



UNITED NATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
STATISTICS DIVISION



**The Second International Workshop on Economic Census
6-9 July 2009, Seoul, Korea**

Report of the Workshop

**United Nations, New York
August 2009**

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I. Objectives of the workshop

1. The objective of the Workshop is to provide a discussion forum for country representatives and international experts to share and document their experiences in economic census and its role in addressing the challenges faced by the National Statistical Offices in measuring the constantly changing economies. The workshop will review all aspects of the conduct of an economic census – from its planning, through data collection and processing, to the dissemination and analysis of census results. Proceedings of the workshop will provide the basis for the preparation of the future UNSD Handbook on Good Practices in Economic Census to assist countries in further strengthening their national programmes of economic statistics.

II. Opening remarks

2. The KNSO Commissioner, Ms. Insill YII, warmly welcomed the participants and thanked UNSD for providing funds and human resources, and for collaborating with the KNSO in organizing and sponsoring this workshop. Ms. YI underlined that the statistical information is invisible social overhead capital and an intangible asset to support national policies and future development. KNSO has tried to enhance diversity, reliability, and convenience of statistical figures to increase the value of national statistics. As the agency in charge of national statistics, KNSO makes strenuous efforts to produce accurate information and to provide convenient service to users. She described recent KNSO successful activities and indicated also some difficulties in collecting data for surveys while recognizing that demands from users for new statistical information reflecting social changes are increasing. This was the reason why, in 2011, the KNSO is planning to conduct the first Economic Census based on the year of 2010. However, the KNSO is also facing various challenges in the process of preparing for the 2011 Economic Census.

3. Nonetheless, in order to complete this census successfully KNSO are carefully reviewing relevant statistical methodology, administrative procedure, user engagement and etc. In this context the workshop as well as internationally-recommended theories and practices about economic census are definitely critical to conduct the 1st Economic Census in 2011 successfully. Ms. YI expressed hope that the workshop will be an opportunity for prominent experts in the world to build a network and facilitate the exchange of information. In addition, the outcomes of this workshop will be reflected in the Economic Census Handbook of UN, which is a great honor to KNSO. Along with the workshop, welcoming performances and various side-events have been prepared to offer participants the opportunity to experience Korean culture. Ms. YI hoped that participants will enjoy Korean culture and keep meaningful memories while staying in Korea.

4. In Mr. Paul Cheung's, Director of the United Nations Statistics Division opening statement, delivered by Mr. Vladimir Markhonko, Chief of Trade Statistics Branch of UNSD, the Director joined the KNSO Commissioner and expressed his sincere gratitude to the Korean colleagues for hosting this event and for their efforts in its preparation. Mr. Cheung expressed gratitude to the US Census Bureau which consistently supports the

UNSD activities in promoting good practices in basic economic statistics and participated in both international workshops on economic census. UNSD Director stressed that the workshop is dedicated to the topics of great relevance for the establishment and maintenance of a sound foundation for the compilation of economic statistics in countries at different levels of economic development. It is a follow up event to the First International Workshop on Economic Census, jointly organized by UNSD and the National Bureau of Statistics of China in 2005, which evaluated the potential of the economic census for production of high quality and policy relevant economic statistics and concluded that it serves as the cornerstone for the economic statistics infrastructure in many countries. The Second International Workshop on Economic Census is envisaged as a forum to continue our discussion of the role of economic census in measuring the constantly changing economies. The workshop will focus on practical aspects of the conduct of an economic census – from its planning, through data collection and processing, to the dissemination and analysis of census results. Proceedings of the workshop will serve as a basis for the preparation of a handbook on challenges and good practices in economic census to assist countries in further strengthening their national programmes of economic statistics. To achieve the objectives of the workshop countries from different regions with different experience, circumstances and needs were invited. UNSD Director is grateful for countries' interest in the workshop and willingness to share their knowledge and vision. He wished participants every success in deliberations. Also, he hoped participants will be able to find time to enjoy the hospitality of our Korean hosts as well as the wealth of cultural heritage of the city of Seoul.

