and in collaboration with the World Trade Organisation (WTO) took place from 2 to 4 February 2011 in Geneva, Switzerland at the WTO.

Mr. Zainuddin Bin Ahmad, Director of the External Trade Statistics Division, Department of Statistics, Malaysia; and Mr. Zainol Jamil, Principal Assistant Director, Balance of Payments Statistics Division, Department of Statistics, Malaysia made presentations (available at <http://goo.gl/OQMzc>) in the session "Country perspective on adjusting to the new recommendations". Also Mr. Houssaine Ouljour, Head of Methodologies and Statistical Surveys Unit, Foreign Exchange Office, Morocco delivered a presentation (available at <http://goo.gl/nhxAl>) in the session "Compilation of international merchandise trade statistics: Future of customs recording and seizing the potential of non-customs administrative sources and enterprise surveys".

The Forum underlined the need of policy makers for trade statistics that are policy relevant and insightful as against the challenges of the statisticians to make it happen. This Global Forum also aimed at reaching conclusions on the way forward in producing high quality trade statistics that are relevant for analysing issues of globalization and trade policy.

For more information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/fGHzn>

Fifteenth Conference of Commonwealth Statisticians

The Fifteenth Conference of Commonwealth Statisticians, organised by the Central Statistics Office, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation of India, was held in New Delhi, India from 7 to 10 February 2011. The Conference brought together more than five-hundred participants comprising fifty-five

delegates from forty commonwealth countries including Bangladesh, Brunei, Cameroon, Gambia, Guyana, Malaysia, Maldives, Mozambique, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, and Uganda, thirty-six participants from fifteen international organisations including the Statistical Office of the European Union (EUROSTAT), International Monetary Fund (IMF), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Bank, and World Health Organisation (WHO), senior officers from Indian Central Government, State Government, former Director Generals and experts/academicians from universities/institutes.

The inaugural and plenary sessions were followed by six technical sessions (three session on different themes running parallel). During these sessions, thirty-three papers were presented and six papers were circulated. During these technical sessions:

- a. The participants deliberated on issues of relevance to Commonwealth Countries particularly in the field of managing economic, social and environmental issues inter-alia including the current issues of developing appropriate economic and social indicators measuring bubbles in the economy, the progress of societies and issues of demographic transition.
- b. The delegates during the process of deliberations highlighted many important issues ranging from bridging the gap between theoretical and practicing statisticians, need for exchange of information/experts between member countries for capacity development, cross border sharing of information and best practices, development of indicators for assessing the progress of statistical system and identifying technology based methodology for development of statistical databases in new emerging areas.

The last technical session on 'Vision for Conference of Commonwealth Statisticians', attended to only by delegates from Commonwealth Countries, was chaired by Mr. Dennis Roberts, Office for National Statistics of the United Kingdom. Initiating the discussion by giving the historical background, major achievements and benefits accrued and need for taking the agenda further, a number of sub-groups were formed on certain identified issues relating to the theme.

Based upon the reports presented by the sub-groups, discussion were held and following observations were made:

- a. There was an agreement on the important role to be played by Commonwealth Statisticians in the context of statistical challenges being faced across the world by holding statistical conferences. Acknowledging that at present there is no permanent platform for taking the agenda of Commonwealth statisticians forward, it was opined that some linkage of this forum be established with the Commonwealth Secretariat or possibly other regional/international organisations so that conference on such important issues could be held more frequently than the current frequency of once in five years.
- b. At the end of the conference, a working group of ten countries namely Australia, Belize, Cameroon, Canada, Ghana, Guyana, India, South Africa, Tonga and UK was constituted to guide for continuity of the network of Commonwealth Statisticians and for evolving the future framework.

For more information and documentation access, please visit: <http://goo.gl/i9SkM>

Seventeenth Session of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities

The Seventeenth Session of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) was held in New York on 21 February 2011 on the margin of the Forty-Second Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission. The session was chaired by the two Co-chairs of the Committee - Mr. Pieter Everaers, Director of the External Cooperation, Communication and Key Indicators at the Statistical Office of the European Union (EUROSTAT), and Mr. Henri Laurencin, Head of the Development Statistics and Information Branch, Division on Globalization and Development Strategies of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The session brought together forty-eight participants from thirty-three international organisations.

The agenda of the session included the following items:

1. Application of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for membership in the Committee
2. Global Inventory of Statistical Standards: Progress report, discussion of the more detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) and presentation of the first prototype
3. Partner Report on Support to Statistics (PRESS): Update on measuring the effectiveness of statistical capacity building

4. Quality and dissemination: First exchange of views how the discussion during the Eighteenth Session of CCSA session will be organised
5. Progress report of the Human Capital Task Team 1 “Defining profile of international statisticians and recruitment policy”
6. Progress report of the Human Capital Task Team 2 “Training of international statisticians; staff exchange and mobility”
7. Network of statisticians working in International Organizations: Progress report and discussion of the TOR of a club of statisticians working in International Organizations
8. Use of non-official data in imputations/estimations made by International Organizations: Update on the Task Team progress with formulation of best practices in use of non-official data
9. Dissemination of microdata: Progress report of the Task Team, including discussion on its TOR
10. Review of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) paper on Food Security
11. Review of the multi- year programme of work of the UN Statistical Commission
12. CCSA and the Global Statistical System: Further discussion on System of National Accounts (SNA) 2008 implementation issues

The Committee reconfirmed that its next Eighteenth Session will be held in Luxembourg, from 7 to 9 September 2011, hosted by EUROSTAT.

For more information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/QMBRx>

Forty-Second Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission

The United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) held its Forty-Second Session at United Nations Headquarters from 22 to 25 February 2011. The session was attended by representatives of twenty-four States members of the Commission, of which seven of them were OIC Member States including Cameroon, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Sudan, Suriname, and Togo. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-member States (of which twenty-five of were OIC Member States), representatives of organisations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organisations also attended.

At its first meeting, on 22 February 2011, the Commission elected by acclamation Mr. Ali bin

Mahboob Al-Raisi, Director General of Census Department, Oman, as Chair. Also at the first meeting, the Commission invited the following organisations to participate as observers at its forty-second session: the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the Economic and Statistical Observatory of Sub-Saharan Africa, the International Energy Agency and the Pacific Community.

The Commission held six meetings including

1. Election of officers;
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters;
3. Items for discussion and decision;
4. Items for information;
5. Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division);
6. Provisional agenda and dates for the forty-third session of the Commission.

For more information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/ZE2zX>

Conference on Strengthening Sectoral Position and Flow Data in the Macroeconomic Accounts

The Conference on Strengthening Sectoral Position and Flow Data in the Macroeconomic Accounts was organised jointly by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) as part of international efforts to address information gaps exposed by the recent global crisis. The Conference was attended by sixty-six professionals from central banks and national statistical offices of the Group of Twenty (G-20) economies and some non-G-20 economies including Indonesia, Saudi Arabia and Turkey , as well as from international organisations.

The main objective of the Conference was to seek consensus on the strategy for expanding the dissemination and reporting of annual and quarterly sectoral accounts by G-20 economies and non-G-20 advanced economies. The expansion would involve improving the compilation of sectoral national accounts in terms of breakdowns (subsectors and asset details) and closing data gaps as well as developing flow of funds on a from-whom-to-whom basis.

The Conference was a part of the work program for implementing Recommendation 15 of the G-20 Data

Gaps Initiative as described in the joint IMF and Financial Stability Board Secretariat report, “The Financial Crisis and Information Gaps” that was endorsed by G-20 finance ministers and central bank governors at their meeting in November 2009. Recommendation 15 calls for developing “a strategy to promote the compilation and dissemination of the balance sheet approach (BSA), flow of funds, and sectoral data more generally, starting with the G-20 economies.” This strategy is guided by a working group that has been created under the auspices of the Inter Agency Group on Economic and Financial Statistics (IAG), which is chaired by the IMF and comprised of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), the European Central Bank (ECB), the Statistical Office of the European Union (EUROSTAT), the IMF, the OECD, the United Nations, and the World Bank..

In addition, the work program for the Eighth Review of the IMF’s Data Standards Initiatives, provisionally scheduled for the first half of 2012, also includes the possibility of strengthening the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) by considering the dissemination of sectoral balance sheet information.

The participants welcomed the Conference as providing a good opportunity to discuss the status of the availability of sectoral accounts. The Conference was seen as a timely event that will help countries to develop plans for strengthening sectoral accounts particularly in view of on-going efforts to implement the System of National Accounts 2008 (2008 SNA) and European System of Accounts 2010 (ESA 2010).

There was also an understanding that countries are at different stages of implementation of the sectoral accounts. Designing and implementing changes to or initiating new data collection systems are costly and that priorities must therefore be established among the various potential improvements.

For more information and documentation access, please visit: <http://goo.gl/gKmC6>

DevInfo Global Consultation Brought Stakeholders Together to Discuss Future Support to the DevInfo Initiative

The DevInfo Global Consultation took place in late February and early March 2011 in New York, United States of America. Twenty-eight participants from United Nations (UN) agencies, the World Bank,

national governments, a Non-Governmental Organisation and the DevInfo Support Group came together to discuss ideas for an effective and sustainable approach to long-term support of the DevInfo initiative.

The Consultation was initiated as a result of recommendations of the 2009 Global Evaluation of DevInfo, which noted that “the inter-agency funding mode of DevInfo should be pursued,” as well as the 06 October 2010 Decision Sheet of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG). The UNDG decision, in particular, requested that the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) lead a consultative process to discuss the long-term funding and management mechanisms for DevInfo.

The Consultation noted that substantial benefits have been gained through the DevInfo initiative at country level, in particular with respect to strengthening national monitoring and evaluation systems, and promoting standards for storage and dissemination of national indicator data. It was also noted that UNICEF continues to shoulder an inequitable burden for support of DevInfo, and that other UN agencies and partners are able to capitalize on this.

A key recommendation from the consultation, therefore, was that a multi-donor trust fund, which allows for receipt of funds at an inter-agency secretariat, and funding of activities via a proposal vetting process, should be established in order to better support UN strategic objectives around the use of strengthened data systems for evidence-based policy and decision-making. In the meantime, while this system is being established, the existing Long-Term Agreement with Community Systems Foundation for implementation of DevInfo services will continue as planned until June 2012.

An additional topic covered during the Consultation at the request of the UNDG was the new module for monitoring the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) at country level. This UNDAF Info tool has been piloted and a summary report was presented to the UNDAF Programming Network in April 2011.

There is now wide acceptance of the value of using DevInfo technology for monitoring UNDAFs, and the upcoming June 2011 meeting of the UNDG will aim to ensure that the tool is integrated into UN system support for strengthened UNDAFs.

Fifth East Asia Expert Meeting on Manufacturing Statistics and Ninth Meeting of Association of Southeast Asian Nations Economic Ministers and Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan Economic and Industrial Cooperation Committee Working Group on Statistics

The Fifth East Asia Expert Meeting on Manufacturing Statistics (EAMS) and Ninth Meeting of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Economic Ministers and Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan (AEM-METI) Economic and Industrial Cooperation Committee Working Group on Statistics (AMEICC WGS) took place from 7 to 9 March 2011 in Seoul, South Korea and were hosted by Statistics Korea (KOSTAT) and AMEICC Secretariat. Participants from thirteen countries including Brunei, Indonesia, and Malaysia, and from international organisations including the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and AMEICC Secretariat attended the meetings.

The participants presented each of their experiences in recoding manufacturing data from their respective National Standard Industrial Classification to the East Asia Manufacturing Industrial Classification (EAMIC). The EAMS Secretariat provided the outcome of the EAMS Meetings, where the East Asia Manufacturing Comparative Matrix Table (ECMAT) was finalized. The meeting noted the importance of the exchange of information and views on data collection, data dissemination and survey methodology.

Acknowledging the importance of sustaining the collaboration among ASEAN plus Three (China, Japan, and South Korea), the participants at the meeting agreed to increase their efforts into the measures such as human networking and updating the ECMAT data to further developing manufacturing statistics and to collaborate with regional and international organisations.

