

Organisation of the Islamic Conference Statistical Working Group

OICSWG

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News from OIC-SWG

Review of the OIC-SWG Activities at the Twenty-Sixth Session of COMCEC

The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) reported on the activities of the OIC Statistical Working Group (OIC-SWG) to the Twenty Sixth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) on 5-8 October 2010 in Istanbul. The Session:

- called upon the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and other relevant institutions in the Member States to actively cooperate with the OIC-SWG with regard to data collection and capacity building
- welcomed the offer of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) to host the Third Meeting of the OIC-SWG in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; and the offer of SESRIC to organize, in collaboration with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Department of Statistics (DOS), the Experts Group Meeting to identify new statistical indicators such as early warning systems, climate change and Islamic statistics
- welcomed the offer of SESRIC and IDB to organize the First Meeting of the OIC Statistical Commission in April 2011, in Istanbul, and calls on the NSOs of the OIC Member States and relevant OIC institutions to actively participate in the Session
- called on the NSOs to provide SESRIC news related to their institutions to be published in the semi-annual Newsletter of OIC-SWG
- requested SESRIC to report on the activities of the OIC-SWG to the annual Sessions of the COMCEC and Follow-up Committee Meetings.

Third Meeting of OIC-SWG

The Third Meeting of the OIC Statistical Working Group (OIC-SWG) was held at the Headquarters of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 26 December 2010. The representatives of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) General Secretariat; Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and Central Department of Statistics and Information (CDSI) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia participated in the Meeting.

The Meeting started with the opening statements of the Dr. Ahmet Tiktik, Vice President (Corporate Services) and Acting Chief Economist of the IDB, Dr. Savas Alpay, Director General of the SESRIC, and Dr. Abdullateef Bello, Director of Data Resources and Statistics Department of the IDB. They emphasized on the strengthening and improvement of coordination of statistical activities among the OIC institutions and the need to accelerate the implementation of the activities related to the previous meetings of the OIC-SWG. They also pointed out the importance of availability of high quality data for assessing and quantifying the impact of economic crisis and raising awareness in the field of statistics.

In the meeting Dr. Alpay proposed the idea of developing a specific statistical capacity index for the OIC Member Countries, as well as convening the



The participants of the Third Meeting of the OIC-SWG (Photo by IDB).

future meetings of the OIC-SWG in line with the sessions of the OIC Statistical Commission in order to have a higher participation rate from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of the OIC Member States.

After the inaugural session, the OIC-SWG-3 participants presented a number of technical papers followed by discussions on the following themes:

- Scorecard on OIC-SWG Activities: Where do We Stand on Coordination, Harmonisation, and Standardisation?
- Institutional Progress Report on OIC-SWG Activities and New Statistical Initiatives
- OIC Statistical Commission: Issues and Preparation
- Joint Statistical Publications for the OIC-Summit

At the end of the technical sessions, the Third Meeting of the OIC-SWG agreed on:

- collectively working together to advance and strengthen partnership through coordination, collaboration, and cooperation in all areas of statistical activities needed to support various initiatives of the OIC, its subsidiaries, and Member States taking into account the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action
- urging NSOs of the OIC Member States to treat SWG members as partners and to provide timely data to enable them to report accurate, reliable, and consistent data in their publications
- organising both the First Session of the OIC-Statistical Commission and the Fourth Meeting of the OIC-SWG in 2011 by SESRIC.



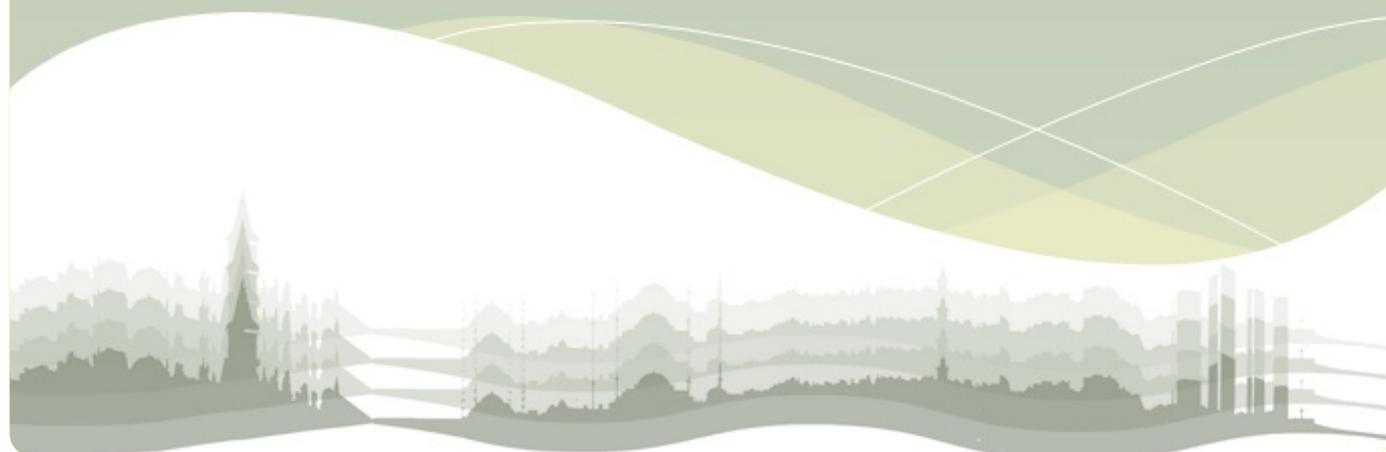
The Statistical, Economic and Social Research
and Training Centre for Islamic Countries
(SESRIC)



Islamic Development Bank
(IDB)

The First Session of the
OIC Statistical Commission

Istanbul – Republic of Turkey
11 – 12 April 2011



News from OIC Institutions

New Staff in DRS Department of IDB

The Data Resources and Statistics Department (DRSD) of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) is pleased to welcome new statisticians who joined its workforce in 2010. The three statisticians are:

- **Abu Camara:** A citizen of Gambia with a Master of Science (M.Sc.) degree in Statistics from the University of Aarhus, Aarhus-Denmark. Before joining the IDB, he was the Director of Coordination, Dissemination and Quality at the Gambia Bureau of Statistics, Banjul, Gambia.
- **Mohamed S. El-Goussi:** A citizen of Egypt with an M.Sc. degree in Statistics from the Leeds University, United Kingdom. He was formerly a Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist for an Egypt based United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funded project.
- **Thiekoro Dombia:** A citizen of Côte d'Ivoire with a Master's degree in Statistics and Applied Economics from Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Statistique et Economie Appliquée (ENSEA), Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. He was formerly a statistician of the African Union in the Department of Economic Affairs, managing European Union Support Program.



for scholarships under the Master of Science (M.Sc.) Scholarship Programme in Science and Technology for IDB Least Developed Member Countries (LDMCs) for the 1432H/(2011-2012) academic year. The scholarships will be awarded with effect from September 2011.

The Programme awards fifty scholarships for a two-year M.Sc. degree course in disciplines that enhance development in IDB LDMCs such as science, engineering, technology and medicine in academic institutions of the IDB Member Countries. Three of the scholarships have been allocated for statistics and related disciplines such as applied statistics, demography and econometrics. The applicant must satisfy the following eligibility requirements:

1. Be a citizen of any of the IDB LDMCs*
2. Must not be over 30 years of age on the deadline set for the submission of applications
3. Be a Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) graduate in science/technology
4. Be graded above Good in his/her academic career
5. Be nominated by an academic research institution of his/her country
6. Be determined to return home at the end of his/her studies
7. Must not be a recipient of another scholarship
8. Be medically fit and be willing to undergo medical tests after selection.

IDB Announced Scholarship Programme for 2011-2012 Academic Year

The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) announced in September 2010 that applications can be submitted

Applicants for statistics and related disciplines must satisfy the following requirements in addition to the above:

1. Be in possession of a B.Sc. degree or its equivalent in statistics or related disciplines
2. Must have a working experience of at least one year as statistician permanently employed by an institution in a member country
3. Be determined to return home at the end of his/her studies.

The scholarship comprises tuition fees based on standard fees of academic institutions and on the agreement concluded with the IDB, cost of living allowance, health insurance cost and travel ticket cost, clothing allowance, allocation for research, computer, etc. The applicant must complete the scholarship application form, furnish two passport-size photos, copy of passport, copy of birth certificate, copy of B.Sc. degree and transcripts, three letters of reference and an admission letter from an institution in an IDB member country (not in the West) and submit them to the Office of the IDB Governor for the applicant's country before 31 December 2010.

For more information about M.Sc. Scholarship in Science and Technology for IDB LDMCs please contact:

Scholarship Division
Islamic Development Bank
P.O. Box 5925, Jeddah 21432
Saudi Arabia
Tel: +966-2- 646 6833
Fax: +966-2- 646 6887
e-mail: scholar@isdb.org

(*) Eligible LDMCs are Afghanistan, Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Palestine, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Togo, Uganda, Yemen.

SESRIC and AITRS Organised a Training Course on "Quarterly National Accounts and Short-Term Indicators"



The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) in collaboration with the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS) organised a training course on "Quarterly National Accounts and Short-Term Indicators" on 6-10 October 2010 in Amman, Jordan. The course was attended by twenty participants representing twelve Arab states including Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

The objective of the course was to enhance work on the analysis of certain economic policies and performance of macroeconomic indicators through the provision of short-term economic indicators in a period shorter than an annual term. The course provided detailed knowledge on various issues of quarterly national accounts and short-term indicators, including an introduction on the origin

and development of their systems, concepts and importance, system of quarterly accounts' preparation, types of volumes and prices indices and the ways of developing them. On the other hand, the course dealt with the modelling of quarterly data using BENCH software, practical exercises of the software, the manner to use the attained results to prepare quarterly estimations, matching them with the annual data by defining the inputs, calculation mechanisms and economic models used in the estimation, and the processing of economic data.

At the end of the training course, the AITRS distributed compact discs containing the contents of the course including the theoretical lectures, presentations by the lecturers and country experiences.

SESRIC and AITRS Organised a Training Course on "How to Transfer from 1993 to 2008 National Accounts System"



The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) in collaboration with the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS) organised a training course on "How to Transfer from 1993 to 2008 National Accounts System" on 11-14 October 2010 in Amman, Jordan. The course was attended by twenty-one participants

representing twelve Arab states including Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

With the adoption of the United Nations of a new national accounts system (2008 System) which is an updated version of 1993 system with many changes, this training course was organised, firstly, to introduce the new system to the participants by explain how to transfer the national accounts from the 1993 system to the 2008 one and, secondly, to increase the knowledge of workers in the area of national accounts by introducing methods, classifications, international recommendations and the recent changes made on the national account system and its usage. Such knowledge will enable the workers to attain more accurate and simple data through one defined system. The course also aimed to increase the knowledge of those who work on economic surveys related to accounts and national concepts in order to enable them to develop more simple forms used by data providers.

SESRIC Participated in the First Conference of Al-Khawarezmi Committee on Statistics

The First Conference of Al-Khawarezmi Committee on Statistics, the first of a regular biennial event, was held on 6-8 December 2010 in Doha, Qatar. Dr. Savas Alpay, Director General of the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), and Mr. Huseyin Hakan Eryetli, Director of Information Technology and Publications Department, represented the Centre thereat.



Dr. Savas Alpay, Director General of SESRIC, delivered a keynote speech in the Opening Session of the First Conference of Al-Khawarezmi Committee on Statistics.

The main aim of the Al-Khawarezmi Committee, chaired by His Excellency Hamad bin Jaber B. J. Al Thani, President of the Qatar Statistics Authority, is to act as a catalyst to help Arab statisticians becoming active partners in knowledge creation and improve the practice of statistics in the Arab region. The Committee was named after the great scholar and mathematician Al-Khawarezmi (790–850), a cadre (the House of Wisdom) of Caliphate Baghdad, who invented Algorithms in mathematics. Hence, the committee was established by the International Statistics Institute (ISI) to honour the contributions made by this scholar in terms of human knowledge. The significance of this committee stems from its mission, which is to stimulate cooperation between the ISI and statistical communities of the Arab region. The Al-Khawarezmi Committee on Statistics strives to achieve excellence in the practice of statistics, statistical education and research both in the region and in the Islamic Ummah.

The purpose of the Conference which was held under the slogan of "Statistics for Evidence-Based Policy and Decision Making" is to bring together Arab statisticians to present their current work, discuss areas of common interest, collaborate in joint activities, mentor future statisticians and recognize the excellence of work by statisticians. Since it is an important means of keeping up to date with new advances in statistics, the conference invited a number of world class statisticians to participate in areas of interest to the Arab countries.

The focus of the First Conference was on statistical methodology and the use of statistics in measuring human development, environmental quality and sustainable economic development. Having properly measured the essential indicators, evidence-based

decision making can be achieved through the provision of essential information by statistical agencies.