III. Evaluation

5. Using a scale from 5 to 1 (where 5 = excellent, 4 = good, 3 = adequate, 2 = poor, 1 = very poor) participants judged the achievement of the workshop objectives and its overall value as follows:

	% of Yes	Average Rating
1) Did you acquire at this workshop any substantive knowledge involving technical on how:		
a. to produce statistical data?	97%	
b. to analyze statistical data?	72%	
c. to disseminate statistical data?	96%	
2) Quality of materials		4.35
3) Quality of presentation		4.06
4) Sufficient time for discussion and participation		4.35
5) Balance between topics		4.03
Session 1- Keynote addresses		4.43
Session 2 - Why Economic census?		4.23
Session 3 - Planning and Organization of EC		4.20
Session 4 - Data collection and data processing		4.06
Session 5 - Post-census activities		3.84
Session 6 - Dissemination of EC Results		4.23
Session 7 - Round table discussion - Future of EC		4.24
7) Clarity of conclusions reached after each session		4.07
8) Extend to which workshop objectives were achieved		4.14
9) Overall value of the workshop		4.26

IV. Overview of the participants' responses to the UNSD Questionnaire on Economic Census

6. As part of the preparations for the Second International Workshop on Economic Census participating countries were requested to fill a short questionnaire (see Annex III) on their current practices in organization and conduct of an economic census. The information obtained from the country replies was used to structure the follow-up discussions on each topic, identify challenges and assess the current country practices in the organization of economic census and its use as a source for compilation of economic statistics, as well as to provide inputs for the preparation of the future UNSD Handbook on Challenges and Good Practices in Economic Census.

7. The questionnaire results revealed the following: (i) adequate legal provisions for the conduct of an economic census are in place in all countries as the extensiveness of

census operations necessitated the establishment of different forms of coordination bodies (like working groups, technical and steering committees) in 82 percent of countries; (ii) 5 year periodicity of conducted economic censuses is observed in half of the countries, however, budget constraints may have a negative impact and lead to the conduct of infrequent economic censuses; (iii) three-thirds of countries conduct the economic census as an economy-wide census; agricultural activities and public administration units are in principle excluded; (iv) establishment is the statistical unit used in economic censuses of 95 percent of countries, however, there is a lack of unified approach regarding use of thresholds; (v) economic censuses collect predominantly operating characteristics of units and a limited set of economic data; (vi) major innovations in the organization of economic censuses include the improved questionnaire forms, electronic reporting, use of ADS, new data processing technology etc.; (vii) quality assurance frameworks have received an increased attention as 82 percent of countries implement different forms of QAFs; (viii) raising awareness and promoting responses to the economic census is a priority activity for all countries.

V. Findings and conclusions of the Workshop

The workshop:

A. General

8. Expressed gratitude to the United Nations Statistics Division and the Korea National Statistical Office for organizing the 2nd International Workshop on Economic Census (IWECC) as such workshops assist countries in improving their economic census programmes by exchanging experiences in dealing with various challenges and focusing on good practices; confirmed, in this connection, the conclusion of the 1st IWECC that the periodic conduct of such workshops is desirable;

9. Concluded that the economic census refers to an infrequent statistical inquiry (usually with periodicity of five or more years) aiming at enumeration of all economic units except for units subject to separate sectoral censuses or data collection arrangements (e.g., agriculture or public administration). The data items collected include normally both identification and economic variables;

10. Agreed that international statistical standards (e.g., classifications) should be used to ensure better quality of the collected data and their cross country comparability;

B. Why economic census?

11. Found that the range of collected economic variables vary from country to country depending on their specific needs and priorities. Many countries conduct an economic census to collect only the identification variables together with a very limited number of economic variables. The primary purpose of such a census is to

establish/update the survey frame and/or business register (such economic censuses are frequently referred to as *censuses of establishments*). Some other countries use in their censuses an expanded list of economic variables in order to obtain a more detailed picture of a country's economy including distribution of economic activities by various geographical, administrative and small area breakdowns;