For more information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/ZfeJf>

Dissemination Meeting for Heads of National Implementing Agencies

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) organised the Dissemination Meeting for Heads of National Implementing Agencies (NIA) on 8 March 2011 in Manila, Philippines. The meeting was attended by forty participants from seventeen countries including

Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, and Pakistan; and international organisations including the ADB, African Development Bank (AfDB), ICP Global Office, and World Bank.

The meeting presented the 2009 purchasing power parity (PPPs) and corresponding PPP-based gross domestic products (GDPs) which are outcomes of a research initiative under RETA 6482 (Improving Price Collection of Non-Household Expenditure Components and Updating of PPP Estimates for Selected Developing Member Countries (DMC)). The updates are the results of the collective and cooperative efforts of the NIAs and the ADB.

For more information and documentation access, please visit: <http://goo.gl/aDZJh>

Conference on Developments in the International Comparison Program in Asia and the Pacific

The Conference on Developments in the International Comparison Program (ICP) in Asia and the Pacific was the first gathering in the region organised by the Asian Development Bank from 9 to 10 March 2011 in Manila, Philippines.

The conference brought together officials from the national implementing agencies of nineteen countries including Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, and Pakistan, statisticians, and economists from the academe; national and international organisations including the World Bank; ICP Regional offices; and, United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (UNSIAP) where recent developments in the ICP in Asia and the Pacific, and other ICP regions were presented and discussed.

Topics discussed included:

- 2009 Purchasing Power Parities (PPP) Updating Methodology and the 2009 PPPs;
- Subnational PPPs;
- National Accounts in Asia and the Pacific;
- 2011 ICP at the Global level;
- ICP regional programs in Asia and the Pacific; Africa; West Asia; and,
- ICP at the country level in Jordan.

For more information and documentation access, please visit: <http://goo.gl/ga9C3>

Assessing Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems in the Asia-Pacific Region

In June 2010, health experts, registrars and statisticians from Asia-Pacific attended a regional forum on civil registration and vital statistics held in Bangkok, Thailand. The main result of the forum was an outcome statement calling upon governments and international organisations for urgent action to increase their support in strengthening civil registration and vital statistics systems in the Asia-Pacific region. Subsequent to the forum, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) Committee on Statistics endorsed a regional programme for the improvement of vital statistics and civil registration in Asia and the Pacific.

Following the outcome of the forum and the endorsement of a regional programme by UNESCAP's Committee of Statistics, the Statistics Division organised a meeting from 28 to 31 March 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand to bring together senior representatives from health ministries, registrars-general offices and national statistical offices, to introduce the World Health Organisation (WHO) Guidance Tool as a basis for conducting a detailed assessment.

The meeting brought together key officials of eleven countries including Bangladesh, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, and Turkey that have explicitly requested support to undertake a detailed evaluation of their civil registration and vital statistics systems.

The Meeting had the following objectives to:

- i. explain the framework and the main steps in reviewing countries' civil registration and vital statistics systems;
- ii. examine country experiences and lessons learnt from piloting the assessment;
- iii. familiarize experts with the WHO Guidance Tool;
- iv. discuss how to move from the assessment to a national implementation plan for the improvement of civil registration and vital statistics systems; and
- v. identify needs for support in conducting the detailed assessment.

As a follow up to this regional meeting, a national workshop would be organised in those countries undertaking the detailed assessment, to review and discuss the draft assessment. This would take place approximately six weeks after the regional meeting. Subsequently, a final in-country meeting would take

place once the detailed assessment is finalized, to raise awareness by sharing the results with policy-makers, and to gain national support for the improvement of civil registration and vital statistics systems.

For more information and documentation access, please visit: <http://goo.gl/ZKUbV>

Implementing the Group of Twenty (G-20) Data Gaps Recommendations: State of Play and Next Steps

The Statistics Department of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) jointly with the Financial Stability Board (FSB) Secretariat organised a conference of the Group of Twenty (G-20) senior officials on the G-20 Data Gaps Initiative at the IMF Headquarters in Washington D.C., United States of America from 30 to 31 March 2011.

The conference was attended by senior representatives from all G-20 members including Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey, as well as Hong Kong SAR, the Netherlands, Singapore, Spain, and Switzerland, and eight international financial institutions.

The conference was part of the consultation process leading to the preparation of the next progress report to be delivered to the G-20 Ministers of Finance and Central Bank Governors in June 2011. The main purpose of the conference was to take stock of the advancements being made, discuss main messages emerging from the G-20 bilateral consultations by the IMF staff, and identify issues requiring further action and priorities going forward.

The conference featured presentations and contributions from the international institutions working on the G-20 recommendation, including the FSB Secretariat, the International Organisation of Securities Commissions, and the members of the Inter-Agency Group on Economic and Financial Statistics (IAG) including the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), European Central Bank (ECB), the Statistical Office of the European Union (EUROSTAT), IMF (chair), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the United Nations (UN), and the World Bank.

For more information and documentation access, please visit: <http://goo.gl/p61VF>

Third Meeting of the African Group on Statistical Training and Human Resource

The African Group on Statistical Training and Human Resource (AGROST) held its third meeting in Maputo, Mozambique from 4 to 6 April 2011. The meeting was jointly organised by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) in close collaboration with the National Institute of Statistics of Mozambique (INE) and was attended by thirty-four participants, representatives of African Statistical Training Centres (STCs), National Statistical Offices (NSO), African young statisticians, and regional and international partners.

The main objective of this meeting was to ensure the coordination of activities and initiatives in support of statistical training and human resources development in Africa. At the inception of AGROST, its members committed on a number of actions to be undertaken. During the meeting, the AGROST members went through the implementation of these activities. In line with the terms of reference of the Group, UNECA has commissioned studies on the following subjects:

- Compendium of African STCs;
- Review of statistical curricula of existing STCs;
- Harmonization and standardization of statistical curricula and qualifications; and
- Statistical training needs and capacity assessment.

Given the interdependency between the four subjects, the participants suggested a combination of the four studies into one composed of four chapters and clearly defined the logical sequence.

Representatives of STCs, NSOs, partners and young statisticians made informative presentations on their views and activities on statistical training in the region. The meeting also proposed a number of priority modules and curricula to be elaborated in the framework of the Statistical Training Programme for Africa and the Global Strategy for Improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics.

The meeting finally concluded in a couple of partnership actions between UNECA and GIZ in order to enhance the capacity of the AGROST Secretariat to respond to the increasing activities in the future.

For more information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/hZiO3>

Third Preparatory Meeting of the Proposed United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) of the Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) in cooperation with the United Nations Cartographic Section (UNCS) of the Department of Field Support (DFS) convened the Third Preparatory Meeting on Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM) in New York from 4 to 6 April 2011. Sixty experts from twenty countries including Burkina Faso and Malaysia, six United Nations (UN) entities and eleven regional and international organisations attended the Meeting.

The third preparatory meeting of the proposed UN Committee of Experts on GGIM in New York discussed the report on GGIM to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the inter-governmental process. In addition, the meeting discussed the agenda and the modality of the forthcoming UN Forum on GGIM to be held in Seoul, Republic of Korea on 25-28 October 2011. The UNSD and the UNCS served as the secretariat and facilitate the process.

The UNSD, jointly with the UNCS, has convened two preparatory meetings on Global Geospatial Information Management - the first in Bangkok in October 2009, prior to the Eighteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific (UNRCC-AP), and the second in New York, in May 2010. In both meetings, the Member States and international professional bodies warmly welcomed the GGIM initiative and strongly supported the idea of establishing a UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management to coordinate the various activities on geospatial information management. The Member States also voiced the idea of an inter-governmental Forum to explore global geospatial issues, and agreed on the organisation of the first United Nations Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management, to be held at the Republic of Korea in 2011.

The issue of global geospatial information management was discussed at the Eighteenth UNRCC-AP and the Forty-First Session of the UN Statistical Commission. Subsequently, in July 2010, the ECOSOC decided to request the Secretary-General to submit to the Council at its 2011 substantive session a report on global geospatial information management. This decision paved the way for the endorsement process of the GGIM initiative.

The meeting reached the conclusion that the report on GGIM, commissioned by ECOSOC in July 2010, as amended, could be submitted to the next session of ECOSOC in July 2011. Experts were given an opportunity to submit specific comments and corrections by 13 April to UNSD. Based on these inputs the Secretariat would then finalize the Secretary General's report in close consultation with the co-chairs.

For more information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/JuHNr>

Tenth Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas

The Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) held its tenth meeting in Havana, from 6 to 8 April 2011. The meeting, organised by ECLAC and National Statistical Office of Cuba, was attended by representatives of twenty-three countries including Suriname as an OIC Member Country, and the following United Nations funds, bodies and specialized agencies including the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Labour Organisation (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), World Bank and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Representatives of the following intergovernmental organisations were also present: Latin American Integration Association (LAIA), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Andean Community, Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI), Statistical Office of the European Union (EUROSTAT) and Central American Integration System (SICA).

The tenth meeting of the Executive Committee reviewed the status of implementation of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2009-2011; of resolution 6 (V) adopted by the Conference at its fifth meeting; and of the agreements adopted by the Executive Committee at its ninth meeting. At its tenth meeting, the Executive Committee also reviewed the operating modalities of the working groups of the Conference in order to propose measures aimed at strengthening their achievements. In addition, the Executive Committee

decided upon the preliminary agenda, place and date of the sixth meeting of the Conference and defined the substantive issues to be discussed on that occasion.

For more information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/bluc3>

Fourth High Level Expert Group Meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organisation National Statistical Offices

The Fourth High Level Expert Group (HLEG) Meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) National Statistical Offices (NSO) was held from 7 to 8 April, 2011 in Islamabad and hosted by Federal Bureau of Statistics of Pakistan. The Meeting was attended by the delegations of the Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Turkey and Pakistan (host). Representatives of Iran, Kyrgyzstan and the Uzbekistan also attended the meeting, as well as the delegation from the ECO Secretariat and international organisations including German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21), and Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO).

In his inaugural statement, Mr. Asif Bajwa Secretary for Statistics Division of Government of Pakistan mentioned the current dynamics in ongoing statistical activities and highlighted the importance of the enhancement of cooperation among national statistical offices within the region. Effective sharing of the expertise on modern data processing techniques as well as the methodological dimension were named among the prime tasks of statistics in the ECO region. Against this background, the Federal Bureau of Statistics (FBS) of Pakistan has invited the ECO Member States to benefit from its training programme scheduled in July 2011. With the expression of deep satisfaction with the opportunity of an open dialogue on most salient issues on statistical capacity building using the platform of the Fourth HLEGM of ECO Member States, the Delegations spoke on the need for a more dynamic training on reviewed statistical systems. To this effect, the FBS has offered to establish ECO Statistical Training Center in Pakistan to meet such training needs on statistics in the region.

The HLEG Meeting discussed future cooperation among NSOs of ECO countries in the field of statistics for realizing the ECO Framework of Cooperation and Plan of Action on statistics. During the session on

“Country Reports of Delegates on the Follow-up of the Third HLEGM”, delegations of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Pakistan, and Turkey made their presentations / statements on the follow-ups of the Third HLEGM that was held from 5 to 6 October 2010 in Kabul, Afghanistan.

In order to strengthen capacity building, Azerbaijan suggested improving, among others, the Millennium Development Goals data indicators by focusing on poverty and infant mortality. Turkey’s suggestion to develop regional capacity building strategy with due account to specific requirements of individual countries was welcomed by participants. Afghanistan has highlighted the increasing importance to develop agriculture statistics in the region. This point was well supported by all participants of the HLEGM. ECO’s cooperation with international partners on statistics has been constructively supplemented by statements delivered by FAO, PARIS 21, IDB and GIZ. The Meeting has called for ECO Member States’ nominations of their focal points for ECO Statistical Network. Further upgrades of the Network were mentioned for the discussion of the next Fifth HLEGM in 2012.

Other agenda items of the meeting for discussion included:

- Development of the ECO Statistical Network (ECOSTAT);
- Work plan of the Committee on Regional Harmonized Statistical Methodology;
- Comprehensive capacity building programme on statistics; and
- Regional and international cooperation.

For more information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/YkcfL>

Sub-Saharan Africa Economic and Statistical Observatory’s Council of Ministers Held its Twentieth Session

The Sub-Saharan Africa Economic and Statistical Observatory’s (AFRISTAT) Council of Ministers held its Twentieth Session on 11 April 2011 in N’Djamena, Chad under the chairmanship of Mr. Louis-Paul Motaze, Minister of Economy, Planning and Regional Development of Cameroon.

