

United Nations Workshop on Classifications
Canberra, Australia
27 Sep. - 1 Oct. 1999

Provisional agenda
Annotated version

The Workshop is conducted by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and the Statistics Division of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), in collaboration with the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

All sessions will be organized as open discussions, mostly following an introductory presentation. Discussion leaders and presenters are indicated in parenthesis (e.g. IMF - International Monetary Fund, ISO - International Standards Organization, WHO - World Health Organization, WTO - World Trade Organization, etc.)

Monday, 27 Sep.

Morning

Opening Session

Greeting of participants, introduction of organizers, agenda, general questions and Workshop objectives (ABS, UNSD)

Introduction to the International Family of Classifications

Overview of International Family of Economic and Social Classifications
(UNSD)

Introduction to the Preamble, Role of custodians

Reference classifications

Linkages and consequences, relationship with derived and related classifications

Health classifications and their relationships as an example of a family of social classifications (WHO)

Multinational derived classifications

Introduction to European Union system of classifications with special attention to their classifications of activities and products (Eurostat)

Afternoon

National derived and related classifications

Introduction to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) and its relationship to international classifications;

The need for and importance of national specifics (ABS)

Discussion groups with countries, describing their national classifications system, relationship with international classifications etc.

Tuesday, 28 Sep.

Uses of Classifications

Morning

The Role of Classifications in Concepts and Compilation of the System of National Accounts - SNA

Supply and Use Tables (UNSD)

Classifications of Expenditure According to Purpose (Korea, Philippines)

National experiences

Policy agreements: International Trade in Services

Introduction to the General Agreement on Trade in Services - GATS (WTO),

Introduction to Modes of Supply (WTO),

Introduction to Statistics on International Trade in Services (IMF)

Setting Standards for Services and Trade (ISO)

Afternoon

Policy agreements: International Trade in Services (contd.)

Role of classifications in the development of new statistical areas:

International Trade in Services (UNSD)

Elaboration of detail of extended Balance of Payments of Services using the Central Product Classification, Version 1.0. (IMF)

Detailed correspondence table between the Balance of Payments (BOP) and the Central Product Classification (CPC)

Wednesday, 29 Sep.

Classifications and Mechanisms

Morning

Updating, Maintenance and Revision Processes (UNSD)

Role of custodians, information exchange, tools

Role of Classifications and Standards Sections (New Zealand)

Process for Rulings on classifications

Websites, registries and correspondences (UNSD)

Overview of the Classifications Registry System in the UN

Electronic exchange of classifications (ABS)

Formats and protocols for electronic dissemination of classification structures

Afternoon

Case study approach and site visitation (ABS)

How Australian Bureau of Statistics uses ANZSIC in its:

- *Business register*
- *Industry Surveys*
- *National Accounts*

How ANZSIC is used by the Tax Office in its administrative data sets and how those data sets are used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics;

How the Australian Bureau of Statistics uses the Central Product Classification in its data collection;

A demonstration of coding tools.

Thursday, 30 Sep.

Scope, Statistical Units, Data Collection and other issues of ISIC

Morning

Description and measurement of services (New Zealand)

Future directions of industrial classifications (ABS)

Requirements placed on classifications and statistical data collection by a changing economic reality

Review of current methods and problems in Industrial Statistics at the international level (UNSD)

*Scope, guidelines and limitations of the current revision
Data collection issues*

Approaches to newly emerging industries

Propose to discuss applications and use of the industrial classification to capture newly emerging industries

Afternoon

Establishments, Enterprises (Eurostat)

Guidelines, experiences and problems in defining the statistical unit

Households, informal sector (ESCAP,UNSD)

*Treatment of households in labour and industrial surveys
Country experiences*

Friday, 1 Oct.

Morning

Cooperation in the field of classifications in the Asia-Pacific region

Practical problems and solutions and intra-regional cooperation in the adaptation of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) and the Central Product Classification (CPC) in the Asia region including measurement issues concerning CPC and ISIC

Work on regional classifications and coordination

Afternoon

Specific problems and issues, future plans

*Follow-up on questions raised during the workshop
Future cooperation in the region and on the international level
Planning of follow-up actions*