The scope of the Conference covered key areas of statistics with emphasis on topics of interest to the Arab countries. The topics discussed in the meeting were:

1. Challenges of poverty measurement in the Arab countries
2. Strategy of the implementation of national System of National Accounts (SNA) 2008
3. Challenges facing national strategy for the development of statistics in the Arab countries
4. Environmental statistics: Sources, methods and data quality
5. Using information technology in data capturing, processing, and dissemination
6. Population, housing, and establishments censuses (Data collection, publishing, analysis and application of results)
7. Health surveillance and measurement, innovative methods / techniques in health analysis
8. Application of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in statistics
9. Towards a national framework for statistics of culture and education
10. Gender Statistics: A tool for mainstreaming gender issues in national development

In the Opening Session, Dr. Alpay delivered a keynote speech titled "Enhancing Statistical Capacity Building Programmes in the OIC Member Countries" by drawing special attention to the importance of developing concrete and coherent National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS). He believes that two important initiatives should be taken into consideration:

- An alternative statistical capacity index specific to Member Countries of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) should be produced (currently the only statistical capacity index is produced by the World Bank).
- The National Statistics Offices (NSO) which have an NSDS and which are under the category 'doing quite well' can coach the NSOs which either do not have an NSDS or have an NSDS but under the category 'there are things to be done'.

Dr. Alpay also informed the delegates concerning the ongoing statistical activities of SESRIC including the Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme, OIC Statistical Working Group (OIC-SWG) and OIC-SWG Newsletter.

During the session on the theme "Using IT in Data Capturing, Processing, Dissemination and Application of GIS in Statistics", chaired by Mr. Eryetli, two country cases (Qatar and Egypt) were presented. The participants were also informed about the World Bank's "Virtual Statistical System" and the recent enhancements made in DevInfo.

IDB and AfDB Groups Sign New Partnership MoU, Statistics also a Priority Area

Dr. Birama Boubacar Sidibe, Vice-President of Islamic Development Bank (IDB), and Dr. Kamal ElKhashen, Vice-president of the African Development Bank (AfDB) Group, signed a billion dollar worth Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 21 December 2010.

Under the document, the IDB and AfDB each will earmark an amount equivalent to 500 Million USD



over a period of three years starting 2011, for co-financing of sovereign projects in their common Member Countries.

The sectors of intervention are drawn from AfDB's Medium Term Strategy and the IDB's Special Program for the Development of Africa focusing on priority areas, namely: infrastructure, water and sanitation, regional integration, education, social infrastructure as well as agriculture and food security, institutional capacity building, training and statistics.

The MoU between IDB and AfDB is anticipated to reinforce the ongoing cooperation and open up avenues for increasing the effectiveness of development policies through real partnerships between the two institutions. The two will also share their respective strengths, knowledge and resources to promote economic development in Africa.

First Expert Group Meeting of OIC-SWG on New Indicators

The First Expert Group Meeting of OIC-SWG on New Indicators was held in Amman, Jordan on 21-22 December 2010. The Meeting was co-organized by the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC)



The First Expert Group Meeting of OIC-SWG on New Indicators was co-organized by SESRIC and Jordan Department of Statistics.

and Jordan Department of Statistics (DOS). Experts from Bahrain, Malaysia, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen and the Islamic Development Bank participated in the meeting.

During the meeting, discussions took place on the possibility of creating new indicators that reflect social, economic and cultural aspects of the Muslim world. Additionally, participants discussed about data collection on environment that reveals the priorities of the Member Countries of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

At the end of the meeting, participants recommended a category based list of indicators. The outcomes of the Expert Group Meeting will be submitted to and presented in the First Session of the OIC Statistical Commission to be held in April 2011 in Istanbul-Turkey.

SESRIC Organised a 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 Course on "National Accounts: Supply and Use Tables" at Jordan Department of Statistics (DOS) in Amman, Jordan on 27-29 December 2010. The aim of this training course was to improve the statistical capacity building and performance of the Jordan Department of Statistics on "Supply and Use Tables". The Course was provided by Dr. Husniye Aydin, an expert of the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat), and was attended by seventeen DOS staff members.

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

- General overview on National Accounts
- National Accounts in Turkey
- Supply-Use and Input-Output Tables in NA System
- Methods and compilation principles
- Data sources and questionnaires
- Classifications
- Non-observed economy
- Compilation of the supply and use tables
- Valuation matrices
- The balancing of supply and use tables
- Import matrices
- Symmetric input-output tables
- CIF/FOB adjustments
- Calculation and allocation method of FISIM
- Price and volume measures in supply and use framework
- Other topics on GDP estimations and SU/IO Tables
- General Evaluation of Training Course and Mission on SUTs

2010 StatCap Initiative Programs of IDB



The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) carried out the following Statistical Capacity (StatCap) Initiative programs in 2010:

Events: IDB co-financed three important statistical events in 2010. The events are:

- Meeting of the National Statistical Offices of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC)

Member Countries hosted by SESRIC on 22-23 March 2010, in Istanbul, Turkey

- Fifth International Conference on Agricultural Statistics (ICAS-V), hosted jointly by Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and Uganda Bureau of Statistics on 13-15 October 2010 in Kampala, Uganda
- First Conference of Al-Khawarezmi Committee on Statistics of Arab Region organised by the Qatar Statistics Authority on 6-8 December, 2010, in Doha, Qatar. IDB presented the topic "Statistics in the 21st Century: The Role of IDB" and chaired a session.

Scholarships: In 2009/2010 academic year, IDB offered three scholarships to students from Chad, Gambia and Uganda for degrees in the areas of statistics and demography.

DfID Fund: The United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) and IDB signed an MoU in November 2009 whereby DfID agreed to provide £2 million in support of IDB-StatCap activities in Yemen, Iraq, and Palestine as well as for regional statistical activities. So far, the Fund is supporting Palestinian Agricultural Census managed by Palestine Central Bureau of Statistics and the rest of the money will also finance key statistical capacity projects in Yemen and Iraq. For regional statistical training, IDB is working closely with Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS) based in Amman, Jordan to organize training in the area of population projection technique with the cooperation of US Census Bureau as trainer. The training is expected to take place in the first quarter of 2011.

News from National Statistical Offices

Member National Statistical Offices in East Asia and the Pacific

Indonesia

Indonesia Celebrated National and World Statistics Days



The National Statistics Day of Indonesia was celebrated by the main and regional offices of BPS-Indonesia. To increase awareness about the National and World Statistics Day, billboards were placed along the protocol streets and the importance of statistics were highlighted in the posters.

During the National Statistics Day ceremony, the Chief Statistician of BPS-Statistics Indonesia Headquarters, Mr. Rusman Heriawan, gave awards to five enumerators of Population Census who supported the activities of Population Census enumeration since 1961. Additionally, a flag ceremony was held on 27 September 2010.

As part of celebrating the World Statistics Day, the following activities were realized, as well:

- An academic meeting titled "Population as the Subject of Sustainable Development Towards Prosperous Society" was organized jointly by BPS-Statistics Indonesia and Indonesia Statistics Organisation on 14 October 2010.
- A national seminar about population and sustainable development was held on 19 October 2010.

- Regional offices also conducted several seminars about various topics such as 2010 population census and its results, the role of statistics in the national and regional development of Indonesia.
- As mass media is an important instrument to publicise the statistical data, a workshop for journalists was successfully carried out.
- Understanding the role of physical and mental abilities of employees in producing quality data, the week of 8-19 October 2010 was accepted as the Sports and Arts Week. In addition to football, volleyball, table tennis matches and walking tours, traditional games were played during this period.
- World Statistics Day was celebrated on 20 October 2010 in BPS Headquarters. All of the employees of BPS-Indonesia joined this event.

Malaysia

E-Census Introduced for Malaysian Population and Housing Census 2010

In line with the flourishing information technology and communications development in Malaysia, the Population and Housing Census 2010 was also carried over an online census questionnaire, also known as e-Census. Chief Statistician Datuk Wan Ramlah Wan Abdul Raof said this could be done at <http://www.statistics.gov.my> using a given identification (ID) and password. She said that the e-Census was one of two new data collection methods which would make things easier for busy urban residents.



Wan Ramlah said the census, to be carried out from 6 July to 22 August 2010, would involve thirty-six thousand enumerators, three thousand supervisors and about twenty-nine million Malaysians which is an 18.97% increase as compared to the last census in 2000. She said the census, the fifth to be carried out since it was established nationwide in 1963, would provide a set of statistics on households and its residents. The information would assist in the planning, legislation and implementation of government policies, she said, adding that the people should give their full cooperation to enumerators.

Malaysia Celebrated World Statistics Day

Malaysia organised the following activities for the celebration of the World Statistics Day on 20 October 2010:

- Executives Talk Programme by YBhg. Tan Sri Sulaiman Mahbob, Chairman of Malaysian Industrial Development Authority (MIDA) on the topic "New Economic Model"
- Exhibition on achievements of the Department of Statistics as a producer of official statistics in Malaysia. Putrajaya Government Agencies are invited
- Text Message from the Chief Statistician
- Exclusive interview with the Chief Statistician by BERNAMA
- Pamphlet regarding the celebration and department's achievements

Member National Statistical Offices in Europe and Central Asia

Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan Celebrated World Statistics Days



The State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan has established a special commission and approved an action plan for the celebration of the First World Statistics Day on 20 October 2010. For this occasion, the State Statistical Committee has

translated the following documents into English and placed in the relevant UN website:

1. State Program on the Improvement of Official in the Republic of Azerbaijan between 2008-2012
2. Regulation on State Statistical Committee and the Distribution Policy of Information and Establishing Relations with Its Users
3. Law on the Official Statistics
4. History of the Statistics of the Republic of Azerbaijan
5. The Action Plan on Celebration of the World Statistics Day (The Action Plan can be accessed on http://unstats.un.org/unsd/wsd/docs/Azerbaijan_wsd_event.pdf)

Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan, UNICEF and UNFPA Launch Second Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey



A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on 8 July 2010 between the Statistics Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) on conducting a Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) in Kazakhstan. This MoU lays basis for cooperation and partnership between the agencies in surveying households in Kazakhstan.

After the signing the MoU, Ms. Hanaa Singer, UNICEF Representative, said: "MICS is a household survey developed by UNICEF to assist countries in filling data gaps for monitoring the situation of children and women. It was originally developed in response to World Summit for Children in 1990 to measure progress towards internationally agreed set of mid-decade goals and currently MICS serves as a major tool for monitoring progress toward Millennium Development Goals, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Plan of Action A World Fit

for Children and other internationally agreed benchmarks. It is my pleasure to be here and ensure Mr. Chairman that UNICEF is ready to provide all necessary technical support for Kazakhstan within the next MICS."

Mr. Alikhan Smailov, Chairman of the Agency of Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan, said: "MICS makes it possible to get indicators on the level of households, on the state of health, education, child development as well as indicators on domestic violence. Lots of data and indicators which we will receive during the MICS are impossible to obtain from routine statistics."

This is the second MICS that is going to be conducted in Kazakhstan. The first MICS took place in 2006. According to the Kazakh authorities, the MICS is unique because it will, like the first one, be conducted on sub-national level due to the considerable differences in the social and economic development of the country's regions. This will make it possible to get detailed and true information about the state of children and women in all the regions of the country and in the two cities - Astana and Almaty. While the Agency of Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan will conduct the survey, UNFPA will provide financial support and UNICEF will provide financial and technical support.

The survey will look into data on infant and child mortality rates, nutrition, breastfeeding, immunization, the use of improved sources of drinking water, contraception, reproductive health, domestic violence and etc.

Kazakhstan Celebrated World Statistics Day



The World Statistics Day was celebrated on 20 October 2010 by conducting "Open Doors" day organised by the Agency of Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Astana, as well as in other regional divisions. Within the framework of this event, users were acquainted with the work of the Agency, as well as with the perspectives of state statistics development.

During the event, live contact of guests with the Agency staff, where responses regarding

- the statistical data production system
- statistical information dissemination
- industrial production
- price statistics

had been received.

Also the acquaintance with the Agency web-page www.stat.gov.kz was held. Agency staff provided personal help to anyone interested in finding statistical information, as well as various handouts were provided.

MoU between Kazakhstan and Eurostat on Statistical Cooperation

The Memorandum of Understanding between the Agency of Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan

and Eurostat on statistical co-operation was signed during the official visit of Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, to the Kingdom of Belgium on 26 October 2010.

The Memorandum directed on the further development of partner relations between the Statistics Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Eurostat. In addition, within the framework of the Memorandum there will be information support for the priority areas of interaction of the Republic of Kazakhstan and European Union. During the negotiations, the parties agreed to organise joint meetings and seminars to exchange experiences and increase the comparability of statistics produced.

In accordance with the Strategic Plan of the Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan on statistics for 2010-2014, realization of international experience is defined as a strategic part of the Agency. In this context, the Memorandum is an impetus for increased cooperation between the Statistics Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Eurostat.



Tajikistan

Tajikistan Celebrated World Statistics Day



Tajikistan organised the following activities for the celebration of the World Statistics Day on 20 October 2010:

1. To deliver the statement of the Director of TajStat in the media (Jumhuriyat, Sadoi Mardum, Narodnaya Gazeta, TV 1 Channel, Safina, Radio of Tajikistan)
2. To prepare booklets, posters regarding the activity and achievements of TajStat
3. To publish all information about the World Statistics Day on TajStat website
4. To organise meetings in the central and local offices
5. To promote deserving employees with government awards and reward employees of the central and local offices with bonuses on the occasion of World Statistics Day

New TajStat Website and MDG CD-ROM Introduced



The Agency on Statistics under President of the Republic of Tajikistan (TajStat) presented its new website and MDG CD-ROM on 26 October 2010 with a press conference. Senior official of the Agency, representatives of international donor organisations,

ministries and agencies of the Tajik Government as well as leading mass media agencies attended the conference.

