

**Speech by APEC GOS Convenor
For the International Seminar on Trade and Tourism Statistics
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Distinguished speakers and participants

Ladies and Gentlemen

Selamatpagi. Good morning.

It is my pleasure in my capacity as the APEC GOS Convenor to provide this speech at Seminar on Trade and Tourism Statistics held jointly by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), ASEAN and APEC.

First, I would like to extend my warm regards to all speakers, experts and participants who are willing to attend this workshop. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Badan Pusat Statistik (BPS) Indonesia as the Host of this Seminar. In this valuable moment, I would also like to acknowledge this joint seminar held by the UNSD, ASEAN and APEC as a good starting point, particularly in discussing the current and challenging issue in statistics trade in services. As I understand, it is not easy to outline a sound agenda and to find good speakers for this issue, therefore, I congratulate you for holding this Seminar.

In my view, this joint effort is needed to develop a broad and coordinated approach for the reporting and gathering consistent data, which is especially needed in the sector of services statistics. As a basic thought to have such effort, it is useful for all of us to understand why services and services trade is so important, yet the availability of trade in services statistics data is critical in improving the importance of services trade.

Year after year, the services sectors as the elements in the economy of a country, grows rapidly. In most countries, services now represent the big share of economic output, with productivity growth and innovation in services industries becoming more and more fundamental in driving economic growth. This condition is also relevant to Asia Pacific region, which emphasized its works on services to activities that can enhance the ability of APEC economies in providing job opportunity hence it will contribute to consumption and trade activities that can positively boost the economic growth.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The APEC works in services and trade in services hold under Group on Services (GOS) which has three times meeting in a year. The GOS works cover areas mostly based on services sectors as well as other activities that are embodied in each services sector. In general, I can say that in GOS it has a horizontal and sectoral discussion in trade in services, which includes statistics issue.

As I recall, GOS has endorsed the APEC action plan on statistics on trade in services. The action plan was proposed in economies' recognition of the existing gaps and problems that exist in trade in services statistics and endorsed at the GOS 3 meeting in Kazan, Russia in 2012. Realizing the concern of the availability of the improved quality of trade in services statistics data, some APEC economies proposed activities to be held under this action plan.

This year, GOS had two trade in services statistics workshops, one of which is services statistics workshop held in June of this year to focus on better understanding of the Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Service 2010 (MSITS 2010) and creating a network of officials to share information and coordinate reporting mechanisms.

As the continuation of the said workshop, I take notes that APEC contribution in this seminar is in the view to have a further discussion from the previous activity. As such, this contribution is a part of APEC- Technical assistance and training facility (TATF) which is funded by the US agency for international development (USAID). I also notice that this seminar will focus on the discussion of trade in services statistics on services sectors, in particular on travel and tourism services.

Furthermore, this seminar will be a good venue for APEC, UNSD and ASEAN in advancing their current works on trade in services statistics, hence it has a great relevance in harmonizing regional and international economic statistics in these organizations to improve their works in this area.

This joint activity become very factual considering a fact that trade in services data are poorly available especially more problematic to developing economies. In a broader context, this condition creates a big challenge for countries, particularly by looking at the current issues on the increasing importance of services to economic growth. In that regard, the availability of a sufficient trade in services data becomes highly needed as it captures the value of services contribution to economic growth.

This Seminar, then, is really timely to be done. Through presentation provided by distinguished speakers, active discussion facilitated by respected resource persons and share of knowledge and experiences from selected countries, this seminar provides a great opportunity to discuss through sharing experiences among countries.

Lastly, I hope that from this capacity building event, it was understood that much more work is needed and is being requested in this area. So, it may be good to consider having a kind of future or next steps from this seminar, both to maintain the continuity of discussion as well as provide a venue to answer or discuss other emerged issues in this area.

**Distinguished participants,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

Again, I congratulate to all of you, honored speakers and distinguished participants, for participating in this Seminar. Only through working together we will improve the data reporting of this very important sector, and this is work that will, in turn, improve our economies. We thank you for your participation and look forward such additional efforts in the future. I hope you may have good health and spirit during the Seminar and during your stay in Jakarta. I hope you may have a nice and unforgettable experience. Have a great Seminar.

Thank you.

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