

# **International Forum on Monitoring National Development: Issues and Challenges**

**Beijing, People's Republic of China  
27 to 29 September, 2011**

## **Annotated Agenda**

### **Forum Background**

As economies develop, their industrial structure changes in response to exogenous and endogenous forces. These “patterns of development” have been well described, but understanding the forces shaping them – particularly the role of government policies in a market-driven environment – requires detailed information about inputs to their production processes – capital, labor, natural resources, and the institutional environment – and their outputs. To allow comparisons between countries at different stages of development, it is desirable to have data compiled according to standard methodologies. And to understand how these processes have changed, time series data or, at least, historical benchmarks are needed.

National statistics offices are being asked to assemble increasingly sophisticated datasets to guide the formulation and monitoring of national development policies. These datasets include, but are not limited to, those recording inputs and outputs by industrial sector, processing of intermediate goods, and trade in gross and value-added terms. To monitor the impacts of economic development, data are also needed on social development and environmental outcomes.

The forum will examine how new statistical frameworks are evolving to reflect the needs of researchers and policy makers and the demands they are placing on the capacities of national statistical offices. Forum participants will have the opportunity to discuss their experience and current activities. They will also discuss how capacity development efforts could be designed and geared up to assist developing countries to meet these data challenges.

### **Forum Outcomes**

We envisage the following outcomes from the Forum:

- A statistical framework for tracking economic, social and environmental developments.
- A programme of work for capacity development on economic, social, and environment statistics
- Consideration and endorsement of a Plan of Action on Statistical Development highlighting the important areas of statistics that the development community should focus on in the next 10 years. This Plan will be submitted to the Fourth Higher Level Forum on Aid-Effectiveness to be held in late November in Busan, Republic Of Korea.

## **Forum Program**

### **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27: MONITORING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

#### **Opening Ceremony**

The Forum will be opened by Ma Jiantang, Commissioner, National Bureau of Statistics of China. Welcoming addresses will be delivered by Paul Cheung, Director, United Nations Statistics Division and Shaida Badiie, Director, Development Data Group, The World Bank.

#### **Keynote 1: Statistics and National Development**

The session will cover recent policy and academic thinking on structural change and economic growth and the importance of comprehensive statistics for understanding the processes of economic development and structural change of the economy. The speakers are:

- Justin Yifu Lin, Senior Vice President and Chief Economist, The World Bank, will speak via video link and will introduce his model of economic development and structural change.
- Zhang Weimin, Deputy-Commissioner, National Bureau of Statistics of China will speak about China's rapid economic development and cite the kinds of statistics that have been of greatest importance to policy makers in monitoring the economy.
- Volker Treichel, Lead Economist, Development Economics Operations and Strategy Department, The World Bank will elaborate on Justin Lin's message, giving examples of the research work and findings at The World Bank and the data needed to support such work.

#### **Country Case Studies: Monitoring Economic Development**

In this session heads of statistical offices from a diverse group of countries will discuss the statistical programmes in place in their countries to monitor the economy and to inform on economic development issues and their plans and priorities for further development of these programmes. The speakers are:

- Mohamed Taamouti, Directeur, Direction de la Statistique, Haut Commissariat au Plan, Morocco
- Sheik Hamad bin Jabor AlThani, President, Qatar Statistics Authority
- T. C. A. Anant, Chief Statistician of India, National Statistical Organization, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

#### **A Framework for Monitoring Economic Development**

This session will present a comprehensive framework of statistics for monitoring economic development: representative categories of statistics, standards, and classification systems and suggested disaggregations; sources and examples; and current data availability and gaps in the international datasets. The speakers are:

- Robert Edwards, Inter-regional Adviser, United Nations Statistics Division
- Eric Swanson, Senior Advisor, Development Economics Data Group, The World Bank

#### **Some Statistical Challenges in Economic Statistics**

The purpose of this session is to identify specific challenges facing countries in their economic statistics programmes, particularly those aspects of the programmes that inform on economic development issues, and to draw out common themes where collaboration among countries might be fruitful. The speakers are:

- Phetsamone Sone, Deputy Director General, Lao Department of Statistics
- Alexander Surinov, Chairman, federal State Statistics service (Rosstat), Russian Federation
- Shigeru Kawasaki, Director -General, Statistical Research and Training Institute, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan

### **Panel Discussion: Statistics for Measuring Growth and Structural Change**

Reflecting on the day's discussions and their own views and experiences, panellists will discuss the requirements for a programme of economic statistics for measuring growth and structural change. The panellists are:

- Zubaidah Ismail, Deputy Director, National Accounts Statistics Division, Malaysia
- Bernard Williams, Branch Head, International Accounts and Financial Statistics, Australian Bureau of Statistics
- Douglas Brooks, Assistant Chief Economist, Asian Development Bank

## **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28: MONITORING SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENTS**

### **Keynote 2: Monitoring Education Development**

Albert Motivans, Head of Education Statistics Department, UNESCO Institute for Statistics, will discuss a programme of education statistics needed to inform on education status and policies at the national and international levels.