Seventeen member states attended the meeting including Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad,

Comoros, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, and Togo . The representatives of sub-regional economic integration institutions and central banks of member states also took part in the session.

The agenda of the session firstly focused on issues related to the on-going management of the organisation. The Council was informed of the execution of the action plan and budget for the fiscal year 2010.

The Council issued a regulation on the implementation, in all Member States, of the classifications of activities and products revised in accordance with the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) and the Central Product Classification (CPC) recommended by the United Nations.

In respect of matters relating to the financing of AFRISTAT, the members of the Council reiterated the commitment of their states to provide the resources needed to AFRISTAT to carry out its mission. To mobilize alternative financial resources, the Council asked the General Directorate to submit a strategy for resource mobilization.

During the session, the Council appointed Mr. Cosme Vodounou, Director General of National Institute of Statistics and Economic Analysis of Benin, as Director General of AFRISTAT effective from 1 January 2012 for a term of four years.

For more information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/obV3e>

Eighth Economic Cooperation Organisation National Focal Points Meeting on Economic Research and Statistics

The Eighth Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) National Focal Points (NFP) Meeting on Economic Research and Statistics was held from 21 to 22 April 2011 in Baku, Azerbaijan. The meeting was hosted by the State Statistical Committee (SSC) of the Republic of Azerbaijan in collaboration with ECO. The delegates from Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and host country (Azerbaijan) participated in the meeting.

The meeting considered the sensible achievements on Economic Research and Statistics. Establishment of

the Permanent Steering Committee on Economic Research, implementation of the Joint Economic Research Programme approved by the Nineteenth Council of Ministers, preparation of the Annual Economic Report 2009 and publication of the ECO Economic Journal were appreciated. Similarly, launch of the ECO Statistical Network (ECOSTAT) was mentioned as major progress for building up a region wide statistical platform for implementation of the Plan of Action on Statistics. In this regard, Member States were requested to intensify joint efforts and cooperation in regular provision of updated data and information through ECOSTAT. Collection of data for Compendia 2010, follow up of establishment of the Committee on Regional Harmonized Statistical Methodology and Capacity Building Programme of the National Statistical Office of the ECO Member States in close cooperation with international organisations were considered as major improvement of statistical activities in the region.

The Meeting followed up the implementation of recommendations made by the Nineteenth Council of Ministers Meeting of ECO Member States (December 2011 in Istanbul), to carry out an in-depth research in the priority sectors of the regional economy in order to provide a science based economic policy analyses of regional economic development with emphasis on the sustainable and balanced growth in ECO.

The new research project “Trade Liberalization and Food Security in the ECO Region” was proposed by Pakistan during the meeting. The meeting requested Pakistan (PIDE) to provide the details of the project proposal for consideration of Member States.

Niger and Oman Elected as United Nations Statistical Commission Members

In a resumed organizational session on 27 April 2011, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN-ECOSOC) filled vacancies on sixteen of its subsidiary bodies, electing most of the new members by acclamation and holding three secret ballots. Outstanding vacancies were also filled for the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC). The UN-ECOSOC elected by acclamation eight members, including Niger and Oman, to the UNSC for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2012.

For more information, please visit:
<http://goo.gl/VEmXK>

International Monetary Fund and World Bank Co-Hosted Third Global Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange Conference

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank co-hosted a global conference from 2 to 4 May 2011 to promote and broaden implementation of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) standards. SDMX addresses a key challenge facing public administrations: how to best to leverage web technology to deliver statistical data quickly and efficiently to consumers, both people and computers. The conference was organised by the SDMX secretariat as part of its outreach and training activities to promote the business case for broader implementation of SDMX standards and to seek input for future developments.

Co-hosted by the IMF’s Statistics Department and World Bank’s Development Economics Data Group, the conference brought together over two-hundred senior officials, statisticians and information technology professionals from ninety countries to share SDMX implementation strategies and to participate in a one-day capacity-building workshop aimed at national agencies that have not yet implemented SDMX.

During the conference, the IMF launched a new iPhone and iPad application that relies on SDMX standards to display data tables and charts from the Principal Global Indicators (PGI) website. The PGI is an initiative of the Interagency Group on Economic and Financial Statistics, which comprises the same seven international organisations that sponsor the SDMX initiative, namely the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), the European Central Bank (ECB), the Statistical Office of the European Union (EUROSTAT), the IMF, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD) and the World Bank.

The SDMX standards are registered as a technical specification (ISO/TS 17369:2005 SDMX) with the International Organisation for Standardization (ISO). The conference announced the release of the latest version of these standards and an expansion of country authorities’ role with the creation of two working groups. The groups include experts from national data producing agencies—principally central banks and national statistical offices—who will guide future SDMX developments.

In closing the conference, the initiative's sponsors provided an action plan to further promote the global implementation of SDMX standards by the statistical community. That plan, which covers aspects of governance, implementation, and outreach, received broad support from the participants, who recognized the benefits of jointly working on common global standards for the exchange and sharing of statistical data and metadata.

This conference also marked the tenth anniversary of the first global workshop, also held in Washington, D.C., United States of America in September 2001 and co-hosted by the IMF and the BIS.

For more information and document access, please visit: <http://goo.gl/8TIO0>

Second Meeting of the Expert Group on the Revision of the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics

The Second Meeting of the Expert Group (EGM) on the revision of the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES), organised by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) was held in New York from 4 to 6 of May 2011.

The meeting was attended by twenty-seven experts from twenty countries including Guinea, Indonesia, Nigeria, Suriname, and United Arab Emirates ; the European Commission Joint Research Centre (EC-JRC), the European Environment Agency (EEA), the Statistical Office of the European Union (EUROSTAT), the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and the Development Policy and Analysis Division (DPAD) of the United Nations.

The main objective of the second EGM was to discuss and reach agreement on the fundamental structure and main building blocks of the revised FDES based on the analysis of relevant key concepts, scientific, policy and statistical frameworks. The meeting agreed on the contents and detailed annotated outline of the revised FDES handbook. The experts also discussed the criteria and process for the selection of a core set of environment statistics. The revised FDES is expected to be presented to the Forty-Third Session of the Statistical Commission in February 2012.

For more information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/EOjtB>

Work Session on Statistical Data Editing

The Work Session on Statistical Data Editing was held in Ljubljana, Slovenia from 9 to 11 May 2011 at the invitation of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia. It was attended by participants from twenty-four countries including Tajikistan as an OIC Member Country and representatives of the Statistical Office of the European Union (EUROSTAT) and Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT).

At its 2010 plenary session, the Conference of European Statisticians included the Work Session on Statistical Data Editing in its 2010-2011 meeting programme. The study programme of the meeting focuses on methods and evaluation with particular emphasis on quality related issues. The target audience of the meeting included statisticians dealing with editing and imputation of statistical data derived from surveys, censuses, and administrative sources and spanning various subject matter areas, both social and economic.

The programme of the meeting consisted of the following substantive topics:

1. Editing of administrative and Census data;
2. Editing of electronic collections;
3. Macro editing methods;
4. Micro editing - methods and software;
5. Changing organizational cultures;
6. International collaboration;
7. New and emerging methods;
8. Future outputs and K-base/wiki.

For more information and session materials, please visit: <http://goo.gl/3Snbh>

Partnership Session on Measuring the Information and Communications Technology Sector

The Partnership on Measuring Information and Communications Technology (ICT) for Development launched its publication entitled "Measuring the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) Targets: A Statistical Framework" on 17 May 2011, the second day of the WSIS Forum 2011 in Geneva, Switzerland. Following the launch, the Partnership organised two consecutive sessions on ICT measurement. The sessions provided a brief overview of recent activities of the Partnership, including a progress report on e-government indicators.

The discussion then focused on the measurement of the ICT-producing sector and its importance for policy analysis. The Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) presented progress made in its work on ICT sector statistics, while the Network of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Chairs in Communication (Orbicom) presented the results of its research and training programme entitled “Statistical Compilation of the ICT Sector and Policy Analysis” involving researchers and the statistical offices of five developing countries including Cameroon, Egypt, and Malaysia .

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) also organised a session in collaboration with International Trade Centre (ITC), as co-facilitators of the WSIS C7 e-business action line, and with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), lead facilitator of the e-agriculture C7 action line. The interactive panel dialogue was held in two parts focused on “Mobile Money Solutions for Small Enterprises” and “What is the Socio-Economic Impact on Rural Communities?”. Panellists included representatives from the private sector, academia, and international organisations.

For more information about the summaries of the discussions during the WSIS Forum 2011 and featured work on ICT sector measurement, please visit the following:

1. Partnership Session briefing: <http://goo.gl/LLquH>
2. Measuring the WSIS Targets: A Statistical Framework: <http://goo.gl/UdzLM>
3. Summary on the Measuring the ICT Sector for Policy Analysis: <http://goo.gl/K9qiS>
4. Summary on the Action Line Facilitation Meeting, C7 (E-business): <http://goo.gl/zeSfN>
5. ITU’s page on the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development: <http://goo.gl/qnLz6>
6. OECD’s page on measuring the ICT sector: <http://goo.gl/Tc2Sm>
7. Orbicom’s project on Statistical Compilation of the ICT Sector and Policy Analysis: <http://goo.gl/xWjuY>
8. UNCTAD’s programme on ICT measurement: <http://goo.gl/IJ3Dc>

Meeting of the Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications

The meeting of the Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications, organised by the

United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) was held in New York from 18 to 20 May 2011.

The meeting was attended by thirty experts from twenty-one countries including Jordan, Morocco, and Oman; the Observatoire économique et statistique d’Afrique Subaharienne (AFRISTAT), the Statistical Office of the European Union (EUROSTAT), the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labour Office (ILO), the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UNESCO-UIS), as well as staff members of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD).

The Expert Group discussed a variety of topics, including a review of the International Family of Classifications and criteria for the development of international classifications, the assessment of the implementation of newly revised standard classifications, as well as ways to improve communication with users of classifications. The Expert Group also reviewed newly developed or revised classifications, their linkages with other standard classifications and evaluate the need for revision of a number of classifications, including the Classification by Broad Economic Categories (BEC), the Standard International Energy Product Classification (SIEC) and the Central Product Classification (CPC) among others. The Expert Group also discussed necessary updates to its mandate to allow it to react appropriately to new demand in the area of classifications work.

For more information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/z8ZAN>

Meeting on the Management of Statistical Information Systems

The Joint United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Statistical Office of the European Union (EUROSTAT), Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Meeting on the Management of Statistical Information Systems (MSIS) was held from 23 to 25 May 2011 in Luxembourg. Participants from thirty-one countries including Turkey as an OIC Member Country attended the meeting. Representatives from the following international organisations also attended: Institute for Statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), United

Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), International Monetary Fund (IMF), and Bank for International Settlements (BIS).

The Meeting was primarily intended for informatics managers from statistical organisations and other specialists responsible for the coordination, planning and management of complex projects in statistical information processing.

The work programme of the meeting will consist of the following substantive themes:

1. Architectures, models and standards;
2. From local to corporate perspective (industrialization and standardization);
3. Innovation and related issues;
4. International cooperation/collaboration.

For more information and meeting materials, please visit: <http://goo.gl/YMsu0>

Third Meeting of Heads of Economic Cooperation Organisation National Statistical Offices

The Third Meeting of Heads of Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) National Statistical Offices (NSO) was held from 24 to 25 May 2011 in Kabul, Afghanistan. The meeting was hosted by the Central Statistical Organisation of Afghanistan in collaboration with the ECO. The meeting brought together delegates from Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Turkey; and representatives of international organisations including Asian Development Bank (ADB), Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom, Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO), European Union (EU), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The meeting discussed on the need for new guidelines to supplement the ECO Plan of Action and Framework of Cooperation on Statistics, which could be critical for the advancement of progress towards sustainable regional development based on informed statistics. It was reiterated that this could be supplemented with ideas, suggestions and proposals from ECO NSOs.

