WORKSHOP
PEER REVIEW MECHANISMS FOR NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICES IN OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES

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SESSION III: Country Experiences in Conducting the Peer Review Process

Malaysia's experiences in the Peer Review of the Myanmar National Statistical System (NSS)

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Peer review for the National Statistical System (NSS) of Myanmar

INTRODUCTION

- The mission carried out in Nay Pyi Taw from 26 June to 1 July 2016.

- Peer review team was formed consist of 3 reviewers:

  - ❑ A senior official from the National Statistics Offices (NSOs) of Malaysia;
  - ❑ A senior official from the Philippines; and
  - ❑ A senior official of the Statistics Division of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat.

- The mission is supported by:
  - ❑ The Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21stCentury (PARIS21) Secretariat through a Consultant; and

  - ❑ The partnership's Regional Programme Coordinator for Asia-Pacific and Small Island Developing States.

Why peer Review Need?

❖ To evaluate the National Statistical System (NSS) of Myanmar (MNSS) operations from all aspects such as institutions, organizations and the process of statistical production.

❖ To identify weaknesses, strengthens and opportunities for peer reviewers to provide recommendations to improve MNSS performance.

❖ The finding will be used by Central Statistics Office (CSO) of Myanmar to gain support for statistical development such as:
  ❑ Enhancing the statistical capacity;
  ❑ Developing the statistical technical;
  ❑ Developing the financial resources;
  ❑ Implementing the statistical activities; and
  ❑ Implementing the National Strategy for Development of Statistics in Myanmar.

METHODOLOGY

Peer Review Team
- 26 June – 1 July 2016 (6 days), Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmnar
- Reviewer : Malaysia, Philippines & ASEAN Secretariat
- Facilitator : Paris21 Secretariats
- Consultant: Paris21

Method
- Documentary reviews of institutional practices of NSS
- Meeting CSO's Managers and Staff
- Meeting with NSS's stakeholders, official data producers, data users (governments and private sectors) and development partners.

Guideline
- Based on 17 Principles of the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (**UNFPOS**) with 4 major themes:
  - Theme 1: Organization and management of the NSS
  - Theme 2: Management of the statistical production process
  - Theme 3: Assuring quality of statistical outputs
  - Theme 4: Dissemination, communication and use of statistics

Reporting
- The preliminary report presented at the end of the mission.
- The report revised and finalised incorporate with CSO's and PARIS21's comments.
- The report covers findings and recommendations with the example of reviewers countries best practices to ensure the clear understanding of reviews.

Program of Peer Review

- Peer reviewers Preliminary Meeting with CSO Myanmar
- Peer Review of the NSS Kick-off Meeting participated by all the related agencies/departments involved in the review
  - Invited reviewers have presented their country experiences and best practices on the National Statistical System.
- Meeting with Development Partners Office
- Meeting with Central Bank of Myanmar (Monetary Affairs and Financial Institutions Regulation Department)
- Department of Population (Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population)
- Department of Labour (Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population)
- Department of Agricultural Land Management and Statistics (Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation)
- Department of Public Health (Ministry of Health and Sport)
- Courtesy Call to Union Minister, MPF Office
- Visit to Graduate School of Administration and Development
- Meeting of Peer Review Team
- Department of Human Resources and Educational Planning (of Ministry of Education)
- Myanmar Development Resource Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection (of Ministry of Industry)
- Meeting of Peer Review Team
- Presentation of Interim Report with all the related agencies/department involved in the review.

Observation & Findings

FINDINGS

1. **Organization and Management of National Statistical System**

   ▪ The source of CSO Myanmar is based on the Central Statistical Authority Act, 1952. However, this law envisioned a centralized NSS but in current reality the implementation of NSS is decentralized. Thus, it shows the absence of legal provisions for statistical coordination and the new Act was tabled in parliament in 2016.

   ▪ Major data collection in the Myanmar implemented by other agencies /departments. Example: GDP by Planning Department under the Ministry of Planning and Finance, Population Census by the Department of Population, Labour Statistics by the Department of Labour, both under the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population.

   ▪ No specific organisational unit dedicated to perform the coordination function

   ▪ CSO Myanmar has a long-term plan of 2011-2031 instead of a 5-years plan that will be able to support the implementation of this long-term plan

Observation & Findings

- Several statistical committees such as the High Level Committee on Statistics have been established to improve the quality and accuracy of statistics and coordinate inputs to statistical development. Although, the committee has been established, the process for delivering input and governance is still irregular.

- Myanmar has prepared a strategic plan or National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) and form a NSDS cluster groups to identify statistical issues for statistical development. However, governance is still weak, including aspects of meeting management and the frequency of meetings. The NSDS action plan has not been provided yet.

- Best practices on the dissemination have been implemented especially for statistical activities with the cooperation of development partners. However, Myanmar NSS still does not practice the advance release calendars, use of portals for deployment, media broadcasts and revision policies for certain statistics.

Observation & Findings

2. **Managing Statistical Processes**

- Myanmar NSS faces the resources constraints in terms of finance, staff and ICT and its prevents them from producing quality and accurate statistics.

- Myanmar more depending on the Development Partners support to conduct the National Surveys

- Capacity Building not sustainable. CSO conducts statistical coordination and training in ad-hoc without any specific units. Approved human resources are only around 60 percent

FINDINGS

3. **Commitment to Quality**

   - However, CSO Myanmar has produce statistics for internal purposes of ministries but the processes for quality and wider use are not given much attention

4. **Dissemination, Communication and Use of Statistics**

   - CSO Myanmar practises 3 websites for the dissemination of national official statistics. Maintaining multiple websites can be a source of confusion, and can be challenging to simultaneously update.

   - Statistics producers, other than CSO and DoP, do not make use of websites to release statistics.

   - No data dissemination policy included microdata release across the NSS

   - Metadata is extremely limited.

Based on Observations & Findings

RECOMMENDATION

✓ NSS obtains a new mandate through the new Act to improve the effectiveness to meet statistical demands;

✓ Strengthening the governance through the CSO to be a secretariat of the High Level Committee and enhancing the role of the High Level Committee as a policy maker in the field of statistics for the entire NSS, such as advance release calendars, survey review clearance system, policies for statistical revisions, policies for standards and classification and policy for metadata;

✓ Establish a section to coordinate statistical activities and user services;

✓ The established committee conduct the regular meetings with good governance;

✓ Obtain support of PARIS21 to organise courses to help cluster groups create action plans for NSDS and identify the key statistics for Myanmar's development plans;

✓ Strengthening and establishing systematic links between CSOs and data users;

RECOMMENDATION

- ✓ Strengthening the human, financial and ICT resources that highly needed to increase statistical capacity of NSS Myanmar;

- ✓ Integrated the web pages for the dissemination of statistics regularly and avoid confusion among users while encouraging other statistical producers to use their respective websites to disseminate data;

- ✓ Establish quality assessments and rationalise statistical production to avoid duplication and over-statistical production of less important statistics, eg rice production every two weeks and periodic expenditure for key statistics;

- ✓ Enhancing statistical demand through engagement with data users, dissemination in dual languages with interesting data presentation (infographic);

- ✓ Increase the ability of statistical coordination; and

- ✓ Enhance cooperation between data producers and DPs to focus on key statistical expenditure; and

- ✓ Enhancing Myanmar's NSS professionalism to be more integral and responsive to Myanmar's development needs.

THANK YOU & TERIMA KASIH