12. Concluded that collection of additional economic variables provides basis for a more comprehensive analysis of the structure of an economy (macro, micro, regional, activity etc. levels) and for benchmarking purposes; however, recognized that the number of variables included in the census should be commensurate with country needs and not lead to an unwarranted increase in overall (census and more frequent surveys) respondent burden and diminishing data quality;

13. Concluded further that if a sound statistical business register containing the unique identifiers of the economic units and their activity classification codes is established and updated using appropriate administrative data sources with acceptable frequency, an economic census programme might be discontinued and replaced with a programme of more frequent economic surveys (usually, annual and infra-annual); a careful cost/benefits analysis should precede such a decision;

C. Planning and organizing

14. Emphasized that the content of an economic census should be user needs driven and public awareness of its relevance should be maintained, in particular to ensure a high response rate;

15. Emphasized further that securing adequate legal and financial support as well as establishing appropriate and clear institutional arrangements between agencies involved are necessary preconditions for a successful economic census;

16. Agreed that an economic census should preferably be conducted every 5 years with understanding that countries will decide on the census periodicity based on their needs and resources and other considerations;

17. Concluded that early planning is a good practice as several years are usually required to make necessary preparations including costing of various census sub-programmes, pilot testing and staff training etc.;

18. Took note that the efficiency of an economic census may be increased by making it more company-centric to ensure a better communication and work with the data providers (this, for example, includes assisting data providers in the interpretation of the census inquiries in terms of the business accounting);

D. Data collection and data processing

19. Confirmed that the establishment is the most appropriate statistical unit while the reporting unit can be the establishment or the enterprise depending on circumstances;
20. Found that special attention should be paid to multi-establishment enterprises to ensure better accuracy of data on distribution of economic activities by its various categories as well as by geographical and administrative areas thus enabling compilation of a higher quality and more detailed national accounts including input-output tables and sub-national economic statistics;
21. Concluded that, in addition to direct data collection from individual respondents, various methods of data gathering can be utilized including use of administrative data and sampling;
22. Agreed that the increased use of IT technologies (e.g., ICR , PDA's etc.) and electronic data collection/reporting should be promoted (e.g., transition from downloadable questionnaires to web data entry);
23. Stressed that to make data processing more effective an application of improved computerized editing procedures as well as more robust estimation procedures of missing data and data imputation should be planned and implemented;
24. Concluded that quality assurance should be an obligatory part of data collection and processing and encouraged countries to review their practices in this area;

E. Post census activities

25. Agreed that post census activities should be an integral part of the economic census programme and be carefully planned and executed;
26. Found that such activities may vary from country to country and may include post census checks, updating sample survey frame/business register, analysis of effectiveness of applied procedures, etc.;

F. Dissemination of census results

27. Agreed that timeliness of the data dissemination remains one of the country concerns and recognized the need to continuously work toward its improvement;
28. Further agreed that user needs should guide the dissemination policies, however, they have to be analyzed and prioritized;
29. Agreed that a range of dissemination formats should be used to meet needs of various user groups; recognized that searchable databases are the preferred means of dissemination for increasing number of users;

30. Emphasized that data exchange between various government institutions has to be promoted but any arrangements to this effect should comply with the confidentiality rules (such arrangements include MOUs, oath taking, developing an improved legislation); however, preserving the confidentiality remains an obligation and the trust of data reporters should not be compromised;

G. Post workshop activities

31. Encouraged all participants to maintain the established network of census statisticians to further share experiences and assist each other in future work;

32. Concluded that preparation of a handbook on country experiences in economic census focusing on both challenges and good practices is highly desirable and advised participants to actively cooperate with UNSD in this endeavor.