German Federal Statistics Office provided consulting services for the development of the web site as well as the MDG CD-ROM. The web site is available in Tajik, Russian and English languages hosted at <http://www.stat.tj/>.

The TajStat Project has started in July 2007 and funded by International Development Association, Swiss International Development Agency, Department for International Development of the United Kingdom and Government of Republic of Tajikistan. Total amount of the project is 5.85 million USD.

Donor Follow-Up Meeting for "Strengthening the NSS of Tajikistan"



TajStat Director Mukhammadiyeva B. Z. held several meetings with the donors of the "Strengthening the National Statistical System of Tajikistan" project between 18 and 24 November 2010.

The meetings were attended by Mr. Mustafa Dinc, World Bank, Ms. Milena Reynfeld, Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom, and Mr. Gunter Kopsch, consortium representative. During the meetings, parties discussed the progress of the project for the second half of 2010 as well as consultation for next steps.

Turkey

TurkStat Delivered Training to Turkmenistan



Compared to previous years, cooperation between the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) and Turkmen Milli Hasabat has increased in a certain manner in 2010. Within the scope of three training programs ("International Classifications", "Annual Business Statistics" and "Tourism Statistics") funded by the Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA), a total of six TurkStat experts gave trainings in Ashgabat in June and July 2010. Furthermore, three Turkmen experts participated in training on "Livestock Production Statistic" funded by TIKA in TurkStat in July 2010.

Turkey Celebrated World Statistics Day



World Statistics Day was celebrated in Turkey on 20 October 2010. This substantial event was also celebrated with the participation of local high level executives, institutions, academicians and staff in the regional offices of Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat).

In the headquarters of TurkStat, a website dedicated to this event was created. This event was celebrated

with the worthy contributions of the valuable academicians of Turkey, namely Halil Inalcik, Selcuk Aksin Somel and Orhan Guvenen. "Statistical Registers in the History of Middle East and Turkey and the Evaluation of These Sources", "Istanbul Statistics of 1885 and Demographic Structure of Istanbul in the Period of Abdulhamid II" and "World Dynamics, Statistics and Decision Systems" were the themes of the conference.

The statistics departments of universities presented their studies and novelties by means of boards assigned to them within TurkStat. Students of universities had the opportunity to pose their questions directly to experts and directors of TurkStat. Thanks to the speakers and academicians, open door day and participation of the press, this important meeting attracted interest of diverse ambience. TurkInfo based on DevInfo version 6 was also launched on the mentioned day.

Moldovan Experts Visited TurkStat

Five Moldovan experts visited Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) within the scope of a training programme on "Classifications" funded by the Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA) in September 2010.

TurkStat Provided Consultancy Service to CAPMAS

An expert from Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) provided consultancy service on "Sampling of Child Labour Surveys" to the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) of Egypt on 24 November - 7 December 2010 within the framework of a seminar funded by the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

TurkStat Received the Delegation of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina



In the last days of 2010, a mission composed of Mr. Zdenko Milinovic, Director of the Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Dervis Durdevic, Director of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina's Federal Office of Statistics, and Ms. Radmila Cickovic, Director of the Institute for Statistics of Republic of Srpska, paid a visit to the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) on 15-17 December 2010. The mission firstly visited the Istanbul Regional Office of TurkStat on 15 December 2010. This visit included brief information about the office, the implementation of economic and social researches. The next two days spent in the headquarters of TurkStat were dedicated to "2000 Turkish Population Census and Planned 2011 Turkish Population Census", "Migration Statistics" and "Information and Communication Technologies" besides some administrative and technical facts about TurkStat. This meeting could be evaluated as an inception of future common studies among the related institutions.

Cooperation between TurkStat and the EU

Together with bilateral, multilateral, regional and international cooperation activities, the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) has been involved in intense cooperation activities within the scope of harmonization with the European Union (EU) standards. In order to achieve this aim, many projects

have been implemented for many years with success. To illustrate these studies, Upgrading the Statistical System of Turkey Phase I (USST-I) composed of many stages was implemented between 2003 and 2007. The second phase of this programme (USST-II) was implemented from the beginning of 2007 until the end of 2009. The studies towards the third phase (USST-III) are underway.

Apart from USST Programme, owing to the 2006 Multi-Beneficiary Programme (MBP) implemented from the beginning of 2008 until the end of 2010, many experts of TurkStat had the opportunity to enhance their professional knowledge and skills by means of meeting, trainings, seminars and study visits organised in EU Countries or traineeship programmes in the statistical offices within the European Statistical System.

In 2010, TurkStat personnel participated in hundred fifty four Eurostat meetings and eight traineeship programmes. Moreover, TurkStat received eight consultancies and realised four study visits to EU member states. Under MBP 2010 Programme, fifteen data collection projects were implemented in the areas of national accounts, short term statistics, environmental statistics, social statistics, information and communication technology statistics, agricultural statistics and dissemination of statistics.

Preparations for Light Peer Review

The European Statistics Code of Practice which was adopted by the Statistical Programme Committee in February 2005, presents an ambitious holistic approach to quality in statistics covering the institutional environment, statistical processes and statistical outputs. The European Statistical System

Peer Reviews (PRs) and Light Peer Reviews (LPRs) are conducted in the framework of the implementation of the Code of Practice in order to evaluate and monitor the statistical systems of both member and candidate countries. They have the dual purpose of, on the one hand, improving trust and confidence in statistical authorities by proposing certain institutional and organisational arrangements, and on the other hand reinforcing the quality of the statistics they produce and disseminate by promoting the coherent application of best international statistical principles, methods and practices by all producers of official statistics in Europe. The schedule for the implementation of LPR for Turkey is fixed for May 2011. The related studies in this framework have already begun in 2010 by the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat).



Member National Statistical Office in Latin America and the Caribbean

Guyana

BoS Celebrated Caribbean and World Statistics Days

Guyana celebrated the Caribbean Statistics Day and World Statistics Day on 15 and 20 October 2010, respectively. At the Thirty Fourth Meeting of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians

Turkmenistan

Turkmenistan Celebrated World Statistics Day



In accordance with the Resolution 64/267 of the United Nations General Assembly and with the view of raising awareness among government institutions and the public at large of the statistical system of Turkmenistan, the President of Turkmenistan issued a Resolution authorizing to celebrate World Statistics Day in Turkmenistan on 20 October 2010. The document authorizes the State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan to hold a Conference entitled "State Statistics of Turkmenistan on the Path of Progress" on 20 October 2010 in Ashgabat.

Representatives of relevant ministries and agencies addressed the media to honour World Statistics Day under the slogan "Let us celebrate the many achievements in Official Statistics".

(SCCS), the recommendation of the Fifth Meeting of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Advisory Group on Statistics (AGS) for the region to undertake joint observance of World and Caribbean Statistics Days



was approved with events starting on 15 October 2010 with the Caribbean Statistics Day and culminating with the observance of World Statistics Day on 20 October 2010. The following activities were conducted on 15 and 20 October 2010:

- October 15 - First Outreach visits to two schools in Regions 2, 3, 4 and 10; distribution of brochures and souvenir pens
- October 18 - Second Outreach visits to two schools in Regions 4, 5 and 6; distribution of brochures and souvenir pens
- October 19 - Open Day at Guyana Bureau of Statistics (BoS) where staff and colleagues from other government statistics units invited the public to view a mini exhibition of statistics produced and brochures along with a continuously running presentation highlighting and promoting statistics
- October 20 (morning) - Open Day at BoS continued, (afternoon) - Staff day; culminating with talent show

Banners were mounted at the BoS offices in Georgetown, Linden, Anna Regina, Region 5 and one other public location.

In his message, Dr. Ashni K. Singh, Minister of Finance said that "In fact Government has not only been unstinting in its support for statistics but has manifested this commitment in very tangible ways. During the period 2005 to 2009 Government, with the support of key development partners, invested over 4.5 million USD in building capacity in the Bureau and establishing and strengthening statistical units in several of the social sector line ministries. Capacity building in statistics is a long-term commitment and Government's support for statistics is unequivocal and for the long term."

Suriname

ABS Celebrated Caribbean and World Statistics Days



Since 2009, the Caribbean Statistics Day is celebrated on 15 October annually within the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). In this connection, the General Bureau of Statistics (ABS) of Suriname organised lectures for the general junior secondary schools and the higher classes of the general senior secondary schools in the Nickerie district. The attendance of the students in the lectures were high. Through these lectures, the ABS tries to establish statistical awareness among the students. The ABS plans to repeat these lectures at regular intervals. The ABS also held an "Open Day" on 15 October 2010 for the public and media between 08:00 and 12:00. The visitors had the chance to visit the various departments of the ABS. During the "Open Day", the staff answered several questions from the visitors.

As to the celebration of World Statistics Day 2010, the ABS focused on the youth in Suriname. The ABS distributed posters and leaflets in different general junior secondary schools about the statistics produced by the ABS. The ABS also organised the Statistics Fair in Sana Budaya on 20 and 21 October 2010 which was opened by the Minister of Finance and participated by the Ministries of Agriculture, Labour, Health, and Justice, the Central Bank of Suriname, the active United Nations agencies in Suriname, and students.

Member National Statistical Offices in Middle East and North Africa

Algeria

Algeria Celebrated World Statistics Day



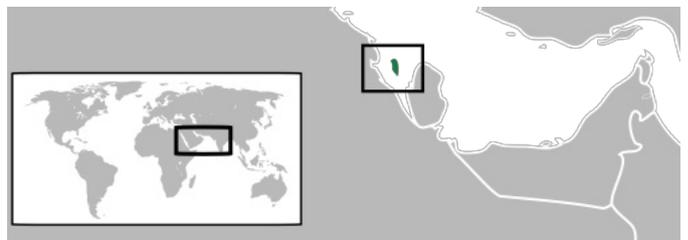
Algeria celebrated World Statistics Day through the following events:

- Regional meetings (Oran, Setif, Ouargla and Tipaza), presided by the State Secretary in charge of Statistics and with the participation of the local authorities on the importance of regional statistics and the launching of Algeria's First Economic Census
- Extraordinary Session of the National Council for Statistics with the participation of representatives of the different ministries, producers and users of statistics in Algiers
- "Open House Day" for the general public on 20 October 2010 at the National Office of Statistics and its regional offices
- Raising awareness through information campaigns about the importance of Algeria's First Economic Census
- National workshop involving the producers and users of statistics on sectoral statistics in order to examine the project of the Government's statistics policy (2010-2014)
- Regional conferences on the importance of statistics

All these events culminated in holding Algeria's National Statistics Conference by the second quarter of 2011.

Bahrain

Bahrain Celebrated World Statistics Day



The Central Informatics Organisation (CIO) celebrated the World Statistics Day on 20 October 2010 in the presence of officials, undersecretaries of the ministries, representatives of government agencies and private sector, the United Nations (UN) Resident Coordinator in Bahrain and other invitees.

Dr. Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Amer, President of the CIO, congratulated all those working in the statistics and information field on the occasion of World Statistics Day for their efforts, perseverance and achievements in the areas of economic, social, and environmental statistics.

He added that the progress of modern societies was often linked to the use of statistical data and information in decision making regarding optimal and rational policies. He went on to say that in fact they were celebrating not only the successes of statistics, but also the importance of statistics in contributing to development at all levels and areas.

Dr. Al Amer explained that the CIO was committed to providing assistance to all ministries, agencies and community organisations in building the



infrastructure. He stressed the approach of the CIO towards the interest of citizens as the primary beneficiaries of the statistical work, and constant communication with decision makers in order to understand the needs of all classes of users, in compliance with the orders of His Majesty the King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the implementation of the directives of His Royal Highness the Prime Minister and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince. He noted that the leadership support had a significant role in the progress of Bahrain in this area.

He also congratulated the success of the CIO in the implementation of the first comprehensive census of population, housing, infrastructure, buildings and agriculture. He pointed out that the CIO led the way in being the first Arab country to adopt the methodology relying on administrative records and databases in their censuses.

He concluded that the CIO aspired to promote statistical awareness and dissemination of statistical culture within the community, provide information to be available to users, supply best quality data with the lowest possible cost, strengthen cooperation and coordination between the producers of official statistics, and communicate with them to unify the concepts, terms and conditions for the production of high quality statistics.

Following Dr. Al Amer, Mr. Sayed Agha, United Nations (UN) Resident Coordinator in Bahrain, delivered a speech in which he congratulated the audience on the occasion of World Statistics Day. Mr. Agha said that the UN General Assembly decided to designate 20 October 2010 as World Statistics Day under the general theme "Celebrating the many achievements of official statistics" and the core values of service, integrity and professionalism. He praised the efforts of statistical experts, which have a major impact in supporting the development process, and the CIO's role in providing information.

He then mentioned about the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Report prepared by the CIO in cooperation with state institutions, which was submitted to the UN MDGs Meeting. He stressed the commitment of the CIO to international standards in the conduct of Census 2010 and noted that Bahrain provided all the information required in transparency. He also praised the role played by the CIO in the provision of real population figures of Bahrain.