Launching of ECO Statistical Network (ECOSTAT) by the Statistical Centre of Iran was appreciated by

the meeting and ECO NSOs were requested to support ECOSTAT by providing their regular and updated data and statistics as well as their feedback for development of the Network. The meeting also discussed the functions and responsibilities of the Committee on Regional Harmonized Statistical Methodology and supported its objectives to improve harmonization processes with regard to international comparability and applicability across the region.

Based on the report of the Secretariat regarding statistical training needs and potentialities of the ECO NSOs, Member States expressed their views and proposals for implementation of the statistical capacity building programme in the region. The programme will further enhance joint cooperation with international organisations which is in the progress by continuous work of the Secretariat. In this regard, implementation of ECO-FAO Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) based on the recent proposal of the FAO was welcomed by the Member States.

For more information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/YkcfL>

Twenty-Fifth Population Census Conference

The Twenty-Fifth Population Census Conference with the theme "Operational and Other Issues Relating to the 2010-11 Round of Censuses in the Asia-Pacific Region" took place from 25 to 27 May 2011 in Seoul, South Korea. The conference was sponsored by the Association of National Census and Statistics Directors of America, Asia and the Pacific (ANCSDAAP) in cooperation with Statistics Korea (KOSTAT) and the East-West Center and hosted by Statistics Korea. A total of fifty-nine participants from nineteen countries including Bangladesh, Indonesia, and Malaysia, and from international and academic organisations including the East-West Center (EWC), United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (UNSIAP), United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), and Minnesota Population Center.

The objectives of the conference were to:

- Discuss organisation of the conference for ANCSDAAP member countries every two years;
- Share opinions with experts of population census and heads of statistical offices by establishing network to discuss methodology and practices; and
- Share successful experiences obtained from the 2010 Population Censuses.

The conference sessions focused on:

- Operational Issues
- Data Collection
- Dissemination of Census Data
- Utilization of Internet Option in 2010-11 Round of Censuses
- Analysis of Census Data; Planning for the Next Census
- New Initiatives, Operational Issues, and Initial Findings in the 2010-11 Round of Censuses
- Lessons Learned from the 2010 Round of Censuses and Plans for the Future

For more information and conference documentation, please visit: <http://goo.gl/SWVIR>

First Meeting of the Task Force on Statistical Coordination

Many United Nations agencies, as well as other regional and global organisation active in the Arab states collect and publish a large amount of statistical data. It is important that data presented to policy makers, researchers and public are consistent and cover all important aspects. Therefore, it is important that agencies put their forces together and coordinate their statistical activities, with a view of improving consistency of statistics about the Arab region, increasing the coverage under restricted budgets and minimizing the response burden on member countries. To this end the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) for Arab States created a Task Force on Statistical Coordination.

The First Meeting of the Task Force was convened via web conferencing at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA) in on 30 May 2011 Beirut, Lebanon in its capacity as the Secretariat for the RCM for Arab States. The Task Force discussed core priorities and modality of statistical coordination in the Arab region. A total of eighteen offices of regional and international organisations undertaking statistical activities in the Arab region attended the meeting. Another virtual meeting was planned in June 2011 before members of the Task Force meet for the first time face-to-face in July 2011.

The meeting tackled foundational issues of harmonization and sharing of data and coordinated data collection. Particular issues included the

fundamental purpose and expected achievement of the Task Force, the variations between data sources (between national and international, as well as between difference international sources), needs for sharing the data between organisations and creating a common pool of data for the Arab region, the level of geographical granularity of data (applicable to sub-national data), as well as a need to support efficient and effective capacity building with a view of improving the quality of statistical data. The convener of the Task Force Meeting on Statistical coordination, Mr. Juraj Riecan, gave a presentation to the RCM on 1 June 2011 where he highlighted also the importance of capacity building in statistics. In particular, he stressed that recent movements offer a unique opportunity for international and regional agencies to help Arab States in establishing institutional and legislative frameworks, so that official statistics becomes impartial, credible and professionally independent.

For more information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/YsYw9>

Fifty-Ninth Plenary Session of the Conference of European Statisticians

The Conference of European Statisticians (CES) held its fifty-ninth plenary session at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland from 14 to 16 June 2011. It was attended by representatives from fifty-six countries including Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, and Turkmenistan . The Conference was attended by representatives of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), United Nations International Trade Centre, United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and the following specialised agencies and international and supranational organisations: the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), the European Central Bank (ECB); the European Free Trade Association (EFTA); Statistical Office of the European Union (EUROSTAT); the International Labour Organisation (ILO); the International Monetary Fund (IMF); the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of the Independent States (CIS-STAT); the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD); and the World Bank (WB).

The Conference discussed how to change the products and processes in statistical offices to make use of the

“data overflow” and provide better service for data users. Increased demand for statistics combined with the need for efficiency gains has already led to the reorganisation of data collection in many countries.

In many statistical offices this reorganisation has meant moving towards the use of internet-based questionnaires along with automated data collection. This involves the electronic exchange of data. The Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) standard as a common agreed format for the exchange of statistical data between statistical offices and international organisations is gaining ground. It is being implemented in several statistical areas allowing the vast data resources of national and international statistical agencies to be exchanged and shared through common data hubs.

Another focus for the conference was measuring human capital which includes the skills, capabilities and knowledge of people. Human capital is a major driver of economic growth and productivity and is increasingly important in keeping the wheels of the economy turning.

Data on human capital can help to analyse competitiveness of national economies, performance of the education and health sector, sustainability, how society prepares for an aging population, etc. But there are no internationally comparable official statistics on the topic so far. The Conference agreed on the next steps towards achieving a wider consensus on how to measure this complex issue.

This year, the Conference endorsed two guidebooks of global importance: the practical guide on the Impact of Globalization on National Accounts and the second edition of the Canberra Group Handbook on Household Income Statistics. These handbooks detail best practice to deal with the problems facing statisticians in regards to globalization of the economy and income measurement.

A driving force in developing methodological standards, guidelines and recommendations, the Conference attracts participation that goes beyond the UNECE region. Australia, Japan, Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Chile and Brazil actively participate in CES work.

For more information and session materials, please visit: <http://goo.gl/udrdL>

Sixth Meeting of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting

The Sixth Meeting of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental- Economic Accounting (UNCEEA) was hosted in New York from 15 to 17 June 2011. The meeting brought together participants from eighteen countries including Indonesia as an OIC Member Country; representatives of international organisations including European Environment Agency (EEA), the Statistical Office of the European Union (EUROSTAT), International Monetary Fund (IMF), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), United Nations Division for Sustainable Development (UNSD), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), and the World Bank. The Meeting was opened by Mr. Paul Cheung, Director of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and chaired by Mr. Peter Harper, Chair of UNCEEA and Deputy Australian Statistician.

The Sixth Meeting of the UNCEEA discussed progress made in finalizing recommendations on the issues in the issue list and in drafting of chapters 1-6 of the revised System of Environmental and Economic Accounts (SEEA). Progress in the work related to experimental accounts for ecosystems and examples of applications of the SEEA were discussed. The Committee considered the way forward on the implementation of the SEEA. The meeting discussed progress made in energy accounts and statistics. Furthermore, the meeting discussed the proposal for the development of environmental-economic accounts for agriculture. The meeting reviewed the status of the revision of the Framework for the Development of Environmental Statistics. The Committee was informed about forthcoming major international events in the context of the SEEA.

For more information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/9Vt5M>

Sixth Meeting of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia Project Working Group on Statistics

The Sixth Meeting of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) Project Working Group (PWG) on Statistics took place at the Palais des Nations on 16 June 2011 in Geneva, Switzerland.

It was attended by representatives from the following SPECA member countries: Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. Representatives from the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CISSTAT), Statistical Office of the European Union (EUROSTAT), World Bank, Norway and Armenia (shared its successful experience in implementing the recommendations of the Global Assessment which took place in 2009) also participated in the meeting. Participation costs of the SPECA countries were covered by the World Bank through the UNECE Capacity Building Programme on New Challenges in Economic Statistics.

The meeting was organised by Mr. Gabriel Gamez, Regional Adviser of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Statistical Division, and chaired by Mr. Nurbek Tulegabailov from the National Statistical Committee of Kyrgyzstan. Ms. Lidia Bratanova, Director of UNECE Statistical Division, opened the meeting with a welcome speech and stressed the importance of the SPECA programme for the development of statistical capacities in the region.

The PWG agenda consisted the following sessions:

- Session 1: The UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA);
- Session 2: Capacity Building Programme on New Challenges in Economic Statistics;
- Session 3: Adapted Global Assessment of National Statistical Systems.

In the framework of this event three projects proposal in the field of statistics were brought to the attention of the participants:

- Economic Statistics Capacity Building;
- Strengthening Statistics on International Migration; and
- Streamlining Statistical Production.

At the end of the meeting, the Chairman concluded the meeting by summarizing the main decisions:

1. For the UNECE to redraft the Terms of Reference of the SPECA PWG STAT for the next three years (2012 - 2015) and submit them at the next meeting in 2012.

2. SPECA member-countries are invited to send by mid-September 2011 their comments and review on the projects proposed in Ashgabat.
3. SPECA member-countries are also invited by mid-September to send their proposals concerning the additional last Workshop in the framework of the Capacity Building Programme on New Challenges in Economic Statistics.

For more information and PWG materials, please visit: <http://goo.gl/eOKbB>

Expert Group Meeting on International Standards for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics

The United Nations Expert Group Meeting on International Standards for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics was convened in New York from 27 to 30 June 2011. The meeting was organised by the Demographic and Social Statistics Branch of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD).

The meeting brought together national, regional and international experts working in the area of civil registration and vital statistics. Participants included experts from national statistical offices and civil registrars of fifteen countries including Oman as an OIC Member Country; representatives of the Statistical Office of the European Union (EUROSTAT) and the African Development Bank (AfDB); representatives from two United Nations specialized agencies - the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO); representatives from two United Nations Regional Commissions - the Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP); as well as one participant from the United Nations Population Division.

The meeting was held to attain two objectives:

1. Review the Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, Revision 2 for updates and elaborations; and
2. Propose an outline for the next revision of the Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System.

Participants commended the timeliness of convening this expert group meeting to review the existing principles and recommendations, given the development

in this field since the last revision that took place in 1999. The meeting re-iterated that such international statistical standards - understood to be gold standard - are critical tools for assessing national capacities to produce relevant, timely and accurate official statistics and for identifying the areas in need of improvement and/or development in the most effective manner; and in that regard, the principles and recommendations are as relevant today as they were at the time of their original release in 1953.

For more information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/Elu4g>

Expert Group Meeting on Measurement Issues in Labour Statistics

Based on Ninth Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) Statistical Committee recommendations, ESCWA's Statistics Division organised an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on Measurement Issues in Labour Force Statistics at the United Nations House from 29 to 30 June 2011 in Beirut, Lebanon.

The participants from the ESCWA region, international organisations and other entities including ESCWA Statistics Division, International Labour Organisation (ILO), Mediterranean Statistical Cooperation (MEDSTAT), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), American University in Cairo, University of Minnesota, and Economic Research Forum in Cairo presented and discussed studies prepared by experts on the following subjects:

1. Challenges in measuring women's participation in the labour force;
2. Measuring underemployment and informal employment;
3. Measuring employment dynamics and school to work.

The aim of the EGM was to facilitate the production of high-quality labour statistics to a variety of users, including policymakers, civil society organisations, and academics. The EGM helped identify needs for capacity building in specific areas in labour statistics, and establish a regional working group/task force on labour statistics.

For more information and documentation access, please visit: <http://goo.gl/IUH9G>

Work Session on the Communication of Statistics

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Work Session on the Communication of Statistics took place from 29 June to 1 July 2011 in Geneva, Switzerland. The objective of the meeting was to exchange experiences and best practices on the communication and dissemination of statistics. The meeting addressed the challenges faced by statistical organisations to communicate effectively with all their audiences and stakeholders. Attention was focused on social media, gathering user feedback from websites, external and internal communications, audience segmentation and cultural change.

The programme of the meeting consisted of the following topics:

- Social Media. Part 1: Metrics and measurement
- Social Media. Part 2: Successes and failures
- Gathering user feedback from web sites
- External communication: audience segmentation
- Internal communication: introducing and managing cultural change

For more information and session materials, please visit: <http://goo.gl/RmQ6g>

Databases, Guidelines, Publications and Tools

World Bank Joined Initiative to Open Up Health Research Data

The World Bank announced on 10 January 2011 that it has joined public and charitable funders in a new initiative to allow researchers and members of the scientific community to easily access public health data.

