

Workshop on
"Selected good practices in the organization and management
of statistical systems"

Yangon, Myanmar 11-13 December 2002

Annotated Work Programme

Wednesday, 11 December 2002 (Morning)

9:00 - 9:30 a.m. **Opening: scope and purpose of the seminar**
Mr. Willem de Vries

Session 1. Moderator: Indonesia

Many statistical offices have some kind of regional field organization, which is used for data collection, sometimes also data dissemination and other forms of interaction with regional users. In some countries, regional statistics offices are directly controlled by the national statistical organization. In others, they are part of the regional or local administration. There are also situations that are a mix of these two. The session is about how to achieve a regional structure that serves both national and regional purposes efficiently and effectively.

9:30 – 12:30 a.m. **The role and functions of regional and local statistical offices;**
interactions with regional and local authorities

Presenter 1: Lao PDR
Presenter 2: Günter Kopsch

12:30 - 2:00 p.m. **Lunch Break**

Wednesday, 11 December 2002 (Afternoon)

Session 2. Moderator: Malaysia

Almost always, there is more demand for statistical information than a national statistical system can provide. Government budgets are restricted and so are statistics budgets. Consequently, choices have to be made and priorities have to be set. This session is about how to do that, what criteria to use for prioritizing data collection and other activities, in terms of substance and in terms of procedure. What is the role of medium-term and annual work plans? How can the users be involved in decision-making? What is the role, if any, of a national statistics council?

2:00 – 5:00 p.m. **Priority setting in work programs of national statistical offices;**
the planning process, the criteria to be used and the role of the
various stakeholders

Presenter 1: Philippines
Presenter 2: Willem de Vries

Thursday, 12 December 2002 (Morning)

Session 3. Moderator: Singapore

National statistical systems are structured in many different ways. In some cases there is a centralized national statistical office, which may be either part of a ministry, or a stand-alone agency reporting to the Office of the President, or to parliament. Other countries have a decentralized statistical system, with statistical units in ministries, the Central Bank and/or at regional levels. Each of these alternatives has implications for the way in which decisions about statistical work programs are made, as well as for how to assess the needs of the users. The session is about pros and cons of different models.

9:30 – 12:30 a.m. **The role and position of the national statistical office in the overall government structure; differences between centralized and decentralized systems**

Presenter 1: Myanmar
Presenter 2: Bill McLennan

12:30 - 2:00 p.m. **Lunch Break**

Thursday, 12 December 2002 (Afternoon)

Session 4. Moderator: Cambodia

Getting good quality information from or about respondents is one of the key success factors of any statistical system. In some countries, a good part of this information comes from secondary sources (registrations etc.), but even then, additional direct collection is necessary. Many countries experience response problems, for a variety of reasons. The problems are different for the household sector and for businesses. This session is about ways to overcome response problems in household and business surveys respectively, as well as ways and means to reduce the reporting burden for businesses.

2:00 – 5:00 p.m. **Response problems in household and business surveys; improving response and minimizing the reporting burden**

Presenter 1: Thailand
Presenter 2: John Cornish

Friday, 13 December 2002 (Morning)

Session 5. Moderator: Viet Nam

There is broad agreement that analysis contributes to better understanding various quality issues of statistical data, including coverage, conceptual and cognitive issues etc. Analysis also helps to serve the users better by presenting information in more meaningful ways and by describing relations between different sets of statistics. While including some commentary in statistical publications and press releases has become an accepted practice, there is always the question how far one should go in this respect and there is agreement that statistical offices should refrain from making political comments. This session is about good practices in analysis.

9:30 – 12:30 a.m. **To what extent should national statistical offices be active in analysis; the role of analysis in improving statistical products and programs**

Presenter 1: Indonesia
Presenter 2: Bill McLennan

12:30 - 2:00 p.m. **Lunch Break**

Friday, 13 December 2002 (*Afternoon*)

Session 6. Moderator: Myanmar

2:00 – 3:15 p.m. **Conclusion and Recommendations**

3:15 - 3:45 p.m. **Coffee Break**

3:45 – 4.15 p.m. **Closing**