

**The 2nd International Workshop
on Economic Census**

Opening Address

6 July 2009

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Commissioner, the KNSO

Opening remarks

Distinguished guests, and ladies and gentlemen

It is a great honor to open this “2nd international Workshop on Economic Census” in Seoul.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all participants, especially to the overseas experts here: Mr. Vladimir Markhonko, Chief of Trade Statistics Branch of United Nations Statistics Division, Mr. Harvey Monk, Associate Director for Economic programmes of the United States Census Bureau, Ms. Carmelita Ericta, Administrator of the National Statistical Office in Philippines, and other prominent economists and statisticians from various countries.

I also would like to thank the UNSD for providing funds and human resources, and for collaborating with the KNSO in organizing and sponsoring this workshop.

The importance of statistical information

Statistical Information is invisible Social overhead Capital and an intangible asset to support national policies and future development. KNSO has tried to enhance diversity, reliability, and convenience of statistical figures to increase the value of national statistics. As the agency in charge of national statistics, we make strenuous efforts to produce accurate information and to provide convenient service to users.

Statistics are usually compared to a mirror reflecting a society. Economic statistics must exactly show the economic status of a society although it is not always easy to predict the changing trend of a society due to its dynamic and complex nature.

KNSO's initiatives of the 2011 Economic Census

Recently, while state-of-the-art techniques for producing economic statistics have been dramatically developed, there are some difficulties in collecting data for our surveys. Furthermore, demands from users for new statistical information reflecting social changes are increasing.

That's why, in 2011, the KNSO is planning to conduct the first Economic Census based on the year of 2010. However, the KNSO is also facing various challenges in the process of preparing for the 2011 Economic Census.

Nonetheless, in order to complete this census successfully we are carefully reviewing relevant statistical methodology, administrative procedure, user engagement and etc.

I believe that as well as internationally-recommended theories and practices about economic census are definitely critical to conduct the 1st Economic Census in 2011 successfully.

Aim of the workshop

Today's workshop can be a testimonial to our strong willingness to bring about the international recommendation and guidelines regarding the Economic Census.

Each session of this workshop will address how to prepare and plan for the census, how to collect and process information, how to publish the survey results and how to organize post-management.

I hope this workshop will be an opportunity for prominent experts in the world to build a network and facilitate the exchange of information. In addition, the outcomes of this workshop will be reflected on 'the Economic Census Handbook' of UN, which is a great honor to us.

Distinguished experts and participants,

Your insightful ideas and comments will be the cornerstone of the improvement of economic census as by contributing to combining our accumulated experiences theoretically and empirically.

Tips on the OECD World Forum

Before closing, let me briefly introduce you to the 3rd OECD World Forum on Statistics, Knowledge and Policy to be held in October this year. At that event, we are expecting to have approximately 1,500 participants from over 130 countries.

The 3rd OECD World Forum will be a continued effort for the global discourse on social progress and its relevant statistical issues.

We sincerely hope that many of you will be able to participate in the Forum and take advantage of the networking opportunities.

Closing remarks

Distinguished guest, ladies and gentlemen,

The KNSO takes great pride in hosting this international workshop with the UNSD. We feel very fortunate to have all the learned speakers and participants from all over the world with us today.

Along with the workshop, welcoming performances and various side-events have been prepared to offer you the opportunity to experience Korean culture. I hope you'll enjoy Korean culture and keep meaningful memories while staying in Korea.

Thank you very much.