In May 2010, the Wellcome Trust, a global charitable foundation dedicated to achieving extraordinary improvements in human and animal health, held a joint workshop with the Hewlett Foundation in Washington DC, at which representatives of major funders of public health research, international organisations, large research studies and journals discussed how to increase sharing of public health research data. The workshop built on discussions at the global ministerial forum on research for health at Bamako, Mali in November 2008, and wide-ranging consultations with stakeholders.

As a result of this workshop, a group of major international funders of public health research, including major public funding agencies, charitable foundations and international organisations, have committed to work together to increase the availability of data emerging from our funded research, in order to accelerate advances in public health.

Goals of this new initiative include:

- Data management standards support data sharing: Standards of data management are developed, promoted and entrenched so that research data can be shared routinely, and re-used effectively.
- Data sharing is recognized as a professional achievement: Funders and employers of researchers recognize data management and sharing of well-managed datasets as an important professional indicator of success in research.
- Secondary data users respect the rights of producers and add value to the data they use: Researchers creating data sets for secondary analysis from shared primary data are expected to share those data sets and act with integrity and in line with good practice - giving due acknowledgement to the generators of the original data.
- Well documented data sets are available for secondary analysis: Data collected for health research are made available to the scientific community for analysis which adds value to existing knowledge and which leads to improvements in health.
- Capacity to manage and analyse data is strengthened: The research community, particularly those collecting data in developing countries, develop the capacity to manage and analyse those data locally, as well as contributing to international analysis efforts.
- Published work and data are linked and archived: To the extent possible, datasets underpinning research papers in peer-reviewed journals are archived and made available to other researchers in a clear and transparent manner.
- Data sharing is sustainably resourced for the long term: The human and technical resources and infrastructures needed to support data management, archiving and access are developed and supported for long-term sustainability.

For more information, please visit:
<http://goo.gl/YQOw0>

Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations and International Household Survey Network Secretariat Promoting Documentation and Archiving of Agricultural Censuses

The International Household Survey Network (IHSN) Secretariat announced on 18 January 2011 that the Statistics Division of Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and IHSN Secretariat have engaged in a joint activity of promoting proper documentation and archiving of agricultural censuses.

The work program included the design of a specific set of guidelines for documenting agricultural surveys. The package was compliant with the standards already promoted by the IHSN (Data Documentation Initiative [DDI] and Dublin Core Metadata Documentation Initiative [DCMI]). It included a specific template for the IHSN Microdata Management Toolkit and its associated Quick Reference Guide.

Two regional workshops were planned as a direct follow-up of this activity. National statistical offices responsible for the conduct of agricultural censuses were invited in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and Manila, Philippines. These workshops targeted primarily non-Accelerated Data Program (non-ADP) countries. Better use of properly documented datasets and improved microdata management in national agencies in charge of agricultural statistics were the expected output.

Information and Communication Technology Indicators Added to Statistical Database of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) announced on 20 January 2011 that information and communication technology (ICT) indicators have been introduced to its online statistical database, UNCTADstat. The first table included shows the statistics on the ICT-producing sector with two core indicators: the proportion (%) of total business sector workforce involved in the ICT sector; and value added in the ICT sector as a percentage of total business sector value added.

The core indicators were developed by the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development after a consultation process involving national statistical offices worldwide and were endorsed by the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) at its Thirty-Eighth Session in

March 2007. The core list was revised in 2008 and presented to the UNSC at its Fortieth Session in 2009.

The ICT sector and the business sector are calculated using the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) Revision 3.1 classification and definitions. More series describing the ICT sector are expected to follow soon.

For more information on definitions and on the core indicators, please refer to the UNCTAD Manual for the Production of Statistics on the Information Economy 2009 available at <http://goo.gl/UIQDe>.

World Bank Launched the Global Preferential Trade Agreement Database

The World Bank International Trade Department announced the launch of the Global Preferential Trade Agreement Database (GPTAD) on 26 January 2011.

The GPTAD provides information on preferential trade agreements (PTAs) around the world, including agreements that have not been notified to the World Trade Organisation (WTO). It is designed to help trade policy makers, scholars, and business operators better understand and navigate the world of PTAs.

The database was developed jointly by the World Bank and the Center for International Business, Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College. It was supported by the Multidonor Trust Fund for Trade and Development (MDTF-TD) financed by contributions from the governments of Finland, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Currently the GPTAD is integrated with the World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS) database and is part of the World Bank's Open Data initiative.

The GPTAD contains the original text of PTAs that have been notified to the WTO as well as agreements that have not yet been notified. The database is updated on a regular basis and currently comprises more than three-hundred-thirty PTAs. Agreements in the database have been indexed using a classification consistent with the WTO criteria. The GPTAD allows users to search PTAs around the world by provisions or keywords and to compare provisions across multiple agreements.

The library provides the text of all agreements in their original language and archives them by key criteria. It

enables users to sort PTAs by membership, date of signature, in-force status, and other key criteria. It also allows users to download and print Portable Document Format (PDF) files of entire agreements.

The GPTAD is designed to be a resource on PTAs for trade policy makers, scholars, and business operators around the world. To that end, the World Bank International Trade Department also welcomes the input of users for the bilateral or regional PTAs that are not included in the library or database.

To access the GPTAD, please visit: <http://goo.gl/UFQH8>

First Issue of "Commodities at a Glance" Published

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) announced on 24 March 2011 that the first issue of "Commodities at a Glance" has been prepared by its Special Unit on Commodities (SUC). This quarterly publication presents accurate and relevant statistical information linked to international primary commodity markets in a clear and concise format.

The first edition of Commodities at a Glance aims to give an overview of the following issues:

1. Historical and recent trends in primary commodity prices and price indices both in nominal and real terms;
2. The distribution of primary commodity production among the main producing countries for a set of selected primary commodities; and
3. An overview of primary commodity import and export dependence in developing countries.

The first issue of the "Commodities at a Glance" in English can be downloaded from <http://goo.gl/2ugdJ>. The other issues will be made available in English and French on <http://goo.gl/1xqJZ>. To receive the updated versions of the publication by e-mail on a regular basis, please send an e-mail to: commodities@unctad.org.

Egypt Forges Ahead with New and Innovative DevInfo Initiatives

As part of its innovative initiatives, the Egypt Office of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) released in April 2011 two new databases to build

stakeholder capacity in Egypt and the Arab region in the effective use of data for human development. The two new databases, EDHSInfo 2010 and Egypt Description by Information, provide information on developmental indicators in order to meet national monitoring, evaluation and advocacy needs.

EDHSInfo 2010 contains two-hundred-eighty-four indicators from the four rounds of the Egypt Demographic and Health Survey (EDHS) - 1995, 2000, 2005 and 2008. All indicators contain data disaggregated as relevant by wealth quintile, age group, sex, urban/rural, marital status, education level and work status. The database is available in both Arabic and English languages.

The second database, Egypt Description by Information, was developed by Egypt's Information and Decision Support Centre (IDSC) and supported by UNICEF. The database is available online under EGYInfo, a country adaptation of the DevInfo database system. The database contains hundred-forty-four indicators covering thirty-four sectors and sub-sectors from the well-known IDSC publication, "Wasf Masr" (Description of Egypt).

Moreover, in a bid to enhance statistical literacy, a workshop for reporters from some of the nation's most prominent newspapers and magazines was organised in 2010. The workshop trained media personnel on the use of DevInfo as a monitoring tool for human development, including the Millennium Development Goals. DevInfo was introduced among other topics to build the capacity of media personnel in referring to evidence when addressing an issue and in understanding whether data is coming from a primary or a secondary source.

In 2007 UNICEF Egypt presented DevInfo as a monitoring and decision making tool at the American University's annual regional training course, titled "Research Methods for Guiding Policy and Evaluation with Special Application to Population and Health." As a result of positive feedback, the organizers integrated a four-hour session on DevInfo into the training course curriculum. The session titled "DevInfo: United Nations Monitoring Tool for Millennium Development Goals" will be extended into a full day training in 2011. Since 2007, UNICEF Egypt has also been conducting an annual orientation session for Arab media personnel at a Pan-Arab Family Health project supported by the Arab League.

For more information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/fkxlX> and <http://goo.gl/QumsN>.

World Bank Launched e-Atlas of Global Development

The World Bank launched on 2 April 2011 its e-Atlas of Global Development, an online, interactive tool that maps and graphs more than hundred-seventy-five indicators from the World Bank's development database.

The e-Atlas of Global Development allows users to easily and quickly transform data into customized visual comparisons across time, countries, and regions. The resulting full color maps and graphs can subsequently be exported for sharing and later use. The e-Atlas also lets users map more than hundred-seventy-five indicators for up to two-hundred countries over time including creating two maps to compare progress. Other features include scalable maps, timeline graphing, ranking tables, and import and export functions. Critical issues such as poverty, food production, population growth, climate change, international trade, and foreign direct investment are covered.

The e-Atlas of Global Development is available at <http://goo.gl/3dqJ8>.

World Economic Forum Launched Data-Sharing Platform for Global Information Technology Report 2010-2011 Using DevInfo Technology

The Global Information Technology Report (GITR) 2010-2011, produced by the World Economic Forum (WEF) in cooperation with European Institute of Business Administration (INSEAD), was released on 12 April 2011 in New York, United States of America. The report highlights the key role of information communications technologies (ICT) for development and competitiveness.

Published for the tenth year with an extensive coverage of hundred-thirty-eight economies, the report makes an international assessment of the impact of ICT on the development process and the competitiveness of nations, using the Networked Readiness Index (NRI) as the framework of analysis.

Under the theme Transformations 2.0, this tenth anniversary edition explores the coming transformations

powered by ICT, with a focus on the impact they will have on individuals, businesses and governments over the next few years.

In order to measure impact of ICT and the data revolution, the WEF launched a new data-sharing platform to provide users with a set of tools to explore the impact of information and data technology on a range of socio-economic areas. This data-sharing platform allows users to compare NRI data with data from other key World Economic Forum competitiveness reports, Millennium Development Goal indicators and selected indicators from other sources.

Using DevInfo technology, visualization tools allow users to explore and gain new insights into the relationships between technology and other domains. In addition to data visualization, the platform also provides a set of collaboration tools, such as a Wiki, to allow users to share insights and knowledge.

For more information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/XztcN>

R Version 2.13.0 Released

The R Core Group released on 13 April 2011 version 2.13.0 of its open-source statistical package R. The most significant addition to version 2.13.0 was the introduction of a byte compiler. The new compiler function converts functions in the R language to byte-code, and byte-compiled functions promise to execute faster than ordinary R functions. Currently, the standard R functions are not byte-compiled yet.

For the list of updates, official announcement and download location, please visit: <http://goo.gl/3IXOX>.

World Bank Opened its Microdata Library

The World Bank announced on 15 April 2011 that it opened its Microdata Library to public. The Microdata Library is a service established to facilitate access to microdata that provides information about people living in developing countries, their institutions, their environment, their communities and the operation of their economies.

The Library activities include:

- acquisition of microdata;
- detailed documentation of how the data have been collected and compiled;

- cataloguing of the information;
- preservation of the data; and
- dissemination.

The Library includes datasets that have been produced by and which belong to the World Bank, as well as a substantial number that have been collected and compiled by different international, regional and national agencies.

The Central Microdata Catalog operates as a portal for microdata documented in compliance with international standards and practices. As of April 13, 2011, the central catalog contains three-hundred-seventy-eight surveys. The Microdata Library is accessible at <http://goo.gl/IEKDp>.

State of the World's Children 2011 Database Launched

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) extended release of the 2011 State of the World's Children (SOWC) Report - widely considered the agency's flagship report on the status of women and children across the globe - through the release of the full data set in DevInfo database format in May 2011.

The SOWC 2011 database, available online as well as via download, contains detailed economic and social statistics for hundred-ninety-five countries and territories of the world, with particular reference to children's well-being. These include Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and other critical indicators covering key sectors such as nutrition, health, HIV/AIDS, education, demography, economy, women and child protection.