Annex I

The Second International Workshop on Economic Census 6-9 July 2009, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Provisional Agenda

Monday, 6 July 2009

- 9:00-10:00 **Opening ceremony**
National Statistical Office of the Republic of Korea
United Nations Statistics Division
- 10:00-10:30 **Ice breaking**
- 10:40-11:00 Coffee break
- 11:00-12:30 **Session I. Keynote addresses**

Economic Census and its role in measuring constantly changing economies –Mr.Harvey Monk, Jr. Associate Director for Economic Programmes, US Census Bureau

The scheduled 2011 Economic Census in Korea
- 12:30-14:00 Lunch break
- 14:00-17:00 **Session II. Why Economic Census?**

Under what circumstances the Economic Census is necessary?
Goals, Scope and coverage of Economic Census (Units, Activities and Classifications; Geographical coverage; Thresholds)
Approaches and methods used in Economic Census; Uses of Economic Census results

UNSD presentation

Country presentations

(1) Why Economic census is important for the System of National Account s in Korea - Mr. Kang Chang Ku, Economist

(2) Why do an Economic Census - The case for Uganda – Mr. Peter Opio, Principal Statistician, Uganda Bureau of Statistics

(3) Why Economic Census? – The case of Indonesia – Ms. Tri Supriyati, Division Chief of large and Medium Industrial Statistics, Statistics Indonesia

(4) Reasons necessitating conduct of an economic census of small and medium enterprises in Russia – Ms. Elena Shustova, Director of Business Statistics Department, ROSSTAT

General discussion

Tuesday, 7 July 2009

9:00-12:30 **Session III: Planning and Organization of Economic Censuses**

Legal provisions; Financial and budget provisions; Administrative arrangements; Economic Census plan and activities (Pilot survey and preliminary sample test (scope & methodology), Zoning enumeration districts, Preparation and maintenance of the establishment list for survey); Staff recruitment and training; Questionnaire development and design (Selection procedure of enumeration items); Raising awareness and promoting the response to the Economic Census; Field supervision & reappraisal of questionnaires responses

Country presentations

(1) Planning and Organizing the US Economic Census – Mr. Harvey Monk, Jr. Associate Director for Economic Programmes, US Census Bureau

(2) Planning and Organization of Economic Censuses in Mongolia – Ms. Delgersaikhan Oyunbileg, Senior Statistician, NSO of Mongolia

(3) Plan of the 2009 Economic Census in Japan– Mr. Seiji Takata, Senior Planning Officer, Statistical Information System Division, Statistics Bureau of Japan

(4) Planning and Organization of Economic Censuses in India
Mr. Nilkanth Ghosh, Director, CSO, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, India

(5) Planning and Organization of Economic Censuses in Ethiopia – Mr. Yasin Mossa, Economic Statistics Deputy Director General, Central Statistics Agency, Ethiopia

(6) Scope and method of pilot/rehearsal survey – Mr. Kuan Kuan Yang, Director General, Census Center of National Bureau of Statistics of China

General discussion

12:30-14:00 Lunch break

14:00-17:00 **Session IV: Data collection and data processing**

Data items collected; Methods of data processing (Method of wireless data transmission from field, Principle of data collection and imputation by types of establishment (head offices and branch offices, etc), Guidelines for dividing of multi-establishment enterprises); Use of Registers and Administrative data (The use of tax data for Economic Census); Use of sampling in Economic Census (Sample survey application to small establishments (with less than 5 employees)); Technological Innovations for reducing costs of Economic Censuses (Web based data collection system (internet survey)); Quality assurance for the Economic Census Process

Country presentations

(1) Economic census: The First experience of Morocco – Mr. Jilali Rahali, Chief Engineer, Head of Division of Economic Statistics, National Institute of Statistics and Applied Economy, Morocco

(2) Transition from Economic Census to Business Register in Turkey – Mr. Bunyamin Emirosman, Head of Department, Turkish Statistical Institute

(3) Data collection and data processing of Economic Census results in Nepal –Mr. Shanker Lal Shrestha, Director, Trade Statistics Section, Central Bureau of Statistics, Nepal

(4) Economic Census in Mexico: Collecting and Processing the Information - Ms. Susana Perez Cadena, Deputy General Manager of Economic and Agricultural Censuses, INEGI

General discussion

17:00-19:00 **Korea- USA-China experts meeting on economic census (closed meeting)**