### **Keynote 3: Monitoring Employment**

Rafael Diez de Medina, Director, Department of Statistics, International Labour Organization, will discuss a programme of statistics needed to inform on labour force and employment status and policies at the national and international levels.

### **Country Case Studies: Monitoring Social Developments**

This session provides for heads of statistical offices from a diverse group of countries to talk about the statistical programmes in place in their countries to monitor social development issues and their plans and priorities for further development of their social statistics programmes. The speakers are:

- Kecuk Suhariyanto, Director of Statistical Analysis and Development, BPS-Statistics Indonesia, Indonesia
- Eduardo Sojo Garza -Aldape, Presidente del Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI), Mexico
- Sonam Tenzin, Chief Statistician, National Statistics Bureau, Bhutan

### **Country Case Studies: Monitoring the Environment**

The session will discuss country experiences in providing datasets to monitor the environmental impacts of the economic and social developments considered in the previous sessions, including those datasets that may be needed to inform on

green economy and green growth initiatives currently being pursued among countries and at the international level. The speakers are:

- Jaewon Lee, Director of the Research Planning Division, Statistical Research Institute of Statistics Korea (KOSTAT) - Reflections on the International Seminar on Green Economy and Official Statistics
- Joe de Beer, Deputy Director-General, Statistics South Africa
- Abdullah Harun Pasha, Director, Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Planning, Bangladesh

### **Panel Discussion: A Framework for Monitoring Social and Environmental Developments**

Reflecting on the day's discussions and their own views and experiences, panellists will discuss the requirements for programmes of statistics to inform on education, labour and other human capital and social developments and environmental issues that parallel the economic evolution of countries. The panellists are:

- Xian Zude, Chief Methodologist, National Bureau of Statistics of China
- T.C.A. Anant, Chief Statistician of India, National Statistical Organization, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, India
- Eric Swanson, Senior Adviser, Development Economics Data Group, the World Bank
- John B. Male-Mukasa, Executive Director, Uganda Bureau of Statistics

## **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29: STATISTICAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT**

### **Launch of the China International Statistical Training Centre**

The National Bureau of Statistics, China will officially launch the China International Statistical Training Centre. The speakers are:

- Tian Lusheng, Director-General, China International Statistical Training Centre in collaboration with UN Statistics
- Kecuk Suhariyanto, Director of Statistical Analysis and Development, BPS-Statistics Indonesia, Indonesia
- Insook Jeong, Director, International Statistical Cooperation Division, KOSTAT, Korea
- Shigeru Kawasaki, Director-General, Statistical Research and Training Institute, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan

### **Country Case Studies: Training and Capacity Development**

This session will consider, from the perspectives of a range of countries at various stages of statistical development, the design and elements of a programme for training and capacity development in economic, social, and environment statistics. The speakers are:

- Joe de Beer, Deputy Director-General, Statistics South Africa
- Khalifa Al-Barwani, Director General of Social Statistics, Ministry of National Economy, Oman
- Jessamyn Encarnacion, OIC-Director, Social Statistics Office, National Statistical Coordination Board, Philippines
- James Whitworth, Head of International Statistical Co-operation, Eurostat

### **A Plan of Action on Statistical Development**

This session will comprise an initial consideration and endorsement of a Plan of Action on Statistical Development highlighting the important areas of statistics on which the development community should focus in the medium term. This Plan will be submitted to the Ministerial Aid-Effectiveness Conference to be held in late November 2011 in Busan, Republic Of Korea. The speakers are:

- Shaida Badiee, Director, Development Data Group, the World Bank
- Frances Harper, Head of Profession for Statistics Research and Evidence Division, DFID
- James Whitworth, Head of International Statistical Co-operation, Eurostat
- Beejaye Kokil, Manager, Economic and Social Statistics Division, African Development Bank
- John B. Male-Mukasa, Executive Director, Uganda Bureau of Statistics

### **Closing Remarks**

Ma Jiantang, Commissioner, National Bureau of Statistics of China , will close the Forum.