To access the SOWC 2011 Database website and download the dataset, please visit <http://goo.gl/iBehI> and <http://goo.gl/t7Zja>.

New di Mobile Application Launched

The DevInfo initiative launched di Mobile, a mobile application for the Blackberry cellular phones providing quick on-the-go access to the latest human development data, in June 2011. di Mobile brings the power of DevInfo technology to smartphone users, allowing subscribers to search and browse DevInfo databases using their phones. This new application is currently available for BlackBerry devices, with rollout to other platforms (Windows Mobile, Apple, and Android

operating systems) anticipated in the near future. The free application allows Blackberry users to get quick information based on free text search from anywhere in the world. The underlying reference databases for di Mobile are the latest State of the World's Children database published by UNICEF and the Millennium Development Goals database published by the United Nations Statistics Division.

To learn the steps for di Mobile installation, please visit: <http://goo.gl/Ctr4k>

New Versions of Two Applications Available from the International Household Survey Network Secretariat

The International Household Survey Network (IHSN) Secretariat announced the release of Version 3.1 of its National Data Archive (NADA) application on 10 June 2011. The application is now available for download only in English. The changelog for NADA 3.1 is as follows:

1. Metadata browser is now integrated into the survey view and no longer opens in a new window
2. Support has been added for Microsoft SQL database use
3. Data access type - survey available from external repository added
4. Emails now go to a single admin account not to all admins
5. Citations now allow notes and flags to be attached to them when added
6. Updated: Translations for English, French, Spanish and Russian
7. Installer updated to facilitate MSSQL install
8. Breadcrumbs added to improve navigation
9. Lightboxes have been removed
10. Social networking icons have been added
11. Formatting changed for catalog page

The IHSN Secretariat also announced on 24 June 2011 the release of Version 1.2 of its IHSN Toolkit Complete Package which contains all the key IHSN Tools used for Documenting Studies in one package..

The NADA version 3.1 and IHSN Toolkit Complete Package version 1.2 are available for download at <http://goo.gl/cMWeM> and <http://goo.gl/ykelv>, respectively.

Seminars, Trainings and Workshops

First Group Training Course in Production and Development of Official Statistics in Support for National Development Including the Achievement of Millennium Development Goals

Organized by the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) jointly with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the First Group Training Course on Production and Development of Official Statistics in Support for National Development Including the Achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDG) was conducted in the premises of the SIAP for four months from 15 November 2010 to 15 March 2011 for the junior and middle-level statisticians from developing countries in the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) region as well as outside region. All together twenty-five participants from sixteen countries including Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Syria participated in the course and twenty-two participants completed the full course of three modules.

The aim of the course was to improve knowledge and skills of the participants on compilation, analysis and dissemination of official statistics. It is expected that after the completion of the training course participants will be able to define, analyse and interpret key official statistics and MDG related indicators in support of policy analysis as well as to demonstrate ability to carry out and take part with understanding full survey operations and to have a good understanding of System of National Accounts (SNA) framework and compilation of main economic aggregates including gross domestic product (GDP).

The project work also kept participants attention in tact through out the course. Participants also observed with interest the prefecture level statistical activities and advanced technological application in the industries in Japan while enjoying the rich cultural and social values experienced during the field visits.

For more information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/aA0a4>

Regional Workshop on Statistics of International Trade in Services

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA), the World Bank Institute (WBI), the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the League of Arab States (LAS) and the Sultanate of

Oman's Ministry of National Economy organised a regional workshop on "Statistics of International Trade in Services (SITS)" from 11 to 13 January 2011 in Muscat, Oman. Officials from Central Banks and National Statistical Offices responsible for producing SITS and foreseen collection of foreign affiliates statistics in the Arab Countries were invited to the workshop. Services trade statistics experts from the UNESCWA, the WTO and the Statistical Office of the European Union (EUROSTAT) were among the resource persons taking part in this workshop.

The workshop aimed at increasing the participants' knowledge in the area of collecting and compiling SITS. Participants had an opportunity to learn new skills and knowledge of the relevant statistical systems, international classifications and methodologies used in collection of international trade in services data. The top agenda item of the workshop was the introduction of international recommendations pertaining to the balance of payments (ver.6), compiling foreign affiliates statistics (FATS) and the new SITS manual (version 2010) in addition to the different trade classifications. Also, the workshop aimed at improving the quality of SITS in the Arab region to better serve the needs of trade policy makers and negotiators, including those engaged in regional and bilateral free trade agreements.

The agenda covered, among other things, the following items:

1. General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) agreement and the need to improve SITS;
2. International recommendations: Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (BPM6), and Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services (MSITS ver. 2010);
3. Foreign Affiliates Statistics (FATS) (European Union (EU) regulation and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) handbook);
4. Statistics of the international supply of services by modes; and
5. Trade classifications:
 - a. Services Sectoral Classification List (W/120);
 - b. Central Product Classification (CPC) Version 2.0;
 - c. Sixth Edition of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (BPM6);
 - d. Extended Balance of Payments Services Classification (EBOPS);
 - e. International Standard Industrial Classification

Categories for Foreign Affiliates (ICFA) / International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC).

For more information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/XlNKb>

Technical Workshop on Preliminary Supply and Use Tables of Selected Developing Member Countries of the Asian Development Bank

The Development Indicator and Policy Research Division (ERDI) of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) organised a Technical Workshop on Preliminary Supply and Use Tables of Selected Developing Member Countries (DMC) from 24 to 28 January 2011 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The workshop brought together thirty-five participants from eighteen countries including Bangladesh, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Maldives .

The workshop aimed to conduct technical review of the preliminary Supply and Use Tables (SUT) of eighteen economies prior to the presentation of the final SUTs. Specific objectives included:

- the presentation and review of preliminary SUTs;
- resolutions of outstanding and unresolved issues;
- discussion of intra and inter country diagnostics of production and cost structures, expenditure structures, and margin ratios based on latest submissions;
- agreements on plan and requirements for the publication.

The workshop served as a venue to resolve outstanding issues prior to the release of the final SUTs; and agreed on the level of details including plan for publication of results.

For more information and documentation access, please visit: <http://goo.gl/Neza2>

Third Workshop for the 2011 Round of the International Comparison Program in Western Asia Region

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA) and the World Bank International Comparison Program (ICP) Global Office organised the Third Workshop for the 2011 Round of the International Comparison Program in Western

Asia Region from 26 to 28 January 2011 in Beirut, Lebanon. Twenty-six representatives from eleven ESCWA member States including national coordinators, price experts and statisticians from Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen, and representatives of UNESCWA and the World Bank ICP Global Office attended the workshop.

One of the objectives of the Third ICP Workshop was to bring together the ICP national teams with the ICP regional office and the World Bank to review the global and regional list and agree on goods and services and their description so each and every country prices the same product for comparison purposes. The other objective of the workshop was to introduce and make national coordinators, statisticians and data entry clerks familiar with the ICP software kit.

The meeting was set out in the purpose of tackling the following topics:

1. Preparations for price data collection;
2. Overview of each country's survey framework;
3. Discussion and finalization of Western Asia Amalgamated Product List;
4. Demo of the Household Price Collection (HHC) data entry module and the HHC data validation module;
5. Overview of validation formulas;
6. Installation of ICP software kit & hands-on training.

For more information, please visit:
<http://goo.gl/zMPTF>

First Regional Training on Documentation and Archiving of Agricultural Censuses and Surveys

The First "Regional Training on the Documentation and Archiving of Agricultural Censuses and Surveys" was held from 7 to 11 February 2011 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The objective of the workshop was to train participants from fifteen countries, including Algeria, Comoros, Gambia, Mozambique, Togo, Uganda, and Yemen, on the use the Microdata Management Toolkit for the documentation of Agricultural Census and Surveys, and to initiate the documentation of their latest agricultural census.

All participants successfully documented their census. The Toolkit and associated standards (Data Documentation Initiative [DDI] and Dublin Core Metadata Documentation Initiative [DCMI]) promoted

jointly by the International Household Survey Network (IHSN) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) were very well received. Some participants requested further support at the national level.

The IHSN / Accelerated Data Program (ADP) Secretariat and the FAO Statistics Division have engaged in a joint activity of promoting good documentation and archiving of agricultural censuses. The workshop targeted primarily non-ADP countries who did not document their latest agricultural censuses.

The expected output is a better use of properly documented datasets and improved microdata management in national agencies in charge of agricultural statistics.

Second Regional Training on Documentation and Archiving of Agricultural Censuses and Surveys

The Second "Regional Training on the Documentation and Archiving of Agricultural Censuses and Surveys" was held from 21 to 25 February 2011 in Manila, Philippines. In line with the objective of the First Regional Training in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the workshop was organised to train participants from fourteen countries including Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, and Pakistan on the use the International Household Survey Network (IHSN) Microdata Management Toolkit for the documentation of agricultural censuses and surveys, and to initiate the documentation of their latest agricultural census.

The workshop was a joint activity of the IHSN / Accelerated Data Program (ADP) Secretariat and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) Statistics Division geared towards promoting good documentation and archiving of agricultural censuses.

Two agencies of the Philippine Statistical System contributed to the workshop. The documentation of the Philippines 2002 Census of Agriculture was presented by the National Statistics Office. The Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS) presented the benefits it derived from the Toolkit and showcased their National Data Archive, the BAS Electronic Archiving and Network Services (BEANS).

Regional Workshop on Millennium Development Goals Monitoring in Africa

The “Workshop on Millennium Development Goal (MDG) Monitoring on in Africa: Issues, Challenges and Way Forward” was held in Kampala, Uganda from 7 to 9 March 2011. The workshop was attended by sixty-six participants representing forty-one countries and representatives from the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the African Union Commission (AUC) and a representative from the International Labour Organisation. The participants were mainly MDG data focal points from the National Statistics Offices (NSO) of the countries.

The overall objective of the workshop was to improve the availability of timely and reliable data on MDG indicators based on the international standards and definitions and also establishment of a regional database on development indicators. One of the specific objectives was to validate the Handbook on the Use of Censuses, Surveys and Administrative Sources for deriving MDG indicators.

The UNECA, AfDB and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) presented the regional perspective on the data issues on MDG indicators and the various efforts made by themselves and in partnership with other institutions. The ILO presented its perspective on data collection, compilation and reporting on the four indicators under Target 1b.

The country presentations were delivered in breakout sessions that were arranged separately for the French speaking and English speaking countries. The presentations were on three main aspects; namely, Implementation of the Nairobi and Kigali Workshop, Status Updating of MDG Data Template, MDG Monitoring at Sub-National Level. A number of important recommendations were drawn up from the group reports.

Following the Workshop which focused on the statistical aspects of MDG monitoring, an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) for the 2011 Report on Assessing Progress Towards Attaining the MDGs in Africa took place from 10 to 11 March 2011 which was attended by representatives of the Ministry/Departments of the countries responsible for drafting and publication of the MDG report for their respective countries. The NSO representatives who attended the data workshop on the first three days

also participated in this EGM. For more information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/t0XjA>

Regional Workshop on Environment Statistics and Accounts

The Regional Workshop on Environment Statistics and Accounts was organised by African Centre for Statistics from 7 to 11 March 2011 at United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to train staff of the national statistical offices (NSOs) and environment ministries of member states on the concepts of environment statistics and the system of environmental and economic accounting; and to agree on a core set of environmental indicators and statistics for national, sub-regional and regional reporting. In total seventeen participants attended the workshop from thirteen countries including Mozambique, Sudan, and Uganda. Representatives of the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) also attended the workshop.

During the Workshop, participants shared their country experiences in the collection, compilation and dissemination of environment statistics and accounts, and established a network of environmental statisticians among the countries as recommended by the Action Plan of the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

For more information and documentation access, please visit: <http://goo.gl/F9uDI>

Workshop on Implementing National Strategies for the Development of Statistics and Formulating Regional Strategies for the Development of Statistics

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) co-organised a regional workshop on Implementing National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) and Formulating Regional Strategies for the Development of Statistics (RSDS) from 10 to 11 March 2011 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The aims were broadly to assist the development of statistics in the SADC region through better informed implementation of NSDSs. It was the first workshop for SADC countries devoted to NSDS implementation since a PARIS21 workshop held in Livingstone, Zambia

in May 2005, where the emphasis was on design rather than implementation of NSDSs.