Wednesday, 8 July 2009

- 9:00-12:30 **Session V: Post-census activities**
 Post-enumeration checks; The Economic Census as a basis for subsequent sample survey programmes Country presentations
- (1) Jordan's Economic Census 2006: Methodology and Main Results – Mr. Abdel Wadoud Rebhi Matouk, Director of Economic Statistics, Department of Statistics, Jordan
 - (2) Programme of Annual Economic Surveys in Hong Kong – Ms. Lilian, Yuk Chi Fung, Senior Statistician, Census and Statistics Department, Hong Kong, SAR of China
 - (3) Post-census activities in Malaysia – Ms. Norazizah Ibrahim Wong, Assistant Director, Department of Statistics, Malaysia
- General discussion
- 12:30-14:00 Lunch break
- 14:00-17:00 **Session VI: Dissemination of Economic Census results**
 Economic Census reports; Forms of dissemination; Confidentiality issues; Evaluation, analysis and acceptance of Economic Census results Country presentations
- (1) Dissemination Strategy for Making Economic Census widely available in Korea - Dr. Han Sung Ho, Director, Economic Statistics Division, SRI
 - (2) USA experience in dissemination of economic census results - Mr. Ronald Lee, Senior Economic Advisor, US Census Bureau
 - (3) Philippines experience in dissemination of economic census results – Ms. Carmelita Ericeta, Head of the National Statistics Office of Philippines
 - (4) Thailand experience in dissemination of economic census results – Ms. Wilailuck Chulewatanakul, Director of Economic and Social Statistics Bureau, NSO of Thailand
 - (5) Qatar experience in dissemination of economic census results – Mr. Abdulhameed Ahen, Statistical Expert, Qatar Statistics Authority
- General discussion

Thursday, 9 July 2009

- 9:00-12:30 **Round table discussion: Future of Economic Census in the Economic Statistics Programmes**

**Korea- Japan experts meeting on the 2011 economic census
(closed meeting)**

Closing ceremony

12:30-14:00 Lunch break

14:00-17:00 **Social programme (city tour).**

Annex II

The Second International Workshop on Economic Census 6-9 July 2009, Seoul, Korea

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Annex III



United Nations Statistics Division

The Second International Workshop on Economic Census

6-9 July 2009

Seoul, Republic of Korea

Purpose of the questionnaire

The purpose of this questionnaire is to complement the country paper on Economic Census and to collect some general information on country practices in the organization and conduct of Economic Census. It is therefore designed in a format allowing further aggregation of the responses and cross-country comparisons. The information obtained from this questionnaire will be used in a number of ways, including for:

- Structuring the sessions of the Second International Workshop on Economic Census, especially the follow-up discussions on each topic;
- Identifying challenges and assessing the current country practices in the organization of economic census and its use as a source for compilation of economic statistics;
- Providing inputs for the preparation of the future UNSD Handbook on Good Practices in Economic Census.

Economic Census

The Economic Census is a statistical survey conducted at infrequent intervals of time, usually every 5 or 10 years, that aims at collecting comprehensive and detailed statistics on the operating characteristics and structure of units engaged in all (or certain) economic activities. Some of the main objectives of an Economic Census are to establish and maintain the business register (or census list of enterprises/establishments) and provide a sampling frame for more frequent statistical surveys. The Economic Census can be conducted either as an economy-wide census, including all economic activities, or as an independent census for a certain activity or sector only.

Countries may have different names for, and understanding of, one and the same statistical survey type. Some of the known variations of this term are “census of economic units”, “establishment census”, and “establishment and enterprise census”.

Recording responses to questions

Please record your answers directly into the questionnaire form. Where appropriate, you are encouraged to provide descriptive answers in reply to the individual questions. Please

provide the more detailed information that your country considers important for the organization and conduct of economic census in the relevant section of the country paper.

The questionnaire is in unprotected form, however, if you are unable to check on boxes directly, please, follow the steps: (1) Left double-click on the box; (2) Select “Properties”; (3) Select “Checked”; (4) Click “OK”.

