

# **COUNTRY PAPER (BHUTAN)**

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1) Management issues of using ICT for your national statistical office

- (a) How is ICT changing NSOs functions and how should it react to these changes?

ICT is an indispensable tool in carrying out the daily functions of National Statistical Bureau (NSB) and most importantly to cater to the emerging needs of statistics. ICT has increased the efficiency of overall functioning of NSB from planning, implementation to assessment of any statistics programs.

Collection, compilation, organization, dissemination of data has been immensely improved. While ICT is instrumental in the functioning of NSB, care has been taken to use simple, user-friendly, standard tools like CsPro, SPSS/STATA, DevInfo.

- (b) What is the NSO's strategy for using ICT to gain and sustain competitive advantage for producing official statistics?

ICT is used from data processing to analysing to dissemination of data. NSB has facilitated in training of relevant staff and specializing them to maximise the utility of the tools to eventually improve the production of statistics. It has also kept abreast of the new technology

- (c) How do you determine ICT project priorities?

Primarily the focus is on need-based taking into account its efficiency, cost effectiveness and compatible with minimum standards.

- (d) As the head of NSO, how do you use ICT to improve your office's intelligence?

The use of ICT improves the efficiency of the office by making use of Human Resource Management tool and ICT offers a medium like Internet to access information of other statistical systems and best practices of other NSOs.

- 2) How do you manage ICT effectively and efficiently?
- (a) How do you evaluate the effectiveness of NSO's ICT investments and expenses?

The investment in terms of implementation of ICT tools or investments in trainings on ICT, the objectives of such initiatives are specified. Therefore, evaluating its effectiveness is based on the fulfilment of the objectives.

- (b) How are your ICT resources organized and managed to respond effectively and efficiently to growing demand for official statistics?

Primarily there are two components of ICT resources: ICT tools and Manpower who are trained to use the ICT. The approach has been assigning the right person to use right tool to meet the demands on statistics. Responding to newer and standard ICT tools has been

- 3) What is the link between government support for technology use and your NSOs ICT strategy?

One of the objectives of the government in using ICT is to promote good governance. Use of ICT in Statistics enhances transparency and accountability, both of which are the foundations of good governance. Hence, government has been supporting to integrate ICT in the field of statistics.

- (a) What training is already available in your country for ICT personnel?

Training on CsPro, SPSS/STATA, C or Java programming, data management are some of our specific requirements. We do not have any institute or centres which cater to the above.

- (b) Is the available training well suited to the needs of the ICT in NSO?

**NA**

- 4) What are major obstacles in the use of ICT in your NSO?

The lack of in-house capacity in the effective use of ICT and shortage of ICT manpower at NSB are some of our constraints. The lack of fund to make use of standard ICT tools (which often are expensive) has also hampered to maximise the usefulness of ICT.