For more information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/zi5Mv>

Technical Evaluation of the 2011 International Comparison Program Household Product List

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) organised the Technical Evaluation of the 2011 International Comparison Program (ICP) Household Product List from 11 to 12 March 2011 in Manila, Philippines. A total of thirty-two participants from eighteen countries including Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, and Pakistan, and international organisations including the ADB, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), World Bank, and University of Queensland.

The workshop was the final leg of the series of ICP events held in Manila after the Dissemination Meeting for Heads of National Implementing Agencies (NIAs) held on 8 March 2011 and the Conference on Developments in the ICP in Asia and the Pacific held from 9 to 10 March 2011.

The objectives of the workshop were to assess the implementation of the 2011 ICP price surveys; and assess the availability and appropriateness of the Structured Product Descriptions (SPDs) in the 2011 ICP Product List.

For more information and documentation access, please visit: <http://goo.gl/ga9C3>.

High Level Workshop on Leadership in Modern Statistical Systems

The International Statistical Institute (ISI) organised the High Level Workshop on “Leadership in Modern Statistical Systems” from 14 to 16 March 2011 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Participants from twenty-one countries including Egypt, Nigeria, Somalia, Sudan, and Uganda discussed for three days the key principles and practices of National Statistical Offices (NSO) such as:

- The United Nations Fundamental Principles, their content, implications and application in the everyday life of an NSO;
- Codes of practices, experience of good and bad practices etc;
- Organizational and management issues;

- Planning and prioritization;
- Communication - with government, main users, media and international agencies and other statistical capacity building donors;
- International co-operation.

The discussions were lively and contributed to the success of the workshop. The participants recommended repeating workshop in Africa or other regions in the world. The ISI Executive Meeting decided exploring the organisation of similar workshops in future.

For more information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/xnMbP>

Workshop on Short-term Economic Statistics and Seasonal Adjustment

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Workshop on Short-Term Statistics (STS) and Seasonal Adjustment took place from 14 to 17 March 2011 in Astana, Kazakhstan and was hosted by the Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Statistics.

Thirty-eight statisticians from twelve different countries including Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan discussed the production of short-term economic statistics, time series, seasonal adjustment methods and dissemination practices.

The agenda of the workshop included the following sessions:

- Why are short-term statistics important?
- Use of multiple data sources
- Methodology of compilation of STS
- Dissemination
- Seasonal adjustment in practice
- Exercises on seasonal adjustment of time series

For more information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/oJQYt>

Regional Workshop on Environment Statistics and Monitoring Millennium Development Goal 7

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission organised a workshop on Environment Statistics and on Monitoring Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 7 which was held in Dakar, Senegal from 28 March to 1 April 2011 under the

technical guidance of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD). The Workshop was a follow up to those held in Abuja, Nigeria in 2008 and in Accra, Ghana in 2010, during which participants identified and agreed upon the core set of environmental indicators.

The Workshop achieved the following objectives:

- Finalization and completion of the methodology sheets for the core set of environmental statistics and indicators adopted by the member States during the UNSD/ECOWAS Workshop held in Accra in March 2010;
- Validation of an action plan for the implementation of the Regional Environment Statistics Programme; and
- Adoption of the plan for data collection and for the preparation of an ECOWAS regional compendium on environment statistics.

The Workshop recommended increased capacity building assistance to enhance the establishment of national environment statistics programmes in member States. It was noted that the national workshop on environment statistics that was held in Ghana in October 2010, to which the ECOWAS Commission and UNSD provided support, was very positive, and other member States were also encouraged to request similar assistance from the ECOWAS Commission.

Regional Workshop on Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations Data Collection, Processing and Dissemination System of Food and Agriculture Statistics

The Regional Workshop on Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) Data Collection, Processing and Dissemination System of Food and Agriculture Statistics was organised by FAO and Agricultural and Food Marketing Association for Asia and the Pacific (AFMA) and took place from 28 March to 1 April 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand. The workshop explained and discussed FAO data requirements of production, trade and Food Balance Sheet (FBS) data, and related international standards and methodologies. It was designed to help countries better understand these subjects and thus better accomplish the requirements of the FAO questionnaires. At the same time, the related knowledge of international standards and methodologies also helped to improve statistical practices in countries. For more information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/DUKGf>

Seminar on the Implementation of the System of National Accounts 2008 in the African Region

The first regional meeting on the implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts (SNA), the “Seminar on the Implementation of the 2008 SNA in Africa,” jointly organised by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB), and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 11 to 15 April 2011.

In total, the meeting has gathered together more than seventy senior managers and experts of National Accounts from forty-four countries of which twenty-three are OIC Member Countries, international, and regional organisations. They represented forty-one National Statistics Offices (NSOs), twelve Central Banks, six Ministries of Finance and Economic Development, four Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and four other international and regional development partners.

The purpose of the seminar was to initiate the formulation of an implementation programme for the 2008 System of National Accounts (SNA) through reviewing the global and regional strategies, and discussing and providing comments and suggestions for improving and finalizing the regional project document for the implementation of the 2008 SNA. The African Group on National Accounts (AGNA) held its ninth meeting back to back to the seminar.

Major achievements of the meeting include defining the African Statistics Day 2011 as the National Accounts day, planning and institutionalizing the work of AGNA, committing on closer international cooperation, and contributing to the improvement and finalization of the regional project document as the implementation and action plan.

The participants welcomed the decision to have the 2008 SNA as the theme for celebrating the African Statistics Day (ASD) 2011 and stressed that the ASD 2011 should target non-national accountants as audience and therefore focus on sub-themes like the use of national accounts for informed decision-making and improving communication between NSOs and the civil society.

The AGNA, a working group of Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa), has been given a

permanent status. The membership of AGNA has been extended to include associate observers to consultants, external experts, and non-pan African organisations. Its mandate includes also research activities and task forces will be created to address specific issues. The important roles of Regional Economic Communities and Central Banks in the implementation of the 2008 SNA have been addressed.

Countries committed to implement the 2008 SNA in line with international recommendations and standards. Implementation tools developed at global level will be applied to update National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) and/or to establish national vision document to implement the 2008 SNA. Efforts made by international and regional organisations in the development of handbooks, software, and the capacity building were much welcome.

There was a consensus on the overall objectives and approaches of the Regional Project Document (ProDoc) for the Implementation of the 2008 SNA. The ProDoc was thoroughly reviewed and detailed and concrete recommendations for improvement and finalization were provided. The participants gave their strong support and urged to finalize the ProDoc; calling development partners to work together with the AGNA to address the issue of the implementation within the regional framework.

For more information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/pyljl>

International Trade in Services Statistics Workshop in Lebanon

The Middle East Regional Technical Assistance Center (METAC) held a workshop on “International Trade in Services (ITS) Statistics” from 18 to 20 April 2011 in Beirut, Lebanon. The workshop was attended by twenty-four participants from thirteen countries including Afghanistan, Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, and Yemen.

The following themes were covered:

- 1) conceptual framework of the compilation of ITS statistics;
- 2) collection of data from various sources; and
- 3) exchange of experience among participants to determine best practices in the region.

The workshop was well received as it enhanced participants’ knowledge of the changes introduced to the System of National Accounts, Balance of Payments, International Investment Position, and International Trade in Services manuals. Another important benefit of the workshop was to bring together compilers not only from various countries but also from different institutions in the same country who are supposed to cooperate closely to ensure consistency of ITS statistics in the national accounts and the balance of payments.

For more information and documentation access, please visit: <http://goo.gl/D7oAA>

International Workshop on Measuring Gross Domestic Product by Final Demand Approach

The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) in collaboration with the National Bureau of Statistics of China organised an international workshop on measuring gross domestic product (GDP) by final demand approach on 25-27 April 2011. This workshop was conducted as part of the project on strengthening statistical capacity development in China and other developing countries in Asia funded by the Chinese Government. The workshop brought together over ninety experts from sixteen countries in Asia including Indonesia and Malaysia

The objectives of the workshop were to give an overview of one of the main approaches to GDP compilation - the final demand approach - and to address specific issues of measuring the final consumption expenditures of households, government and non-profit institutions serving households, and estimating gross capital formation for the economy and by sector. The estimation of national accounts’ imports and exports of goods and services from foreign trade statistics and other sources was also discussed.

The workshop further provided a discussion forum for country and international experts to share experience and identify challenges in measuring GDP by final demand approach. Proceedings of the workshop will provide the basis for the preparation of an operational guide on compiling GDP by final expenditure that will assist countries in further strengthening their national programmes on national accounts.

The workshop was organised in two parts - international and domestic. The international part of the workshop devoted three days with international

and Chinese experts to discuss the conceptual framework and compilation methodology, particularly the use of commodity flow approach for deriving its main components of final demand in current and constant prices and countries' practices in compiling GDP by final demand approach. By reviewing the current practices of various countries within the conceptual framework of the system of national accounts, the workshop aimed at providing practical guidance and proposing best approaches to improve the measurement of some specific expenditure categories.

For more information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/AQnDb>

Workshop on Time-Use Statistics

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA) Statistics Division, in collaboration with the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and the Department of Statistics (DOS) in Jordan held a workshop on "Time-use Statistics" (TUS) from 25 to 28 April 2011 in Amman, Jordan.

The workshop was attended by twenty-two statisticians from national statistical offices in the Arab region, including Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Sudan and Yemen.

The training aimed at reviewing methods and practices in collecting, processing and disseminating time-use statistics at the regional and international levels, with a focus on the design and classification issues pertinent to the measurement of paid and unpaid work. It facilitated the sharing experiences among statisticians and other experts in the field of time-use surveys.

Sessions of the workshop revolved around planning and organizing the production of time-use statistics; data collection; data coding and processing; data dissemination and interpretation; and classification of activities. In addition, participants had hands-on training after each session.

Participants issued a set of recommendations, including the development of a project to harmonize time-use surveys in the region with well-defined objectives to allow for better regional comparisons and exploitation of data. They called on UNSD to update and modify

the International Classification of Time-Use Activities (ICATUS) in view of countries' feedback during the workshop and to establish a task force for Arab countries on Time-Use Statistics to draw an action plan for capacity building workshops, expert group meetings and developing related materials.

For more information and documentation access, please visit: <http://goo.gl/2hCt7>

Sub-Regional Workshop on Measuring Violence against Women

The Statistical Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) held a sub-regional workshop on "Measuring Violence against Women" at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland on 27-29 April 2011. The workshop was organised in the framework of the project "Enhancing capacities to eradicate violence against women through networking of local knowledge communities" financed from the United Nations Development Account and carried out jointly by the five United Nations regional commissions and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

The main purpose of the workshop was to train survey managers on how to use the survey module in a dedicated survey or attached to a survey on another subject without compromising ethics and safety of participants. The training was designed for representatives of national statistical offices who have experience with population surveys. The programme of the workshop consisted of the following topics:

1. What is gender-based violence and how can it be measured?
2. United Nations indicators on violence against women
3. Presentation of the survey module and examples of its use
4. Dedicated survey on violence against women versus a module in another survey
5. Ethical and safety issues
6. Selection, training, supervision and support for interviewers
7. Training materials and techniques

During the country presentations session, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan made presentations regarding measuring violence against women in their countries. For more information and workshop materials, please visit: <http://goo.gl/ukvOp>

Workshop on Gender-Focused Population and Housing Census Data Analysis

The Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and with support of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan successfully concluded the regional workshop on “Gender-focused population and housing census data analysis” in Chiba, Japan from 9 to 12 May 2011. Eighteen participants from fifteen countries including Bangladesh, Indonesia, and Maldives have improved their knowledge on techniques and methods of analysis of sex disaggregated data analysis collected through the population and housing census.

The workshop aimed to provide knowledge and skills on how population and housing census can be analysed with a gender perspective, in order to produce and disseminate coherent and quality sex-disaggregated data and analyses. While publishing sex-disaggregated data is an essential component of gender statistics, statisticians also need an understanding of gender equality priorities and issues in order to conduct meaningful analysis. Emphasis was given to the analysis of census data with gender concern by sub-population groups: the elderly, the disabled etc. The workshop also allowed participants to discuss the gender equality issues in their countries and to share experiences in conducting population and housing censuses and analysing data. For more information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/q6NN2>

Regional Seminar on Census Data Dissemination and Spatial Analysis for Arabic Speaking Countries

United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) organised a Regional Seminar on Census Data Dissemination and Spatial Analysis for Arabic Speaking Countries in Amman, Jordan, from 16 to 19 May 2011, in collaboration with the Department of Statistics of Jordan and Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS). It brought together twenty-nine participants from National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of 13 Arabic speaking countries and other relevant organisations.

