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## Statisticians mull over improved data at workshop



Ms Phetsamone Sone (centre) during the workshop.

### Times Reporters

Statisticians from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam and Timor-Leste met in Vientiane yesterday to improve and link the two benchmarks of consistency and significant time series data production.

The three-day Regional Workshop on the Methodological Review of Benchmarking, Rebasement and Chain-Linking of Economic Indicators was organised to provide participants with an opportunity to exchange knowledge and develop strategies that improve the consistency and quality of data available to national, regional and global stakeholders.

The emerging demands from policymakers, planners, researchers and public users at all levels for official statistics have brought both opportunities and challenges,

said Deputy Director General of the Ministry of Planning and Investment's Statistics Department Ms Phetsamone Sone.

To improve the effective use of data, producers have to pursue and promote its production and dissemination in accordance with international statistics standards and principles, she said in her opening remarks.

"We have to learn how to adapt and adopt statistics in the context of our country," Ms Phetsamone explained.

"To meet end users' needs, statisticians must incorporate in our work process the improvement of data sources, development of indicators, compilation methodology, statistics data series and metadata to enhance and increase transparency and accessibility to support the monitoring and evaluation of the national social-economic

development plan, the Millennium Development Goals and other national programmes."

"We are at different stages and levels of statistics development with a different capacity to generate data products that are available for each period of time. Significantly, data compilation is very much linked to changes in economic development in each period of time, which may lead to a change in concept, scope and data sources," Ms Phetsamone explained.

She said that the workshop is a good opportunity for statisticians to learn and exchange information with international experts who have extensive experience in the given areas, and that the methodological review will be performed using Lao data, which was provided by the Statistics Department.

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