Sheikh Hisham bin Abdul Aziz Al Khalifa, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education, praised the responsibility undertaken by the CIO to provide the data requirements needed by the development

plans in all sectors of the Kingdom, including the education sector. He said that education played a fundamental role in the development process which made education statistics one of the main political components of the national statistics.

He noted that statistics would help them to improve education and outcomes. Sheikh Al Khalifa also stated that the implementation of the Ministerial Programme to improve school performance required accurate statistics to help them shape future plans, modify paths and review the variables and objectives of the Programme.

Ms. Baheja Al Dailami, Assistant General Secretary of the Supreme Council for Women confirmed that the importance given to statistics by the Kingdom in the promotion of women's issues led to the political, social and economic empowerment of women.

In the same context, Dr. Adel Al Zayani, General Director of the Public Authority for the Protection of Marine Resources, Environment and Wildlife, confirmed that the role of statistics was essential in sustainable development because such development needed accurate information.

Following the speeches of the speakers, a set of worksheets were presented with the titles

- "Using the Administrative Records in the General Census of the Kingdom of Bahrain" by Elham Saleh, Director of Technical Resources Department at the CIO
- "Labour Market Information in the Kingdom of Bahrain" by Nedhal Al Banna, Director of Policy Development at the Labour Market Regulatory Authority

- "Facts on Bahrain Statistics" by Eman Ashkanani, Statistician.

For his part, Dr. Akbar Jaffari, Chief Operating Officer, said that the statistical system in Bahrain advanced remarkably as a result of the accumulation of seventy years of experience. He pointed out that Bahrain became one of the pioneers in the statistics field.

At the end of the ceremony, the CIO honoured state institutions and agencies that have participated in the 2010 Census and contributed to its success.

Egypt

CAPMAS Staff Received Advanced Training Workshop on CensusInfo



The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) organised a national advanced training on CensusInfo in Egypt from 20 to 23 September 2010.

The purpose of the workshop was to enhance the capacity of Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) staff to use CensusInfo software as a tool for disseminating population and housing census results. The workshop has been designed using an outcome-based training methodology consisting of a series of demonstrations followed by practical exercises based on the 2008 census results of Egypt. Participants learnt how to

customise CensusInfo software according to national requirements in order to finalise the national application of CensusInfo which was drafted during the basic training held in Cairo from 2-6 May 2010.

Egypt Celebrated World Statistics Day



Egypt celebrated the World Statistics Day through conducting the following activities:

- Holding a seminar on the importance of statistics and its role in socioeconomic development. Statisticians from Egypt, Italy, Denmark, and international organisations in Cairo made presentations in this seminar
- An exhibition for the publications, past and present, of the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) as well as for statistical products of leading information technology companies
- Issuing of commemorative postal stamp and coins on the occasion
- Honouring the statistics experts
- Launching the new CAPMAS website
- Dissemination of population, housing and establishments census data on CAPMAS website by using CensusInfo database
- Introducing the price indices on the basis of a new methodology
- Dedicating the first session on 20 October 2010 in all schools in Egypt, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, for the subject of "Importance of Statistics in Community Development"

- In collaboration with the Ministry of Information, mass media shed light on the role of statistics in their work, showing the logo of the day on screens throughout 20 October 2010
- Publishing the articles for the senior statisticians in the major newspapers during the week of celebration
- Inviting the United Nations (UN) Offices in Cairo to participate in this celebration
- Inviting young statisticians to visit the CAPMAS and to identify the method of work
- Fifty-five CAPMAS Regional Offices participated in the celebration of World Statistics Day
- Shedding light on the achievements of the statistical system over the past years
- The statistics partners held conferences during the week of celebration (The Egyptian Cabinet Information and Decision Support Center, Institute of Statistics, Faculty of Economic and Political Sciences, Legislation and Statistics Association)
- Implementing a workshop, in collaboration with the UN Statistical Division, on capacity building for the analysis and publication of population census
- Egypt hosted along with the celebration of the World Statistics Day the 6th Africa Symposia on Statistical Development (ASSD) with the presence of more than 250 participants, comprising all the heads of delegations of the African Statistical Offices and representatives of international and regional organisations.



Iran

Iran Celebrated World Statistics Day and Statistics Week



Following the announcement of 20 October 2010 as the "World Statistics Day" by the United Nations, Iranian Statistical Society (IRSS) decided to celebrate this day. Since 23 October used to be "the National Statistics and Planning

Day" in Iran, IRSS decided to celebrate one week as the Statistics Week (from 20 October to 26 October 2010). Days of Statistics Week are announced as follows:

- 20 October: World Statistics Day
- 21 October: Statistical Education and Statistical Literacy
- 23 October: National Statistics and Planning
- 24 October: Statistics in Industry (Production and Services)
- 25 October: Statistics in Other Sciences
- 26 October: Statistics as a Profession

The IRSS set up a committee for celebrating this week. The Programme Committee consisted of the representatives from Iranian Statistical Center (ISC), Central Bank of IRAN (CBI), Central Insurance Company, Ministry of Education and some universities. Some of the important decisions of the Committee were:

1. Considering all aspects of statistics
2. Equipping and updating the websites of the ISC and IRSS with news about the week

3. Organising exhibitions in Tehran and other cities
4. Organising "Open Door Day" for statistical centres for general questions related to statistics
5. Organising seminars and workshops on "Official Statistics, Industries, etc."
6. Unveiling a special coin with a denomination of thousand Rials for the World Statistics Day by the CBI. While on the obverse of the coin, date and memorial sentence of World Statistics Day are found, on its reverse it is mentioned that the CBI produces economic statistics and indices for more than seventy-five years, as the oldest producer of statistics in Iran
7. Publishing a special stamp for the World Statistics Day by the ISC
8. Seminar on "Official Statistics" in Allameh Tabataba'i University. Lectures by Dr. Navabpour and Khavari followed by a round table on official statistics with the presence of the lecturers as well as Prof. Samad Hedayat and some representatives from the ISC and CBI on 20 October 2010
9. Public seminars by Dr. Kasra Alishahi of Sharif University of Technology, Dr. Omid Naghshine-Arjmand of Amir Kabir University of Technology and Mr. Afshin Ashofteh of the CBI at three different locations in Tehran for high school students and their families on 21 October 2010
10. Lecture by the ISC Head in Friday Prayer of Tehran and distributing some brochures during this lecture on 22 October 2010
11. Seminar in Tarbiat Modares University and some lectures by Prof. Hedayat, Ms. Rahimzade and Dr. Ganjali on the application of statistics in medicine, social sciences and literature on 25 October 2010

12. Providing unity between centers which produce and present official statistics
13. Popularizing statistical knowledge among people and decision makers
14. Working on statistical literacy
15. Publishing books and papers on statistics for general audience
16. Publishing small books and brochures on statistical ideas and concepts
17. Publishing scientific articles for newsletters and magazines
18. Organizing a Statistical Museum by the ISC
19. Recognizing the best thesis on statistical works in insurance and finance

Achievements:

1. The primary design for holding a National High School Student Statistics Competition
2. Publishing the book "One Day with Statistics" written by Mr. Afshin Ashofteh for popularization of statistics
3. Lectures at some universities and media
4. Holding some statistics exhibitions and student workshops

Proposals for Further Works:

1. Setting up a committee for holding student statistics competition (The first round will take place in the summer 2011)
2. Setting up a committee for organizing a seminar on "Statistics as a Profession"
3. Setting up a committee for preparation of the standards of statistics education in schools
4. Organizing a common seminar on "Industry

and the Role of Statistics in Other Sciences"

5. Setting up a committee for publishing some books with the aim of popularizing statistics
6. Organizing a seminar for managers and decision makers to introduce the significance of statistics, in decision making.

Special Programs in Isfahan:



1. Designing the website and Persian logo for World Statistics Day (<http://www.iranstat.org> and <http://www.savadeamari.com>)
2. Designing, publishing and setting twenty billboards in the different places in Isfahan and Tehran
3. Publishing the article "Statistics: The Need of People for Modern Life" by Mr. Hossein Hajizadeh of the CBI at a newspaper
4. Competition at seven different parts with cooperation of the ISC, CBI, IRSS and Isfahan University
5. Statistics exhibitions and workshops for high school students organized by Isfahan Mathematics House (IMH). This was held in Isfahan Teachers' Research Center during the week
6. Data-Mining Competition designed by IMH, as a Festival
7. Exhibition to introduce statistical activities to public, during the week
8. Three lectures by the following lectures on statistical applications and statistical literacy:
 - 26 October 2010: Prof. Samad Hedayat, Illinois University
 - 28 October 2010: Dr. Mohamad Reza Faghihi, Shahid Beheshti University
 - 28 October 2010: Mr. Afshin Ashofteh, CBI

Iraq

Iraq Celebrated World Statistics Day



The Central Agency of Statistics of the Republic of Iraq prepared a plan regarding the celebration of the World Statistics Day. The plan included the following:

- The General Census 2010 in the Republic of Iraq started on the World Statistics Day, 20 October 2010, and ended on 24 October 2010
- Statistical conferences and exhibitions to inform the role and functions of the Central Agency of Statistics of the Republic of Iraq were organized
- Enhancing cooperation among the Central Agency of Statistics of the Republic of Iraq and other related institutions in the Republic of Iraq
- The abovementioned activities involved participation from the media.

3 June 2010, which provides for naming 20 October 2010 as the World Statistics Day, in recognition of the importance of official statistics for policy makers and decision makers in particular and for the society in general.

In this context, Jordan celebrated this occasion as per the following plan through the Department of Statistics (DoS) and its affiliates by implementing a number of activities in acknowledgement of the role played by the DoS in providing official statistics:

1. Holding an exhibition for the official statistics produced over the past six decades (date of the establishment of the DoS) in one of the well-known galleries and probably in other galleries in the regional offices to update the public on the stages of the development of official statistics and other statistical issues in Jordan
2. Preparing an Awareness Poster bearing the emblem of Jordan, the logo of DoS and the logo adopted by the UN for this occasion. This poster bears a slogan highlighting the role and importance of official statistics
3. Issuing a brochure on this occasion reflecting the development of official statistics in Jordan, in addition to a briefing on the World Statistics Day and the goal behind dedicating this day as an international occasion that is celebrated worldwide for the first time in addition to the basic principles of official statistics adopted by the UN
4. Conducting an interview on national TV and radio stations with the Director General of DoS, the permanent representative of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Jordan (if available) and two others representing the business sector and data users on topics relating

Jordan

Jordan Celebrated World Statistics Day



The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has joined other fifty-five United Nations (UN) member states to vote in favour of supporting the adoption of General Assembly Resolution No. 64/267 dated

to the importance of official statistics, its role in serving the sustainable development plans and the aspiration of DoS for the best world practices

5. Conducting press interviews with the Director General of DoS or his assignee to talk about the importance of official statistics and its use in the preparation of development plans. These dialogue interviews aim at promoting statistical awareness among the public

6. Producing and broadcasting of a documentary film in the exhibitions planned to be held by the DoS in both English and Arabic. The theme of the film relates to the various stages of development and statistical products of the DoS

7. Approaching the mobile phone companies to donate free of charge text messages to enhance statistical awareness among the public

8. Developing a text to be read to the pupils during the morning formation (in coordination with the Ministry of Education)

9. An article titled "History of Official Statistics in Jordan" has already been posted on the UN web site (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/wsd>)

10. For this purpose, the necessary committees (steering, technical and support) have been formed to make this remarkable occasion a real success.

Lebanon

Director General of CAS Elected as Member in the Executive Board of PARIS21

In June 2010, Dr. Maral Tutelian, Director General of Central Administration of Statistics (CAS) of Lebanon participated in the Board Meetings of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) which was held in Paris, France. She was renamed for two years as representative



member of the Middle East Countries. In the same meeting, Dr. Maral Tutelian was elected in the Executive Board of PARIS21 for two years starting from June 2010.

The Executive Board includes in addition to representatives from the

United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC), Eurostat, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank and four countries: France, United Kingdom, Lebanon and Philippines.

Lebanon Celebrated World Statistics Day



The Central Administration of Statistics (CAS) of Lebanon celebrated the World Statistics Day on 15 October 2010 at the same ceremony that ESCWA held under the Patronage of His Excellency the Prime Minister of Lebanon,

Mr. Saad Hariri, at the United Nations House in Beirut.

Libya

Libya Celebrated World Statistics Day

The National Statistics Office in Libya prepared in coordination with the United Nations Office in Tripoli



and the Statistics Department at the University of Al-Fateh University of Tripoli and Benghazi Garyounis, different activities to celebrate the World Statistics Day. These included:

- Presentation of papers on statistics and the importance of statistics
- Dissemination of papers on statistics
- Organisation of seminars to raise awareness on the importance of statistics in the development of communities and its importance for society in Libya.

