United Nations Regional Workshop on CensusInfo

Agenda

Almaty, Kazakhstan

15 - 18 May 2012

Introduction

One of the major lessons from the 2000 round of population and housing censuses points to the necessity of taking full advantage of the data collected through censuses via appropriate dissemination and analysis mechanisms. Often, census results are disseminated only in a tabular format—whether in print publications or on the web—which potential data users find unappealing. Interested data users often encounter language and other data access barriers (for example, the data is restricted or only available in print form). For census data to be truly useful, it needs to be easily accessible via the Internet and access to data should be provided in an interactive manner along with tools for visualization and analysis.

The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), in partnership with UNICEF and UNFPA, has developed a free software package—CensusInfo—to help countries disseminate census data on the web and CD-ROM. Based on the DevInfo platform, specific functionalities have been developed to meet the specific requirements for census data dissemination: enhanced performance, data importing, standard and user-defined reports for dissemination at any geographical level, and mapping facilities. CensusInfo comes with a standard list of census topics, indicators and metadata based on the recommended topics of the *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Census, Revision 2;* however, countries will be able to customize the list to suit their national needs. In order to facilitate the use of CensusInfo, UNSD organizes regional and national training workshops which offer census managers hands-on experience with the software and the opportunity to develop capacity to create national adaptations of the software for disseminating census data. CensusInfo was officially launched at the 40th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission in February 2009.

Workshop

The workshop will demonstrate CensusInfo's potential as a platform for disseminating census data at any geographical level. It will provide an overview of the various processes involved in the adaptation of CensusInfo, including the preparation of templates and databases, importation of data, language translation and customization. The workshop will impart knowledge on how to:
- Review data sources, metadata, aspects of data quality (reliability, comparability, disaggregation)
- Prepare a list of census nested tabulations and derived indicators
- Customizing and standardizing national CensusInfo databases
- Import census data into the CensusInfo database
- Use various database tools and reports for database management
- Use CensusInfo database to produce tables, maps, graphs and reports
- Use database conversion utilities to disseminate CensusInfo database on various platforms

Benefits: The workshop is conducted by member(s) of our technical resource team using the best practices and state-of-the-art delivery mechanisms. Sessions include both technical discussions as well as hands-on exercises. Upon completion of this workshop, participants will understand how to harness the power of CensusInfo database technology to disseminate census data at any geographical level.

Who should attend: This workshop is primarily intended for census experts and census data managers. We recommend that participants should possess a mixture of competencies and qualifications including census data processing, dissemination and analysis.

Pre-requisites: Participants should prepare for this workshop by familiarizing themselves with CensusInfo by reading the user guides available at http://www.censusinfo.net. Participants should possess expertise in using Windows and Microsoft Office tools.

Hands-on exercises: The workshop provides hands-on experience with CensusInfo applications in the following areas:
- Understanding the use of CensusInfo databases for preparing presentation objects (tables, maps, graphs) and reports
- Performing database administration and management functions
- Performing mapping management

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

DAY 1 – Tuesday, 15 May 2012
Registration of participants
Session 1 – Opening session • Opening remarks by ASRK and UNSD
Session 2 – Discussion on census data dissemination strategies • Round-table introductions • Presentation by countries • General discussion
Coffee break
Session 3 – The CensusInfo initiative • Presentation by UNSD
Session 4 – Introduction to CensusInfo User Application features • Overview of the major features of CensusInfo User Application 6.0. Presentations on using the CensusInfo User interface to search data and create presentation objects – tables, graphs, maps, reports, diBook and diVideo.
Lunch break
Session 4.1 – Data search with advanced features Session 4.2 – Data-view management with advanced features
Coffee break
Session 4.3 – Generating tables and graphs to support data analysis • generating a snapshot of the current situation on a specific theme • describing relationships among indicators • studying trends in historical census data • generating new indicators from base figures Hands-on exercises
Review and close

DAY 2 – Wednesday, 16 May 2012
Review Day 1 sessions
Session 4.4 – Introduction to the mapping features of CensusInfo
Coffee break

Session 4.5 – Using maps for identifying geographic areas that are over- or under-performing (useful for monitoring and evaluating plans and programmes)
Lunch break
Session 4.6 – Using maps for explorative analysis Session 4.7 – Using maps for buffer analysis
Coffee break
Hands-on exercises
Review and close

DAY 3 – Thursday, 17 May 2012
Review Day 2 sessions
Session 5 – Introduction to the CensusInfo Data Administration module • Overview of the CensusInfo Data Administration Application 6.0. Presentations on the CensusInfo data structure and the various processes involved in the adaptation of CensusInfo, including the preparation of templates and databases, importation of data, language translation and customization. Session 5.1 – Overview of the CensusInfo data structure Session 5 .2 – Creating a CensusInfo database template: defining indicators, their disaggregation and classification
Coffee break
Session 5 .3 – Overview of the CensusInfo Registry (List of UN recommended census topics, data/indicators and metadata) Session 5.4 – Creating and updating a CensusInfo database
Lunch break
Session 5.5 – Data import modules: direct data entry (DDE) and data entry spreadsheet (DES) methods
Coffee break
Session 5.6 – Data import modules: CSV file import and other data exchange modules
Review and close

DAY 4 – Friday, 18 May 2012
Review Day 3 sessions
Session 5 .7 – Managing a CensusInfo database: overview of tools for importing, exporting, splitting, extracting and merging databases
Coffee break
Session 5.8 – Creating CensusInfo adaptation: using the language and customization modules to prepare a CensusInfo national adaptation
Lunch break
Session 5.8 – continued
Coffee break
Session 5.9 – Creating presentation objects and reports: PowerPoint presentations using gallery objects, standard profile reports, user-defined reports, online books and videos, etc
Session 6 – Closing session