The seminar was opened by remarks by Mr. Fathi Nsour, Director-General, AITRS, Ms. Keiko Osaki-Tomita, Chief, Demographic and Social Statistics Branch of UNSD, and by Mr. Hayder Fraihat, Director-

General, Department of Statistics, Jordan. The opening remarks equally commended the timeliness of the seminar, given the fact that the mid-decade of the 2010 census round has passed and many countries in the Arabic speaking region have already had a census. As countries successfully complete enumeration, a logical step to take is to shift the focus of census-related activities to data analysis and dissemination. The representatives of three organisations appreciated long-term partnerships among them, which enabled to gather key statisticians and census managers from countries of the region, and to have extensive discussion on important issues in census implementation. Participants were encouraged to vigorously exchange their own experiences for the benefits of colleagues from other countries in the region.

The purpose of the Seminar was to provide a forum for sharing national practices and experiences in the dissemination and use of census data. The Seminar reviewed emerging trends, innovative approaches and technological tools employed in the dissemination of census data. The Seminar also aided in taking stock of national capacities and challenges for meeting the increasing requirements of census data users. Furthermore, the Seminar helped in identifying good practices and lessons learned in the dissemination and analysis of census data. In addition, participants addressed the benefits and challenges of using modern technologies, including the use of geographic information systems and spatial analyses. For more information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/Qogea>

Second Group Training Course in Application of Information Management and Related Information and Communications Technology for Official Statistics

The Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) in collaboration with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) conducted a two-month course in Application of Information Management and Related Information and Communications Technology (ICT) for Official Statistics from 16 May to 15 July 2011 in Chiba, Japan. In total, seventeen middle-level statisticians and information technology staff of national statistical offices in eleven countries including Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan improved their knowledge and skills in using ICT for improving quality and efficiency of production, analysis and dissemination of official statistics. The training course was conducted by SIAP faculty members and experts from relevant offices of the host Government

of Japan as well as universities in Japan, the World Bank, and Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNFPA-CELADE).

The main objectives of this course were three-fold. First, participants were trained on the principles of electronic data processing, management and dissemination, and the technologies available for data processing including the use of statistical software like the Census and Survey Processing System (CS Pro), International Household Survey Network (IHSN) toolkit and REDATAM. Second, participants were equipped with necessary knowledge and skills to become trainers so that they would be able to train other staff members in their organisations upon completion of the training. Third, participants would share experiences in the use of ICT for statistical operations and build informal networks among professionals. The course contents included the topics on Information architecture of national statistical system, data capture and processing, statistical database, data dissemination and micro data access, data analysis techniques and software including STATA and R software, training of trainers and Japanese ICT experience. As part of the training curriculum, the participants carried out a demonstration survey to have an opportunity to apply newly acquired knowledge and skills in real practice under the supervision of the faculty members of the Institute. Participants also observed with interest the use of ICT in statistical and other real-time applications at prefectural level including advanced technological application in the industries in Japan.

While presenting results of the project work, participants demonstrated their ability to be conversant in software they have learned at SIAP such as CSPro, MS FrontPage, MS Access, STATA, DevInfo, REDATAM and IHSN toolkit as well as their eagerness in sharing new knowledge with colleagues in their home offices. For more information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/6Djen>

International Training Workshop on Research, Development and Innovation Statistics

The International Training Workshop on Research, Development (R&D) and Innovation Statistics was jointly organised by the Higher School of Economics (HSE) Institute for Statistical Studies and Economics of Knowledge (ISSEK) of Russia and Centre of Social Innovation (ZSI) of Austria within the International Cooperation Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia Countries (IncoNet EECA) project and funded

under the Seventh European Research and Technological Development (EU RTD) Framework Programme.

The workshop took place in Moscow, Russia from 23 to 24 May 2011 and aimed to promote recent international experiences in R&D and Innovation Statistics - with a special emphasis on EECA area. The workshop brought together statisticians, and science and technology policy makers from eleven countries including Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. Besides the organisers, Federal Science Policy Office of Belgium; Italian National Institute of Statistics; Directorate for Science, Technology and Industry of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); and Institute for Statistics of United Nations Education, Science and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) were presented by their experts. The Workshop objectives were:

- to present recent international experiences and trends regarding science, technology and innovation policy-relevant indicators;
- to promote the use of R&D indicators to support evidence-based S&T and innovation policy making;
- to train statisticians from EECA countries to apply the Frascati standard indicators and to conduct the Oslo Manual based surveys examining the nature and impacts of innovation in the business sector;
- to share experience of other developing countries in the field of R&D and innovation statistics, and to address the problems that countries may have encountered in collecting S&T data;
- to bring forward the draft generic proposal through defining next steps (as no funding opportunity was identified till the moment the country specific assessment is still a vivid starting point);
- to generate initiatives related to good practices that might be relevant to other countries of the region.

For more information and documentation access, please visit: <http://goo.gl/F0Qyx>

Training Course on Measuring Information and Communications Technology Access and Use by Households and Individuals

The Training Course on Measuring Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Access and Use in Households and Businesses took place from 30 May to 9 June 2011 in Amman, Jordan. The training was organised jointly by the International

Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and in cooperation with the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS) as the host of the event. The training was delivered to twenty-six participants from the National Statistics Offices (NSO) and other national institutions in charge of the production of official statistics on the information society from countries of the Arab region including Comoros, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen.

The objective of the ITU Training Course on Measuring ICT Access and Use by Households and Individuals was to improve the capacity of national statistical offices and other government agencies dealing with ICT statistics in Arab countries to produce internationally comparable statistics on ICT access and use by households and individuals. The training was part of the regional project titled "ICT Indicators and Capacity building for ICT measurement in the Arab Region".

The training was divided into two parts: the ITU training course was delivered during the first week (30 May - 3 June), followed by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) training course the second week (5-9 June). The ITU training course was divided into the following five modules :

- Module H-1: Introduction to household ICT statistics. Survey planning and preparatory work
- Module H-2: Statistical standards and topics. Data sources and collection techniques
- Module H-3: Questionnaire design. Household Survey design
- Module H-4: Data processing. Data quality and evaluation
- Module H-5: Data Dissemination

The training emphasized not only the importance of ICT statistics but also the need for collaboration between policy makers and data producers and it is expected that this training will strengthen the relationship between these entities, particularly in countries where cooperation is currently weak. This is further expected to allow more countries in the region to produce more and better ICT demand-side statistics. For more information and documentation access, please visit: <http://goo.gl/CNXIT>

Regional Training Course on System of National Accounts 2008

The Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), in collaboration with the Statistics Korea and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) Sub-Regional Office for East and North-East Asia, conducted a Regional Training Course on the System of National Accounts (SNA) 2008 from 13 to 17 June 2011 at the Korea National Statistical Office, Daejeon, Republic of Korea. The main objective of the course was to strengthen the capacity of national statistical offices in implementing the recommendations of SNA 2008 and reviewing the current compilation practices for improving the quality and coverage of national accounts statistics of the respective countries. Eighteen participants from eleven countries including Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, and Tajikistan attended the training course. Most of the participants were middle-level government statisticians with long experience in compilation of national accounts. These included officials directing or actually compiling national accounts or regional (sub-national) accounts, who could benefit from getting a better understanding of the concepts of the SNA 2008. Some of the participants were, however, new to the field of national accounts.

The discussions and the issues raised by the participants indicate that all the participants could gain a fairly comprehensive understanding of the newly introduced concepts and recommendations made in the SNA 2008. In addition, those with little exposure to national accounts got a chance of getting familiar with basic concepts and definitions of national accounts. The course is expected to have equipped the participants with the ability to identify the additional data needs for implementation of the SNA 2008 and suggest areas for improving the quality and coverage of the national accounts statistics. For more information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/7BTYQ>

Second Technical Evaluation of Household Price Survey Results and Related Sectors

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) organised the Second Technical Evaluation of Household Price Survey Results and Related Sectors from 13 to 18 June 2011 in Kathmandu, Nepal. Forty-seven participants from international organisations including the ADB and United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and twenty-one countries including Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, and Pakistan attended the event.

During the six-day event, participating countries and ADB International Comparison Program Team collectively reviewed the first quarter household price data; resolved household data issues after intra-and intra-country validation; and introduced the product lists and survey instruments for the non-household sectors including construction, machinery and equipment, compensation of government employees, and dwelling rental. For more information and documentation access, please visit: <http://goo.gl/ga9C3>

Application Validation Workshop for the Production of Harmonised Indices of Consumer Prices

The Application Validation Workshop for the Production of Harmonised Indices of Consumer Prices (HICP) was held from 15 to 17 June 2011 at the headquarters of the Sub-Saharan Africa Economic and Statistical Observatory (AFRISTAT) in Bamako, Mali. The workshop was organised within the framework of the Renovation Project for HICP of the Member States of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU). The Workshop was attended by the representatives of the National Statistical Offices of Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo; and representatives of the WAEMU Commission and the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO). The discussions focused on the following:

- parametric differences with the old application CHAPO;
- need for a server and materials necessary for direct use on Internet;
- different roles to establish statistical production services within an optimal organisation;
- period of application testing with real data;
- organisation of data recovery.

The participants appreciated the ergonomics of the application, sequence of tasks taken up by menus, and harmonization of concepts as specified by the computer specifications. For more information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/EXa1Q>

High Level Seminar for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asian Countries on "Quality Matters in Statistics"

The Statistical Office of the European Union (EUROSTAT) organised the High Level Seminar for

Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asian Countries (EECCA), entitled "Quality Matters in Statistics" which took place from 21 to 23 June 2011 in Athens, Greece. During the seminar, the participants described their experiences with programmes and activities aimed at sustainable quality improvement. All participating institutions are faced with the challenges of an improved quality management regarding the procedures applied and results obtained, the necessity of professional independence and impartiality, and the requirement to ensure higher qualification of their staff.

Mr. Z. Jarkinbayev, Deputy Chairman of the Agency on Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan, chaired Session 2 of the Seminar on the topic "Quality Management in a National Statistical Institute". The panellists discussed various aspects of quality management in the daily life of a NSI - the overall quality framework, elements and tools of quality management, quality reviews / quality audits, measurement of quality, process quality, training in quality, practical implementation of the Code of Practice, and national codes of ethics.

Seminar on Census Dissemination and Communication

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Seminar on Census Dissemination and Communication took place from 27 to 28 June 2011 in Geneva, Switzerland. The seminar was held back-to-back with the UNECE Work Session on Statistical Communication that was to be held from 29 June to 1 July 2011. The objective of this seminar was to exchange experiences and best practices on the communication and dissemination aspects of censuses. The seminar addressed the challenges faced by statistical organisations to communicate effectively with all their audiences and stakeholders. Attention was focused on dissemination tools and communication techniques, with a mixture of presentations and discussions. The programme of the seminar consisted of the following substantive topics:

- Dissemination of Census Results
- Census Communication: Before and After Census Day

For more information and documentation access, please visit: <http://goo.gl/AUABW>

The original source for this publication was processed in Scribus version 1.4.0 Release Candidate 5. The output file is Portable Document Format version 1.5 compatible. The

Scalable Vector Graphics files used as a source for this publication were exported to Portable Network Graphics through Inkscape version 0.48.1. Images for this publication were enhanced and processed using GIMP version 2.6.11 and Paint.NET version 3.5.8 at a resolution of 300 dots per inch. The output PDF file has varying image resolutions of 72 dots per inch to 300 or more dots per inch. The typefaces outlined in this publication are Latin Modern Roman 10, Latin Modern Roman 17, Latin Modern Roman Caps 10, Latin Modern Roman Dunhill 10, and Lato. For an optimal layout, the unique resource locators were shortened through Google URL Shortener at goo.gl. This publication was designed by Atilla Karaman.

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The Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Statistical Newsletter is published by the
Statistics and Information Department of SESRIC.

Current and previous issues can be accessed at
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