Regional Hub for Big Data in China in Support of the United Nations Global Platform

The Regional Hub for Big Data in China in support of the United Nations Global Platform (hereinafter referred to as "Regional Hub in China") is located in Zhejiang Guodiao Building on Tianmushan Road, Xihu District, Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, and will be jointly established by the National Bureau of Statics (NBS), the People's Government of Zhejiang Province and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA). Its preparation was kicked off by the NBS and Zhejiang provincial government after the NBS and UN DESA signed a letter of intent on collaborative statistics capacity building in support of NBS' big data center on June 3, 2019.

I. Preparatory Progress

After the signing of the letter of intent in June 2019, the NBS and Zhejiang made the construction of the Regional Hub in China a priority project, convened several working meetings to discuss and deploy its construction, and laid down the construction targets, contents and work plan.

In late June 2019, the NBS raised money to get the Hub's office area ready and finished furnishing and decoration to cater to international office requirements by the end of September that year.

On September 18, 2019, the NBS and Zhejiang Provincial People's Government signed a cooperation agreement on building a statistical big data center, and jointly set up a task force.

After rounds of research and demonstration, the construction model for the Hub's application system was determined and testing resources explored. So far the construction plan for the application system is being formulated.

II. Construction Objective and Content

1. Construction objective: The NBS, Zhejiang Provincial People's Government and UN DESA will work towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, towards serving for the global statistical cooperation, for the statistical reform and innovation as well as a modern statistical system, and towards enhanced governance capability. To this end, they will share their knowledge, data and methods, integrate advanced big data technology and methods, and build a world-recognized center for the use of big data for statistics that disseminates knowledge and boasts leading technology and innovation capacity.

2. Construction content: The platform for the use of big data is composed of the following:

- A digital mobile collaborative office management platform for management, communication and cooperation, targeting staff of the Regional Hub in China and of the UNGP as well as various international and domestic users;
- A statistical big data application platform of the regional hub in China targeting NSOs, statisticians, scholars and companies at home and abroad as well as domestic government agencies;
- A SDG database for the presentation, sharing and exchange of SDG data, targeting the needs of the 2030 agenda for sustainable

development;

- A platform for displaying and sharing innovative results of statistical big data, targeting innovative data solutions from the Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics;

- A platform for capacity building, examination and certification in big data, targeting the international and domestic statistical departments, experts, scholars, enterprises and domestic government agencies and other users.

III. Construction Methods

The Regional Hub in China will coordinate the respective strength of NBS, Zhejiang Province and UN DESA in the use of big data for statistics, gather their data resources on the big data application platform, actively launch collaborative research projects, and share and promote research findings, so that the UN can further its research on the use of big data for statistics, the NBS can see deeper integration of its statistical work and big data, Zhejiang province can provide more efficient and convenient governance services, and the three can realize their collaboration goal of "fusion of technology, data and knowledge."

IV. About the Workplace

So far the Regional Hub in China, covering about 5,000m^2 in total, which can accommodate 43 staff at the same time, is equipped with 16 offices, 2 experts' workrooms, 5 meeting rooms, 1 reference room, one 700m^2 server room, and amenities including a tea break area and a fitness area. Moreover an office area

of more than 800m^2 is reserved to accommodate its further business expansion.

V. Work Plan and Suggestions for the Next Step

1. MoU

NBS and UN DESA has reached basic consensus on the MOU content after rounds of consultation. NBS has received the revised version from the UN Office of Legal Affairs and will go through procedures to obtain the approval for its signing as soon as possible.

2. Develop the technical plan and build the application system

The Regional Hub in China will follow the guidance of the UN Global Platform's technical taskforce, develop the application system construction plan for the Platform's Asia-Pacific regional hub and translate it into actions as soon as possible.

3. Staff the Regional Hub in China and promote the use of big data for statistics

The first batch of recruits from the NBS and the people's government of Zhejiang province are now in place. After fully considering the work content and positioning of the Regional Hub in China, researches on the application of statistical big data will be carried out in combination with the two projects of innovative data solutions specified in the report of the UN Global Working Group, so as to well develop the research and promote of the application of statistical big data;

4. Prepare for hosting an International Symposium on Big Data

The UN Global Working Group for Big Data will host an international symposium on big data in Hangzhou, China in an appropriate time of 2020, for

which the preparation is being advanced by the NBS.