Morocco

Morocco Celebrated World Statistics Day



Under the High Patronage of His Majesty the King Mohammed VI, Morocco celebrated the World Statistics Day under the theme: "Statistics: Concept, Method and Ethics" through the following events:

- Press conference on the meaning and the agenda of World Statistics Day
- Release of the results of a survey conducted on the occasion of World Statistics Day regarding the citizens' perception of statistical indicators and performance of the High Commission of

Planning (HCP) in this field

- Conference-debate on "Achievements and Prospects of Statistics in the World and in the Kingdom of Morocco" with the participation of:
 - * Government members
 - * Members of Parliamentary Committees responsible for economic, financial and social issues of the two Houses of Parliament
 - * Representatives of the various components of the General Confederation of Enterprises of Morocco
 - * Representatives of trade unions, universities and civil society associations
- "Open days" across each of the Moroccan regions targeting social and economic actors, students, pupils and all interested citizens to:
 - * Explain collection methods, treatment and analysis of statistical data
 - * Promote the HCP's websites: the institutional website as well as the site dedicated to the Human Development and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
 - * Exhibit the new technologies used by the HCP in the production and exploitation of statistical information including the Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI), the Automatic Document Reading System (ADRS) and the Inflation Simulator.

During these activities, which lasted three days and to which the United Nations representations in Morocco were invited to participate, several instructive tools (leaflets, posters, CDs, etc.) were distributed as well as reports and publications on human development and MDGs developed in Morocco.

Oman

Oman Celebrated the World Statistics Day



The Sultanate of Oman celebrated the World Statistics Day which comes under the slogan "service, professionalism, integrity".

On this occasion, Mr. Mohammed bin Nasser al Khusaibi, Secretary General of the Ministry of National Economy and Chairman of the Statistics Advisory Committee asserted that the Sultanate has made rapid and deliberate strides over the past years in order to provide the needed statistical data and information for the comprehensive development plans and programmes. The data had significant contribution in assisting planners to take sound decisions, outline and formulate clear development plans and visions as these data reflect the reality and are characterized by accuracy, quality and comprehensiveness.

Mr. Al Khusaibi pointed out that the steps undertaken by the Sultanate to upgrade the statistical work level were praised by international and regional organisations. He assured that the achievements accomplished by the Sultanate in the field of statistics, the significant efforts exerted to realize and improve the level of statistics quality and accuracy, their provision to all users besides great attention given to the building of statistical capabilities and provision of a specialist professional statistical cadre had a clear impact when the Sultanate was elected unanimously as Chairman of

the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) during the Forty-First Session which was held in February this year in the United Nations (UN) headquarters in New York. Mr. Al Khusaibi pointed out that two years ago the Sultanate was elected as member for the Asian group for a period of four years.

He added that during previous years the Ministry of National Economy in collaboration with a number of government units conducted a number of economic and social censuses and surveys. Two censuses of population, housing and establishments, annual survey of expenditure and income of household, annual survey of economic establishments, annual survey of foreign investment statistics, annual specialized surveys of tourism statistics, manpower survey and other statistical programmes and studies were carried out.

Mr. Al Khusaibi made a reference to the role of the other government units, such as, the Ministry of Agriculture who executed two agricultural censuses and other specialized surveys. Also, the Ministry of Fisheries Wealth carried out annual survey to measure fisheries production. Many units, such as, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Commerce and Industry and other units also have periodical statistical programmes.

Mr. Al Khusaibi mentioned that the statistical work in the Sultanate is improving every year. The improvement is a result of the abidance to the international statistical methodologies and harnessing of modern technology and its employment in all stages of the statistical work.

He pointed out that the two General Directorates of Statistics at the Ministry of National Economy and the statistical departments at the other government units are sparing no effort to harness modern technology to serve the statistical works. Many economic and social surveys are now carried out by using handheld devices and computer while data collection of others is through internet.

Mr. Al Khusaibi pointed to the achievement attained by the Sultanate in the 2003 Census where it was the pioneering country in the world in the use of handheld devices in the Muscat Governorate census. He added that the 2010 Census of Population, Housing and Establishments will witness the use of said devices at the Sultanate level besides harnessing modern technology in all the preparatory, planning and field works which will make the 2010 Census witness a paradigm shift in optimal employment of the cited technology.



Mr. Al Khusaibi assured that the Sultanate is keen that the statistical data outputs are characterized by accuracy, integrity and subjectivity to achieve the required goal. He pointed that in order to achieve this, the Statistics Committee, Ministry of National Economy and other government units that form the statistical system are paying attention to promoting statistical capabilities through gatherings of statistics professionals, workshops and training courses in addition to sending employees in the statistical area to complete higher studies or for participation in

forums, workshops, regional and international conferences that are organized by the UN and its concerned institutions or by specialized international and regional institutes. This is to learn about and benefit from international experiences in the field of statistical work.

He added that the Ministry of National Economy and all other units that produce the statistical figures are keen to publish the statistical data and enable their easy access to the beneficiaries and users. All outputs of the statistical surveys and censuses are available as data-basis and indices and through most recent means of communication including the internet. Al Khusaibi pointed out various issues published by the Ministry monthly or periodically or annually which added to the statistical publications.

At the end of his statement on the occasion of the World Statistics Day, Mr. Al Khusaibi thanked all citizens, residents, private sector companies and establishments for their cooperation during the previous years, assuring that this cooperation resulted in accurate statistical data and figures that are depended on for planning the comprehensive development programmes in the country. He also thanked all staff in the field of statistical work for their sincere efforts to upgrade the statistics in the Sultanate. He added that what was achieved in the sector is entirely due to the unstinted efforts of all those engaged in the statistical work area.

Mr. Ahmed Abdul Nabi Macki, Minister of National Economy and Deputy Chairman of the Financial Affairs and Energy Resources Council assured the close and strong relation between statistics and development. Mr. Macki pointed out that this relation is largely manifested in the contribution of statistical surveys and census outcomes when planning for the economic and social programmes throughout the years of the blessed Renaissance which had a significant impact on supporting and strengthening the national economy. He said in a statement on the occasion of the Sultanate's participation along with the world nations for the celebration of the World Statistics Day on 20 October, that the statistical surveys contribute to provision of a wealth of important information which enables planners and decision makers to outline the future. Mr. Macki pointed out that statistical surveys and their outcomes are not only to set future development plans but also are a crucial tool for induction reality, monitoring various phenomena and knowledge of changes that occur at different levels of activities. Also, they enable follow-up of these changes and reviewing the impact of the economic and development programmes in general beside their use in building and promoting the investors' confidence in the national economy. He added that the development of all economic and social sectors necessitate the provision of regular, comprehensive and accurate statistics. This is what the Ministry of National Economy and the other government units that produce the statistical figure have pursued and are pursuing to accomplish and provide.



Mr. Macki pointed to the great attention given by the Sultanate to upgrade the statistical work level and the role of the statistical system through the years of the blessed Renaissance through its pursuance to provide statistical data and information about all economic, social and demographic changes in the society. These efforts were also directed to meet the needs of the successive Five-Year Development Plans. He added that among reasons or elements that contributed to the success of the Five-Year Development Plans in the Sultanate is the dependence on accurate statistics, data, information and indicators. Mr. Macki explained that the next Eighth Five-Year Development Plan (2011-2015), which is under formulation, its mechanisms and programmes formulation depend greatly on the indicators and information provided by the censuses and statistical surveys and that one of the important dimensions of the next Plan is the upgrading of the statistical work. Mr. Macki pointed out that one of the most important evidences and issues which emphasizes the importance of such statistical data is the increasing demand for them from government units, private sector, individuals and various international institutions. He added that in order to provide this information quickly, and to meet the requirements of all those wishing to benefit from them, the Ministry of National Economy endeavored to facilitate access of such data by beneficiaries and users. In addition to that, coming years will witness the implementation of many statistical programmes and surveys to meet the growing needs for the statistical figures.

Palestine

Palestine Celebrated World Statistics Day



The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) launched a special web site for the celebration of the World

Statistics Day. PCBS celebrated this day through centralized event at Ramallah Culture Center under the auspices of His Excellency Dr. Salam Fayyad and in participation of key national and international figures. The United Nations General Assembly, through its resolution 64/267, decided to designate 20 October 2010 as World Statistics Day under the general theme of "Celebrating the many achievements of official statistics and the core values of service, integrity and professionalism". PCBS broadcast the events of the World Statistics Day via the internet (http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Wsd_2010)

As part of PCBS' celebration of World Statistics Day, PCBS announced the winners of the media contest for the best media news item based on PCBS' statistics during 2010. The contest aims to strengthen the utilisation of PCBS' statistics in the media, and also to encourage the media to incorporate statistics in their news and report writing.

A national committee was formed to review submitted work and select winners based on sound criteria. The awards were distributed to winners in special session chaired by Dr. Hasan Abu Libdeh, Minister of National Economy.

As part of PCBS' celebration of World Statistics Day, PCBS honoured two distinguished employees

for their outstanding contribution to the development of Palestine's Official Statistics during 2010. This step comes in line with PCBS' policy to promote innovation and commitment within the working environment of PCBS. The distinguished employee session was chaired by Dr. Husain Al-A'raj who is in charge of the General Employee Council.

As part of PCBS' celebration of World Statistics Day, PCBS announced the completion of phase one of the Metadata System and a special web site was launched on 20 October 2010 to serve that purpose. A special team had been formed to revise, further develop, document, and disseminate metadata to serve all users especially statistical units at various ministries and governmental institutions. So far, PCBS documented more than twenty surveys on the new system that uses the Accelerated Data Program (ADP) with technical support from the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21).

Qatar

Qatar Celebrated World Statistics Day



Qatar observed the World Statistics Day alongside other countries in the world under the theme: "Celebrating the Many Contributions and Achievement of Official Statistics". The day was observed in line with the United

Nations General Assembly resolution number 64/267, which calls on all nations to mark the day.

A message from the United Nations (UN) Secretary General Ban Ki-moon commending the dedication that many statistical experts have brought to their reports and publications was read during the event. Qatar marked the day with the release of 2010 census results for the country's population, housing and establishments as well as honouring of a number of ministries, government departments, private sector establishments and a number of individuals for their contributions to the success of the census.

Speaking on the occasion attended by His Excellency Hamad bin Abdulaziz al-Kuwari, Minister of Culture, the Qatar Statistics Authority (QSA) President Sheikh Hamad bin Jabor bin Jassim al-Thani said the day marked the important role of official statistics in the collection, dissemination and analysis of data related to economic, social, demographic and environmental sectors.

"We are happy to celebrate this day, which is marking our achievements of creating a database being presented to users in the form of numbers, indicators, and indexes (charts, maps), to be used by researchers, businesses and government in framing national and sectoral strategy, in decision making and shaping Qatar's future," he said. He stressed that QSA was keen on meeting face-to-face with users and producers to emphasise the importance of data providers in the process of data collection and to

understand to which extent QSA was fulfilling their needs. He mentioned that part of the objectives of celebrating the World Statistics Day was to promote QSA as the main source of official statistics and the leader of the National Statistical System entrusted with the production of data required for the National Development Strategy 2011-2016 for policy development and monitoring purposes.

"QSA's role is to harmonise and standardise the statistical concepts, definitions and the sound methodologies by data producers in Qatar," he said. Sheikh Hamad al-Thani stated that the recognition of the day will affirm that QSA was serving development in many specific areas of the economy, the demography, social, health and education matters as well as the environment by providing basic data for sectoral planning and monitoring purposes. "We will like to inform the public that we are following the internationally adopted methodology in order to collect quality and reliable statistics for users and researchers, and the QSA is adopting



the UN fundamental principles of official statistics and sustaining the confidentiality of information and exclusively using it for statistical purposes only," he said.

QSA held an open house reception on 21 October 2010 at its premises creating a platform for users and producers of statistical information from different sectors to meet and get acquainted with the roles and achievements of QSA.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia Celebrated World Statistics Day



The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia celebrated the first-ever World Statistics Day on 20 October 2010 under the theme: "Celebrating the Many Achievements of Official Statistics" through the following events:

- A technical press report on the World Statistics Day and the achievements of the "statistical sector" in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for distribution to newspapers and various media
- A press release on this occasion including a statement by the Director General of Central Department of Statistics and Information (CDSI)
- Posters bearing the logo of the World Statistics Day to be posted at entrances of government agencies, universities and residential compounds
- Letters to government agencies and major private sector institutions to inform them about this event and solicit their cooperation
- Placement of the logo of the World Statistics Day on the latest CDSI bulletins
- Highlighting this event and providing articles about it in the monthly CDSI bulletin about its activities
- Providing a link about this event on CDSI's website: www.cdsi.gov.sa
- CDSI's participation in Arab, regional and international statistical commissions commemoration of the World Statistics Day as an active member of these commissions
- Sending text messages (SMS) to the largest

segment of the public, highlighting the history of this day with statistical awareness of the importance of statistics

- Preparing e-mails for all agencies and individuals who access to the CDSI website on the Internet as well as for all participants in the preparatory and field activities of 2010 census to brief them on the World Statistics Day and its relevant page on the CDSI website and links-related to this occasion.

