



# **International Cooperation in Statistics**

## A. Overview

As the emphasis on international statistical data comparability increases, KOSTAT has been actively involved in various international activities to enhance statistical competencies of KOSTAT by adapting new methodologies, technologies, new classifications and standards. KOSTAT has endeavored to build its own statistical capabilities, and strived to do its part in contributing to statistical development in the region and beyond by sharing practices and knowledge it has accumulated and by mobilizing resources to help conduct statistical capacity building initiatives for developing countries in close collaboration with international organizations and domestic development agencies.

To increase its involvement in international activities, KOSTAT has actively hosted or co-hosted international conferences on statistics and related fields. KOSTAT has participated in various international conferences abroad to understand international trends in statistics, to expand networks of statisticians and to share what we have experienced and learn from what others have practiced. KOSTAT has established bilateral cooperative relationships with 7 countries around the world to expand the foundation of statistical cooperation including Japan, China, Germany, Mongolia, Vietnam, Thailand and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

As KOSTAT has been aware of the importance of statistical capacity building of developing nations, it became involved in outreach training programs of the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific(UNSIAP) to help SIAP alleviate its financial burden. This allows SIAP to maximize the number of courses that it can conduct.

In addition, KOSTAT is obligated to regularly provide statistical data it has produced to international organizations in a timely manner. It also offers statistical data and replies to statistical inquiries from international organizations and other countries.

## **B. Participation in International Statistical Activities**

KOSTAT actively participates in diverse international statistical activities in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. Specifically, a number of international conferences have been organized on statistics and related fields such as the 53th session of the International Statistical Institute in 2001, the ISI Special Conference in 2004, the fifth Management Seminar for the Heads of National Statistical Offices in Asia and the Pacific in 2006, the 2007 IASC-ARS Special Conference in 2007 and the ASEAN-ROK Forum Statistical Development in 2008.

In addition, KOSTAT has held various international conferences on specific themes such as a joint workshop on “Poverty Measurement” with the World Bank Institute in 2002, Asian Statistical Forum on “Meeting Changing Policy Needs in the Asia Region”, the seminar on “Low Fertility and Rapid Aging” in 2003, the second Asia Pacific Excellence in Statistics(APEX) Forum in 2006 and the seminar on “IMF Data Standards” in 2006, the Conference on Climate Change, Development and Official Statistics in Asia and Pacific Region with UNSD in 2008.

In 2009, KOSTAT held the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Workshop on Economic Census on July 6-9, 2009 in Seoul, which has jointly organized with the UNSD (United Nations Statistics Division.).



< The 2nd International Workshop on Economic Census >

## C. Statistical Training Course

As the member of the governing council of the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific(UNSIAP), KOSTAT has contributed to the development and expansion of SIAP training courses by co-hosting outreach training programs with substantial in-kind contributions. Since 1999, KOSTAT has hosted 12 regional training courses in Daejeon among which a research-based regional training course has been hosted annually from 2004.

The courses conducted so far by KOSTAT include courses for time-series analysis, sampling for household and establishment survey, workshop on Statistics Quality management, SIAP management seminar for the heads of national statistical organizations for Asia and the Pacific and regional course on health and disability statistics.

## **D. Bilateral Cooperation with MOU Countries**

KOSTAT regularly exchanges statistical missions as one of many bilateral activities with seven countries including Japan (1982~ ), China (1993~ ), Germany (1997~ ), Mongolia (2002~ ), Vietnam (2002~ ), Thailand( 2002~) and Iran(2007~). The bilateral statistical cooperation has not only contributed to the development of the national statistical system but also promoted a traditional friendship between the two offices. Statistical missions make mutual visits every other year to exchange information on matters of concern in statistics alternating between the 7 MOU countries and Korea.

The meeting proceeds with mutual presentations and seminars to encourage lively discussions and exchange experiences. In addition, KOSTAT has received statistical missions from international organization such as the UN, ESCAP, OECD and IMF and from other countries including Malaysia, Bangladesh, India and Myanmar.



< 2009 TNSO / KOSTAT Bilateral Statistical Meeting in Daejeon >

## E. Reporting and Collecting of International Statistics

Great importance has been placed on ensuring that Korea's statistics are internationally comparable through compliance with standards set by such bodies as the United Nations (UN), International Monetary Fund (IMF), and Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). For the effective preparation of the requested statistics, KOSTAT participates in various expert meetings organized by the OECD. It utilizes the statistical information and materials supplied by these international organizations for national use.

## F. The 3rd OECD World Forum

KOSTAT will hold the 3rd OECD World Forum on “Statistics, Knowledge and Policy” in Busan, South Korea on October 27-30 2009, which focuses on Charting Progress, Building Visions, Improving Life.

The 3rd OECD World Forum, co-organized by KOSTAT and the OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development), will be an opportunity to re-

identify what progress means in the 21st century, to establish comprehensive indicator sets to measure this newly conceptualized "progress" and to share the best practices of evidence-based policy making.



The 3rd OECD World Forum will be attended by approximately 1,500 participants from about 130 countries including high-level policy makers, representatives of international organizations, chief statisticians, Nobel laureates, representatives from civil societies and business leaders.

Along with presentations and discussions, there will be an international exhibition on innovative tools that greatly assist in transforming information into knowledge through state-of-the-art technology and systems that help people easily understand statistical. As a joint host of the 3rd OECD World Forum, KOSTAT will play a key role in sharing and disseminating this new paradigm of progress. /