Due date

The United Nations Statistics Division would very much appreciate it if you complete the questionnaire by **22 June 2009**. Please, send your responses to Ms. Youlia Antonova (e-mail:antonova@un.org).

Your response is highly appreciated and we thank you very much for your time in completing this questionnaire and your cooperation in this important study.

Questionnaire on countries practices in organization and conduct of Economic Census

Please provide your contact details:

Country: _____
Name of Institution: _____
Contact person: _____
Position: _____
E-mail: _____
Tel: _____

I. Planning and Organization of Economic Census

1. Are there any legal provisions governing the conduct of Economic Census in your country?

- ☐ Yes - *Please check all that apply*
- ☐ Statistical Law
 - ☐ Census Law/Act
 - ☐ Other - *Please specify:* _____
- ☐ No

2. Do you establish any form of coordination body for the planning and organization of the Economic Census?

- ☐ Yes
Please specify: _____
- ☐ No

3. How often do you conduct Economic Censuses?

- ☐ Every 5 years
- ☐ Every 10 years
- ☐ Other - *Please specify:* _____

4. In what year was the most recent Economic Census conducted in your country? *Please indicate:*

5. In what year will be the next Economic Census conducted in your country? *Please indicate:*

II. Scope and coverage of the Economic Census

6. How do you define the Economic Census conducted in your country?

- ☐ Economy-wide census, covering all sectors/activities and types of units
- ☐ Economic Census of individual sectors or activities
- ☐ Other - *Please specify:* _____

7. In the most recent Economic Census units from what economic activities were **not** covered?

- ☐ Agriculture
- ☐ Public Administration
- ☐ Other - *Please specify:* _____

8. What units were enumerated in your most recent Economic Census?

- ☐ Enterprise
- ☐ Establishment
- ☐ Other - *Please specify:* _____

9. Do you apply a threshold (in terms of employment or revenue/sales, etc.) when defining the population of units to be completely enumerated in the Economic Census?

☐ Yes

Please define the threshold: _____

☐ No

10. How do you cover units below that threshold?

☐ Using information from sample surveys (incl. household type surveys)

☐ Using information from the most recent population census

☐ Using administrative data sources

☐ Other - *Please specify: _____*

III. Data collection and data processing

11. What data items are collected with the Economic Census?

☐ Operating characteristics for the unique identification of units (kind of activity, location, ownership, year of start of operation, etc.)

☐ Set of economic data. *Please mark all that apply*

☐ Number of units

☐ Employment data

☐ Labour costs data

☐ Revenues (sales)/Expenditures

☐ Capital expenditures

☐ Other - *Please specify: _____*

12. What are the major innovations introduced in your most recent Economic Census?

☐ Introduction of a new Classification of Activities

☐ Improved questionnaire form

☐ Electronic reporting

☐ New data processing technology

☐ Use of Administrative Data Sources

☐ Other - *Please specify: _____*

13. Do you have a quality assurance framework developed for the Economic Census process?

☐ Yes

Please specify: _____

☐ No

IV. Rising awareness and promoting response to Economic Census

14. Do you organize an awareness campaign before the Economic Census so to promote the response of businesses?

☐ Yes

☐ No

15. What type of promotional activities do you include in the awareness campaign?

☐ Press releases and other publicity materials

☐ Special large company programme

☐ Design of an Economic Census Web site

☐ Organization of Economic Census conferences with users and respondents

☐ Other - *Please specify: _____*

IV. Dissemination of Economic Census results

16. How do you disseminate the results of the Economic Census?

☐ Reports of the census are published in:

☐ Printed publications

☐ Electronic format (CD-ROM, DVD-ROM, diskettes, etc.)

☐ Data are accessible from the statistical office Web site

☐ Other - *Please specify: _____*

17. Do you produce and disseminate metadata on Economic Census results?

☐ Yes

☐ No

18. What series of census data do you disseminate? *Please check all that apply*

☐ Economy-wide aggregates

☐ Regional series

☐ Industry series

☐ Other - *Please specify: _____*