Tunisia

Tunisia Celebrated the World Statistics Day



The National Statistics Institute (INS) of Tunisia celebrated the first ever World Statistics Day on 20 October 2010. A number of activities took place on this occasion to inform the public about the significance of this day, the importance of official statistics and the variety of statistical activities in Tunisia as follows:

1. Open House Day at INS on 20 October 2010:
 - * Organisation of a documentary exhibition at INS representing the various material related to statistical activities: Recent and historical statistical publications and documents; boards tracing the evolution of a number of statistical indicators in the economic and social fields

- * Presentation of INS activities and services
 - * Computer workstations to access the sections devoted to the celebration of the World Statistics Day in the INS and United Nations (UN) websites
 - * Award of Merit certificates to honour a number of INS field agents
2. Communication and Media
- * Release of a press kit about World Statistics Day to be used by the different media: Press, TV, radios
 - * Participation in television and radio programs about World Statistics Day
 - * Preparation and distribution of documents and material in celebration of World Statistics Day: Posters; brochures
3. Web Sites
- * On the INS website: Publication of the World Statistics Day Logo, a special section about WSD and a link to the UN website to view the pages devoted to the events organized in celebration of World Statistics Day in different countries
 - * Publication of the WSD Logo and Poster in the web sites of the national public statistics units.

United Arab Emirates

NBS Explored South Korea's Statistical Experience



On 22 July 2010, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) of the United Arab Emirates explored the experience of the Statistical Agency of South Korea on the

system of national geographical and statistical information, in addition to the most important statistical challenges faced by South Korea.

The delegation, headed by His Excellency Rashid Khamis Al Suwaidi, Director General of NBS, was also exposed to the most modern statistical projects especially the General Population Census in Korea for 2010, in addition to the Korean experience in the preparation and publication of statistical maps according to Korean administrative areas and its regions.

Dr. Anseel Ay, the Director of the Korean Statistical Agency (KSA), illustrated to the members of the delegation the current preparations in the use of the Geographic Information System in the Census project and the updating of field data according to the nature and stages of statistical activities. She also demonstrated the Information Technology management mechanism in the KSA which aims at modernizing the technical channels in statistical work in its various fields and stages.

Cooperation between GCAA and NBS to Establish a Database



GCAA

دولة الامارات العربية المتحدة
الهيئة العامة للطيران المدني
UAE General Civil Aviation Authority

The General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA), at its regional headquarters in Dubai, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) on 16 August 2010 to establish and develop a statistical database

on the civil aviation sector at the national level. The MoU was signed by Mr. Saif Mohammed Al Suwaidi on behalf of the GCAA, and by His Excellency Rashed Khamis Al Suwaidi on behalf of the NBS.

The GCAA has been establishing an information section in this regard and expected to benefit from the expertise of the NBS which is regarded as the main and sole source and reference of official statistics in the UAE, mandated with the task of establishing national databases in different areas as part of national statistics. Mr. Saif Al Suwaidi stated that the signing of this MOU will help the Authority with the establishment of national statistical databases which supplies accurate and updated information on the civil aviation sector. This would serve the design of policies and decision-making which is in-line with the strategic plans of the Authority to achieve institutional excellence and the development of its organisational capabilities.

NBS Participated in Arab Economic Statistics Meeting



The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) of the United Arab Emirates participated in September 2010 in the Tenth Meeting of the Sub-Committee of Economic Statistics, chaired by Yemen. The United Arab Emirates was represented by Mr. Abdelqader Ahmad Al Musawi, Director of the Department of Economic Statistics at the NBS. The meeting was held at the headquarters of the Arab League's General Secretariat in Cairo, Egypt.

Over a period of three days, the committee explored a number of topics that concern most Arab statistical

agencies especially with respect to the development of Arab statistical agencies, and the exchange of experiences and expertise in light of the many challenges faced by Arab statistical agencies.

MoU Signed between NBS and DSG



The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) plans to establish sixty-three statistical units at federal institutions and entities at the national level according to His Excellency Rashed Khamis Al Suwaidi, Director General of the NBS.

His Excellency Al Suwaidi, during the signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Dubai School of Government (DSG) on 28 September 2010, stated that there are clear directions for the rapid establishment of these statistical units to strengthen statistical awareness and result in high levels of transparency in support of decision makers.

His Excellency Al Suwaidi signed the MoU with Dr. Tarek Yousef, Dean of the DSG, dealing with the exchange of information and expertise between the two organisations.

According to this MoU, the DSG will have access to technical databases collected by the NBS in the conduct of academic research which will contribute to the development of the country and its efforts. A joint committee will be formed to operationalize the various articles of this agreement with appropriate mechanisms in place.

His Excellency Al Suwaidi further stated that the signing of this MoU is within the efforts of the NBS to strengthen cooperation with various government entities in the country including the academic community in which DSG forms an important component of this community. This MoU encompasses joint training, exchange of information and expertise through the joint technical committee.

Dr Tarek Yousef, on his part, stated that the possibility of having access to timely and accurate data is of utmost importance in public policy analysis. More often than not, researchers and decision makers face many obstacles in terms of the availability of accurate data or the existence of an 'information databank' with available information but which cannot be accessed. He added that he commends the vision of the NBS and its open-mindedness upon which the MoU was signed, and that he was confident that this partnership, which is built on the exchange of information, will flourish and improve the quality of analysis to the decision maker and to the academic community which, in turn, will result in the formulation of policies on a much broader basis.

MoU Signed between NBS and FNC to Establish a Statistical Database



The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and Federal National Council (FNC) of United Arab Emirates signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 11 October 2010 to strengthen the joint framework and cooperation between them in the fields of data collection and management, display, and analysis, for the purpose of establishing and developing a statistical database at the national level.

The MoU was signed by Dr. Mohammed Salem Al Mazrooei, Secretary General of the FNC, and His Excellency Rashid Khamis Al Suwaidi, Director General of the NBS, at the General Secretariat of the FNC in Abu Dhabi.

Dr. Al Mazrooei stated that the FNC is seeking to establish a national database that provides information, statistics, and precise current data which serves the process of policy formulation and decision-making by members of the FNC, pointing out that the database will be established under an MoU serving FNC duties, its committees and meetings, in addition to upgrading research efficiency which related to Parliamentary duties.

Dr. Al Mazrooei explained that the NBS is a strategic partner and the only official statistical reference in the country. Moreover, it's the FNC's source of official statistical data and the authorized entity in establishing national databases in various fields as part of the national statistics, noting that the MoU strengthens the strategic partnership between the two parties which are seeking to institute effective methods and high tools with the highest efficiency in applications to improve the means of data collection, management, and usage, as well as establishing coordination and information sharing rules.

His Excellency Rashid Khamis Al Suwaidi pointed out the importance of cooperation with the FNC as this agreement seeks to activate the strategic partnership between the parties within the strategy of the NBS to provide technical support and expertise in the field of statistics for the bodies and institutions in the country, stressing that the cooperation agreement will establish a national statistical database contributing to the effectiveness of the FNC's role.

The MoU stresses the cooperation needed in order to take the necessary actions to establish databases to be linked to the NBS database according to approved methodologies and definitions, classifications, and technical standards and forms. It covers areas of cooperation between the two parties and contributions in conducting relevant studies, research, and surveys, in an environment in which the two parties work together in coordinating the field of statistical surveys, developing means of information collecting methodologies, and exchanges. It also includes participation in conferences, seminars, consultations, exchange programs and other relevant activities organized and agreed upon by the two parties, in addition to exchanging information and expertise to prepare databases and cooperate in the field of statistical training.

NBS Participated in ESCWA Meeting



The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) of United Arab Emirates participated in the Ninth Session of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for

Western Asia (ESCWA) Statistical Committee, held in Beirut between 13 and 15 October 2010. The NBS was represented by a delegation headed by His Excellency Rashid Khamis Al Suwaidi, Director General, in the meeting.

His Excellency Rashed Al Suwaidi stated that the invitation had been sent to the heads of national statistics centers in the ESCWA region, national technical entities, and those with experience and interest in the topics to be presented.

Participation of the NBS comes in the scope of identifying the latest experiments in the field of statistics. Moreover, continued cooperation with regional and international organisations for exchanging expertise, as well as developing statistical know-hows and skills in addition to building national capacities in the field of statistics and the establishment of statistical databases according to international standards.

The agenda of the Ninth Session included issues of importance to the region, including implications of meetings organised by regional and international bodies regarding the duty of the Statistical Committee, such as the results of the Twenty-Sixth Session of ESCWA in the statistical field, and the regional implications of the Fortieth and Forty-First Sessions of the United Nations Statistical Commission, in addition to strategic issues related to the official statistics in the region of Western Asia.

Discussions covered the strategic vision outlines for the duties of ESCWA in the field of statistics, a strategy for the implementation of National Accounts system, and a schedule for the year 2011, in addition to the proposed schedule for the biennium 2012-

2013, as well as the progress in the field of statistics since the Eighth Session of the Statistical Committee.

During the seminar, celebration of World Statistics Day as proclaimed by the General Assembly of the United Nations, among other special accomplishments took place on 15 October 2010.

SCAD Celebrated World Statistics Day

Statistics Centre-Abu Dhabi (SCAD) concluded on 22 October 2010 its celebration of the World Statistics Day, in which the centre joined several international statistical bodies in marking this occasion on 20 October 2010 as adopted by the United Nations, under the theme "Celebrating the many achievements of official statistics". In his address back in July 2010 on the designation of the World Statistics Day, the Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon remarked that the day is a historic occasion, urging the world leaders to ensure successful observance of the day in recognition of the role of statistics in the social and economic development of communities, and to devote more efforts and resources to strengthen national statistical capacity.



The programme of SCAD's observance of the world day included a series of public events that started last Tuesday and continued for three consecutive days, beginning with radio quiz contests through the "Sabah Al-Noor" program on Abu Dhabi Qur'an Radio station and "Studio 1" programme on the Abu Dhabi FM station for three days, with cash prizes for the winners. The programmes aimed to promote statistical awareness and culture among the public.

SCAD also staged a series of public activities at a number of shopping centers across the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, which included competitions and distribution of booklets and flyers about statistics, including titles like "Statistics in Our Lives", "Wonders of Numbers", "Abu Dhabi Facts and Figures", "The World in Numbers" and "Why Should We Celebrate the World Statistics Day?", in addition to a free drawing studio and face painting for children.

SCAD had called on all segments of the public to interact with the Centre on this occasion via SCAD's activities at the Marina Mall in Abu Dhabi city, Al Jimi Mall in Al Ain and the City Centre in the Western Region. These activities were intended to give the public the opportunity to take a close look at the significance of statistics in our lives.

Officials from SCAD visited a number of public and private schools in Abu Dhabi, Al Ain and the Western Region to introduce information about the centre and highlight the significance of celebrating the World Statistics Day, with the distribution of brochures,



drawing books, crayons and other gifts to pupils of the visited schools. SCAD's officials also gave simple lectures about the statistics presented a full set of the centre's publications for the schools libraries with. The visits were also useful in conducting a questionnaire that measured statistical awareness among the teaching and administrative staff of these schools for use in future studies of the center's.

SCAD also took part in the First Session of Ajman Statistical Forum, contributing a paper on the role of statistics in development. SCAD's brochures and publications were also distributed during the sideline activities accompanying the forum.

The events have underscored the efforts of SCAD in building close ties of cooperation with government and semi-government agencies in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, in the joint efforts to meet the present challenges and seize opportunities along the road to excellence and success, to serve the interests of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi under the judicious leadership of this cherished homeland.

In the observance of this occasion, SCAD's primary focus was to highlight the importance of statistical work, which is concerned with the collection,

dissemination and analysis of economic, social, demographic and environmental data, and the presentation of results in the form of figures, indicators and charts, to users, such as decision makers, government agencies, researchers, the business

sector and all segments of society, to ensure sound planning for future generations in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

In addition, SCAD was keen to take advantage of this event in promoting awareness about the mission and objectives SCAD, which was established in accordance with Law No. 7 for the year 2008, in fulfillment of the vision of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of United Arab Emirates, and His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, through their Highnesses' sustained support for development and advancement of the national economy. The Centre operates under the supervision and full support of the Executive Council of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

The events organized by SCAD on the World Statistics Day offered the Centre an opportunity to meet with data users and producers to bolster coordination among the all the parties concerned, learn about their needs and acquainting them with the role of the Centre in standardizing statistical concepts and methodologies in accordance with the statistical principles of UN and other internationally

adopted standards, to ensure the collection of reliable data, while protecting the confidentiality of individual information, limiting its use to statistical purposes only.

SCAD is currently implementing a major statistical project, comprising three field surveys, namely, the Economic Surveys, the Foreign Investment Survey and the Employment and Wages Survey. The project aims to build a state-of-the-art database to aid decision-makers, the business sector and researchers in the formulation of development strategies in all areas. Through its public activities, SCAD seeks to enhance statistical awareness and educate the public about the importance of cooperating with interviewers by providing them with the data and information required in the questionnaires of the surveys. SCAD aims to consolidate its partnership with the public and secure their support in all statistical projects to ensure the production of updated, accurate and reliable data.

In gearing up for this occasion SCAD had also upgraded its website (www.scad.ae) to educate its visitors about the importance of statistical work in our lives, and foster a stronger partnership with data providers so that all can work as a true team that seeks to serve the society with more balanced development, while aiming to preserve a sustainable environment, benefiting from a solid statistical system that adheres to the basic values of "service, integrity and professionalism". SCAD seized this event to promise its strategic partners, including Government entities, private enterprises, decision makers, businesses, researchers and all segments of society, that by 20 October 2011, Allah willing, the centre and its partners will have jointly achieved the aspired goal of building a statistical system for the Emirate of Abu Dhabi that meets the highest

professional standards and pursues the best international statistical practices, in line with the development needs and the ambitious economic vision of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

The primary focus in the annual observance of the day was to highlight the importance of statistical work, which is concerned with the collection, dissemination and analysis of economic, social, demographic and environmental data, and the presentation of results in the form of figures, indicators and charts, to users, such as decision makers, government agencies, researchers, the business sector and all segments of society, to ensure sound planning for future generations in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

Yemen

Yemen Celebrated the World Statistics Day



The Central Statistical Organisation of Yemen conducted the following activities to celebrate World Statistics Day on 20 October 2010:

A special brochure was issued containing statistical tables and indicators reflecting the economic and social situation in Yemen. Banners including the World Statistics Day logo were posted on the main streets of Yemen's capital, Sanaa. Various panels were held on World Statistics Day on both TV and Radio. An official ceremony was organized on 20 October 2010 under the auspices of His Excellency the President of Yemen.

Member National Statistical Offices in South Asia

Afghanistan

Afghanistan Celebrated World Statistics Day



High-level officials representing the Government and the International Community took part in the special event marking the first ever World Statistics Day organised in Kabul on 20 October 2010 by the Central Statistics Organization in Afghanistan.

His Excellency Mohammad Karim Khalili, Second Vice President of Afghanistan and Head of National Statistics Committee and National Census Committee, and Dr. Hazrat Omar Zakhilwal, Minister of Finance, both spoke during the meeting.

Mr. Khalili stressed the importance of statistics for his country, particularly in relation with the next Population and Housing Census. He underlined the need for building statistical capacity and for accuracy of data.

Participants included Martin Kobler, Deputy Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General, and representatives of donor countries such as the British Department for International Development (DFID) and international organisations like the World Bank and the European Commission.



Third High Level Expert Group Meeting of ECO Member Countries



Third High Level Experts Group Meeting of National Statistical Offices of the Member States of Economic Cooperation Organisation was held on 5-6 October 2010 in Kabul, Afghanistan. It was hosted by the Central Statistical Organisation of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

Bangladesh

Bangladesh Celebrated World Statistics Day



A national committee has been formed with the Director General of BBS as head in the observance of the World Statistics Day. The other members are academicians from Universities, and research organisations. The committee has planned to conduct the following activities:

- Holding of a National Seminar
- Publication of Souvenir, Posters and Brochures
- Holding of Rallies in Connection with World Statistics Day
- Supplement of a Newspaper
- Exhibition of Statistical Publications
- Press Conference, TV talk
- Lighting up in the Statistics Building

Maldives

Maldives Celebrated World Statistics Day



The celebration of World Statistics Day in Maldives took place between 20 and 26 October 2010. The local theme of World Statistics Day in Maldives was "Reliable Statistics: Key to Sustainable Development". The following activities were carried out:

19-26 October 2010

- Banners related to statistics were displayed on roads of Male and Atolls

20 October 2010

- Official meeting to celebrate Statistics Day
 - * Introduce a new service of providing statistics through text messages
 - * Release of the MaldivInfo version 2, Statistical Yearbook of Maldives 2010, and Third Millennium Development Goals Report
- Seminar for policy-makers on importance of statistics for development
- Release a supplement (statement of President, Minister and United Nations)
- Panel Discussion on MNBC One Channel

21 October 2010

- Statistics Coordinating Committee Meeting: To discuss "the feasibility of conducting a register based census in 2011", and "the study on the inflation trends" being conducted by Department of National Planning
- Release a supplement about the trends of the year book in newspapers
- School Quiz on MNBC One Channel

22 October 2010

- Statistics Fair

23 October 2010

- Continuation of the fair
- Continuation of School Quiz on MNBC One Channel
- Statistics Quiz on Saturday special programme

24 October 2010

- Seminar for private sector on statistics (focus on economic statistics)

25 October 2010

- Workshop on MaldivInfo (government offices)

26 October 2010

- Workshop on MaldivInfo (college students)
- Opening a statistics corner at the National Library

Pakistan

Pakistan Celebrated World Statistics Day



To celebrate the World Statistics Day, Pakistan organised the following activities during the week starting from 18 to 22 October 2010:

- National Conference held by National Statistics Office in collaboration with Higher Education Commission, Pakistan Science Foundation, Statistics Division, Provincial Bureaus of Statistics and other Statistical Cells/ Departments in Federal Ministries and Provincial Departments

- Professional statisticians to deliver lectures on Statistics at different universities, colleges, schools and offices
- Promotional activities like walks with logos to motivate people for participation World Statistics Day
- Promotional materials like stationery items, vests, caps etc.
- Essay competitions on statistics both at

College/University and school

- Brochure on activities of Statistics Division, Bureau of Statistics / Population Census Organisation / Agriculture Census Organisation / Training Wing of Statistics Division
- Articles for Newspapers and other public forum
- Launch Pakistan Journal of Official Statistics (PJOS)
- Paper on the status of statistics in Pakistan

Member National Statistical Offices in Sub-Saharan Africa

Burkina Faso

Communication Days for Burkina Faso's National Statistical System



In order to ensure better visibility for the production official statistics, the National Institute of Statistics and Demography (INSD) of Burkina Faso, with support from the National Statistical System Development Project (PDSSN), held between 12 and 17 July 2010, the First Communication Days for the National Statistical System. The purpose of these Days was, firstly, to inform and educate the public about the usefulness of statistical data, and secondly, raise awareness of the statistical products to users. The Communication Days included radio quizzes, television programs, exhibition and conference-debate on the topic: "From Figures to Action: Role of Statistics in Planning and Monitoring of Development Policies in Burkina Faso". An exhibition for statistical products was organised between 16 and 17 July 2010 in Azalai Hotel in Ouagadougou.

Burkina Faso Celebrated World Statistics Day and African Statistics Day



In a letter addressed to United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, His Excellency Blaise Compaore, President of Burkina Faso, announced that, in addition to efforts to mark African Statistics Day on 18 November 2010, his country would observe the First World Statistics Day on 20 October 2010 with the following activities:

- Formal ceremony to launch the World Statistics Day
- Conference / debate on "Progress in Official Statistics in Burkina Faso"
- Exhibit of statistical products
- Radio-quiz on knowledge of national, sub-regional and international statistics
- Recreational activities

In Burkina Faso, the celebration was inaugurated on 20 October and lasted until 24 November 2010 to coincide with the African Statistical Day. On 28 October 2010, a conference was organised in Ouagadougou with the aim to create public awareness among the people on the importance of official statistics in socio-economic planning, policy formulation and in society. The conference was led by Mr. Tiendrébéogo Yamsekre, Technical Advisor at the Finance Ministry, and Mr. Bamory Ouattara, Director General of the National Institute of Statistics and Demography (INSD) of Burkina Faso. In their speeches they both addressed the audience and told about the positive development of official statistics in Burkina during the last decades.

During the ceremony, three of the staff from the INSD were awarded for their contribution in papers or studies related to different areas of statistics. The competition was organised by the INSD to promote statistical awareness in Burkina Faso.

Cameroon

Cameroon Celebrated World Statistics Day and African Statistics Day



The celebration of the World Statistics Day and African Statistics Day took place in Cameroon on 20 October 2010 and 18 November 2010, respectively. The following activities were organised for celebrations:

- Advocacy activities
 - * Banners and flags placed in tens regions of Cameroon
 - * Signs posted in public areas
 - * Logos printed on different promotional materials
 - * Television show on the World Statistics Day and African Statistics Day
 - Official launch of the World Statistics Day and declaration of Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT) on 20 October 2010
 - * The Minister of Economy, Planning and Territorial Organisation delivered a speech launching the World Statistics Day (broadcasted on public and private media)
- Conference / debate on the objectives of World Statistics Day
 - * Attendees included decision makers and data producers
 - * Presentations regarding the objectives of World Statistics Day
 - * The objective was to attract donors to invest in statistics in Cameroon
- Ninth and Tenth Sessions of the National Statistical Council
 - * Evaluation of the 2009 and first half of 2010 plan of action
 - * Adoption of the final version of National Strategy for the Development of Statistics
 - * Dissemination of the work of the National Statistics Office (NSO)
 - * Concession of the Jan Tinbergen Prize
 - * Suggest the participation of Cameroon as a permanent member of the United Nations Statistical Commission
- Sports walk for the personnel of the NSO
- Interview with the Director of the NSO published in the press

Chad

Chad Celebrated World Statistics Day



Chad celebrated the World Statistics Day on 20 October 2010 with an event titled "Celebrating the achievements of public statistics". In order to coordinate the celebrations, a Committee had been created and organised the following activities:

- The Minister of Economy and Planning delivered a speech to be broadcasted on television and radio
- The Director of the National Institute of Statistics, Economic and Demographic Studies (INSEED) hosted a conference on the achievements of Chad's statistical system
- Banners were displayed on the city's main streets

Gabon

Gabon Celebrated World Statistics Day



Gabon celebrated the World Statistics Day on 20 October 2010 through the following events:

- Open House Day at the esplanade of the building "Bercy", annex to the Ministry of Finance
- (09:00-09:15) Opening remarks and presentation of the program

- (09:15-09:50) Visit of stands
- (10:00-12:00) Conference
 - * Theme 1: "What is a Survey of Demography and Health?" by Jean-Noel Biyogo Obame, Director of Demography Statistics
 - * Theme 2: "The Impacts of Surveys on Political Decision- " by Jean-Nestor Nguema, Director of General Statistics
- (12:00-15:00) Activities of the stands and Animation
- (15:00-17:30) Conference (continued)
 - * Theme 1: "Dissemination of the Statistical Yearbook 2010 and Provisional National Accounts of Gabon for 2006-2008" by Mr. Francis Thierry Tiwinot, Director General of the General Directorate of Statistics and Economic Studies (DGSEE)
 - * Theme 2: "The Comparison between the National Accounts Systems of 1968 and 1993" by Jean-Jacques Ondo Megna, Director of Economic Studies
 - * Theme 3: "Presentation of the National Accounts System of 2008" by Mr. Armel Moubamba, Staff Member

Gambia

Gambia Celebrated World Statistics Day



Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBoS) celebrated the World Statistics Day on 20 October 2010 with the following activities:

- Press release
- Press conference

- Radio and television announcements
- Radio and television panel discussions
- Newspaper announcements
- Newspaper articles
- March-past
- Ceremony at GBoS after the march-past including speeches, entertainment by cultural groups, animators, translators of local languages, drama groups to perform in local languages

The following sensitisation materials were used in the events:

- Statistical reports
- Brochures
- Banners for the march-past and ceremony at GBoS
- Posters for the general public were distributed in all regions of the country
- T-shirts for the general public and those attending the march past
- Launch of 2013 Census Logo
- Highlight the upcoming 2013 Population and Housing Census and other statistical achievements

Mali

Modular Household Survey (EMOP) Workshop in Ségou



The modular and permanent household survey (EMOP) is a statistical activity scheduled in the Strategy for the Development of Statistics to be conducted by Malian National Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) in 2011

with technical and financial support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). It is a stratified sample survey in two stages for which all selected households are visited four times during the year; i.e. one visit every three months.

The main objective of the EMOP is to produce regular and ongoing relevant indicators on the socio-economic situation of households, data needed to monitor the Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy Framework (GPRSF) and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and the formulation of sectoral policies. The EMOP aims the following specific objectives:

- Provide information on the size and composition of households
- Identify the internal and external migration movements, and urbanisation trends
- Have regular information on housing, health, employment, education, income, etc.
- Measuring access to key infrastructure services
- Quantify the production activities of households, measure the economic situation of different households, assess the strategies chosen by the Malian households to cope with economic needs. Assessing the economic allocations within the household.

The EMOP survey has a base module and one or more additional modules that are inserted at the request of users or other structures of sectoral statistics. The basic module is designed to take into account the concerns of GPRSF and MDGs and the requirements of national accounts. It consists of nine main sections relating to socio-economic characteristics of the population including population

structure, education, health, employment, housing conditions, migration, remittances and household perceptions on the conditions of life. At the request of users, the EMOP may include one or more additional modules during a given phase. These modules may further one of the sections of the base module or introduce a new area. The additional cost of this additional module will be borne by the applicant.

A technical team was formed to develop technical tools for the survey and plan the implementation of the project. It is composed of six staff members of the INSTAT including Issa Bouaré (Head of Studies and Research Section), Arouna Sougané (Chief of Methodology Section), Balla Keita (Data Analysis and Processing Officer), Sidy Boly (Statistical Tools and Methods Officer), Seydou Doumbia Aïssatou Tangara (Statistical Visa and Harmonisation Officer), and Ms. Gunlög Eiderbrant (Long-term consultant from Statistics Sweden to INSTAT). For the coordination of activities, Issa Bouaré was appointed as Group Leader at the meeting of 20 July 2010.

The technical team organised a workshop in Ségou to develop methodological tools of the "EMOP" between 15 August and 3 September 2010. During the workshop, the technical documents necessary for the implementation of the project, including the methodology paper, the survey of the basic module, and various manuals were developed. The workshop also prepared a draft budget and timetable for the pilot survey and the first phase of the project.

Study Visit by INSTAT to Sweden

To strengthen the institutional capacity, the delegation of the National Institute of Statistics

(INSTAT) of Mali visited Sweden between 11 and 18 September 2010. The general objective of the study visit was to examine the management of Statistics Sweden with a focus on statistical data production and dissemination, and the organisation of the national statistics system in Sweden. The discussions focused on the following areas:

- Executive management, relationship with the Government, coordination of official statistics
- Human resources management
- Information technology
- Communication and dissemination of statistics
- Modular surveys

Mali Celebrated the World Statistics Day



The World Statistics Day was celebrated on 20 October 2010 in Bamako, the capital of Mali, with a large meeting in the International

Conference Centre. Government members, elected officials and ambassadors were present, as well as technical and financial partners, users of statistics and almost all the staff of the National Institute of Statistics (INSTAT).

In addition to speeches by the Prime Minister, the Minister of Economy and Finances and others, a film was shown which highlighted the significance of statistics for the development of a country. The National Orchestra of Mali entertained with music performed on traditional Malian instruments such as the kora and the ngoni.

Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone Celebrated World Statistics Day



Statistics Sierra Leone (SSL) celebrated the World Statistics Day on 20 October 2010 through the following activities:

1. Placing the World Statistics Day Logo on the Statistics Sierra Leone website: www.statistics.sl
2. Engaging the print and electronic media to publish and air events relating to World Statistics Day
3. Organising a press conference and radio talk on the role of statistics in contemporary societies while focusing on the mission of SSL
4. Interviews with other data collecting institutions to be posted on the website
5. Awarding certificates of merit to hard working and committed staff of Statistics Sierra Leone in various areas of statistical data collection and dissemination
6. Honoring various dignitaries who have contributed immensely to major statistical events like the Population and Housing Census
7. Organising an exhibition at SSL Head Office to show statistical products and services offered by various divisions and departments
8. Having the logo of World Statistics Day on all mails distributed during that week and banners at strategic points in all regional headquarters
9. Organising similar events at regional headquarters involving Local Councils and other users of statistics
10. Organising public lectures targeting leading tertiary institutions; namely, Fourah Bay College, Makeni University, Njala University and Eastern Polytechnic.

Togo

Togo Celebrated World Statistics Day



On the eve of 20 October 2010, the first ever World Statistics Day was celebrated in Lomé, Togo with an "Open House Day" held at the General Directorate of Statistics and National Accounts (DGSCN). At the opening ceremony of the Open House Day, Mr. Kokou Yao N'Guissan, Director General of DGSCN, said: "The World Statistics Day is an opportunity for our country to launch major statistical products or gaining support from policymakers and the public for more ambitious statistical projects". He went on to say that: "It is also an opportunity to pay tribute to the service provided by international institutions, regional and subregional organisations in promoting and encouraging the development of national statistical systems".

Mr. N'Guissan added that the official statistics and DGSCN play an increasingly important role in private and public sector. According to him, "The official statistics are used to form the public opinions, formulate policies and make business decisions. At the national level, official statistics have contributed to developments in many sectors of the economy as well as in demography, society, health or environment by providing the basic data needed for planning and monitoring, without which the development in these sectors would be seriously hampered, and the progress or success of the policies could not be measured." The Director General of DGSCN also reminded that the Fourth General Census of Population and Housing in Togo will be conducted between 6 and 19 November 2010.

News from

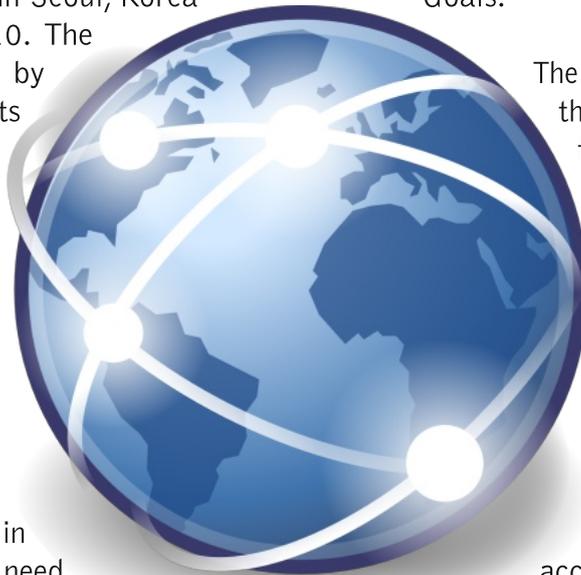
International Organisations

International Seminar on ICT Statistics

The International Seminar on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Statistics, organized by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and Statistical Office of the Republic of Korea (KOSTAT), in cooperation with the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, took place in Seoul, Korea from 19 to 21 July 2010. The seminar was attended by hundred-sixty-one participants from more than fifty-five economies, of which fifteen of them were Member Countries of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, and eight regional and international organisations.

Statistics on ICTs have received increasing attention in recent years, highlighting the need for reliable data on new technologies that have impacted all aspects of economic and social life. Especially since the Tunis phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), there has been much progress on the production of ICT statistics. At the same time, the ICT area continues to evolve rapidly and statistical standards and definitions need to be revised and adapted continuously. As the main data collectors, national statistical agencies are crucial players in ensuring sustainable and internationally comparable ICT statistics.

The Seminar presented a timely opportunity for statistical agencies and other relevant stakeholders to discuss new developments, trends and challenges related to ICT statistics. It took place at the half-way point between the Tunis phase of the WSIS and 2015, when the United Nations General Assembly will review progress towards achieving the WSIS targets, in line with the Millennium Development Goals.



The Seminar in particular facilitated the exchange of experiences on the following topics:

1. ICT statistics and policy making
2. Measuring the Information Society, including:
 - a. New developments in mobile and broadband communication technology
 - b. Measuring household ICT access and individual use
 - c. Measurement issues related to households ICT surveys
3. Measuring the Information Economy, including:
 - a. Measuring the evolving ICT sector
 - b. Measuring ICT use by businesses
 - c. Measurement issues related to surveys on ICT use in enterprises
4. Emerging areas of ICT statistics, such as ICT in education, e-government or online security
5. Regional and international approaches to enhancing ICT data availability
6. Korean experiences in this field

Ninth Management Seminar for Heads of NSOs in Asia and the Pacific and Fortieth Anniversary Celebration of SIAP



The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), participated in

the "Ninth Management Seminar for the Heads of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in Asia and the Pacific" which was organised by the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) and the Fortieth Anniversary Celebration of the SIAP on 31 August - 2 September 2010, in Tokyo, Japan.

The subject of the Ninth Seminar was "Developing Professional Capability for National Statistical Systems". The heads of the NSOs from thirty countries and representatives of five international organisations such as United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) participated in the Seminar. During the programme of the Seminar, the invited speakers and representatives of the NSOs made presentations in four sessions titled as follows:

1. Paving New Direction in Official Statistics: The Role of Heads of NSOs
2. What capability is needed by NSOs now and into the future, and how to achieve?
3. Getting the right balance between internal capacity and utilizing external professional skills
4. Developing a framework for building statistical capability

Besides, three Group Work Sessions were also held during which small groups discussed on various

relevant issues and reported the results during a main plenary session. SESRIC also held bilateral meetings with the NSO heads of seven Member Countries of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference who participated in the Seminar.

Sixteenth Session of CCSA

The Sixteenth Session of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) was held in Vienna from 1 to 3 September 2010. It was hosted jointly by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Dr. Sidika Basci, Director of Statistics and Information Department represented SESRIC during the Sixteenth Session of the CCSA. After the adoption of the agenda on day one, a special session on Human Capital started. The organising committee for this session was Eurostat, UNIDO, UNODC, World Trade Organisation (WTO) and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The objective of the special session was to address the current challenges in human resources management (HRM) in the specific environment of international organisations. Some of the highlighted topics of the session were:

1. Staff exchange programmes between National Statistical Offices (NSOs)
2. Coaching Programmes: One person from one NSO can coach some other person from another NSO

3. Staff exchange programmes between international organisations
4. Training of international statisticians
5. Young statisticians discussion groups - without an instructor
6. Importance of managerial training
7. Differences between back office (database) and front office (technical cooperation)

Two task forces were created during the special session. The first task force will work on defining the profile of international statisticians and will inform the outsiders like academicians about this profile. In this regard, meetings between these two groups will be organized. Under the leadership of the WTO; UNIDO, UNECE, UNDP and SESRIC constitutes the task force one. The second task force will work on identifying the training opportunities and staff exchange programmes. Other agenda items of the Session were Inventory on Global Statistical Standards, Global Statistical System, Capacity Building Activities-PRESS, Use of Non-official Data, Establishment of a Network of Statisticians Working in International Organisations, Dissemination of Micro Data by International Organisations, World Statistics Day, Evaluation of the 2010 Conference on Data Quality for International Organizations, Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX). The Seventeenth Session of CCSA will be held on



21 February 2011 in New York and the Eighteenth Session of CCSA will be held on 6 to 8 September 2011 in Luxemburg. The Secretariat of the Session will be Eurostat. More can be found at the web page <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/acsub/ccsa16.htm>

UN Regional Seminar on Census Data Dissemination and Spatial Analysis



United Nations
Statistics Division



The regional seminar was organised by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), in collaboration with the United Nations Social and Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) on 5-8 October 2010. 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 also offered an opportunity to discuss emerging trends, innovative approaches and technological tools employed in the dissemination of census data. The Seminar provided a prospect for assessing existing national dissemination strategies as well as technologies used by national statistical offices. It also aided in taking stock of national capacities and challenges for meeting the increasing requirements of census data users. Furthermore, the Seminar was expected to help in identifying good practices and lessons learned in the dissemination and analysis of census data. The ideas generated by the discussion and the recommendations made by participants are expected to contribute towards the

drafting of a technical report on census data dissemination.

The regional seminar was attended by nineteen countries in the region of which five of them were the Member Countries of Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) including Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, and Pakistan. Also in attendance was the Secretariat of the Pacific Community as well as representatives from the UNESCAP, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (UNSIAP), and the UNSD.

Third Global Forum on Gender Statistics and Inter-Agency and Expert Group Meeting on Gender Statistics



The Third Global Forum on Gender Statistics was held from 11-13 October 2010 in Manila, Philippines. It was organized by the National Statistical Coordination Board of Philippines and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), in collaboration with the World Bank and with additional funding from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The Forum was attended by over ninety

participants representing thirty-one countries, of which ten of them were the Member Countries of Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), and eleven United Nations agencies.

The 2010 Global Forum was the third of a series of international meetings on gender statistics held with the purpose of promoting the advancement of gender statistics among decision makers and all other user groups. The focus of the 2010 Forum was on the gender dimensions of health statistics, including measurement of maternal health and maternal mortality, causes of death and disability, and related methodological advances. The Forum therefore was also an opportunity for countries to learn of ways to strengthen their capacities in producing gender and health statistics. Finally, the Forum had the objective to review what needs to be done to improve gender statistics in order to respond to monitoring requirements in relation to international development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), the Beijing Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

Workshop on the Updated and New Recommendations for IMTS 2010 and Their Implementation in Countries of the Sub-Saharan Region

At its Forty-First session (23 - 26 February 2010) the Statistical Commission adopted the "International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions 2010 (IMTS 2010)" and endorsed the implementation programme as contained in the



Secretary General's report, including the preparation of the revised IMTS Compilers Manual and continued technical assistance activities.

The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) in cooperation with the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) organised a workshop on the updated and new recommendations for IMTS 2010 and their implementation in countries of the Sub-Saharan Region. The workshop took place 1-5 November 2010 in Lusaka, Zambia.

Twenty-two countries, of which five of them were the Member Countries of Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) including Comoros, Egypt, Mozambique, Sudan and Uganda participated in the workshop. Each country was represented by one staff member from the national statistical agency responsible for the overall IMTS compilation and dissemination. The Southern African Development Community (SADC), Southern African Customs Union (SACU), and International Trade Center (ITC) were also represented.

During the workshop, countries were introduced to the new and updated recommendations as contained in the IMTS 2010 and shared their experiences in the compilation of IMTS and the implementation of the international recommendations (old and new) on IMTS. They also identified issues and best practices for inclusion in the updated IMTS Compilers Manual.

Workshop on the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses: Census Evaluation and Post Enumeration Surveys for Arabic Speaking Countries

The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), in collaboration with the Jordan Department of Statistics (DOS) and the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS) organised a Workshop on census evaluation in the context of the 2010 World Programme for Population and Housing Censuses in Amman, Jordan on 21-24 November 2010. The purpose of the Workshop was to present an overview of the various methods of evaluating censuses with a focus on the post enumeration survey (PES) methodology. More specifically, the Workshop covered elements of the PES with regard to:

1. Planning and implementation
2. Frames and sample design
3. Methodologies for evaluating content and coverage errors
4. Matching procedures
5. Imputation of missing values
6. Tabulation and dual system of estimation

The Workshop also offered the possibility to the participants to present and discuss the experience of their countries on different aspects of census evaluation and the post enumeration survey.



OIC SWG

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