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Report of the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics

Paper prepared by the Secretariat of the Oslo Group

(for information)

Progress of the work of the Oslo Group – 2007/2008

The main objective for the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics is to address issues related to energy statistics and contribute to improved international standards and improved methods for official energy statistics by pooling expertise in the energy community. In the previous year, the main focus has been on contributing to the revision of UNSD handbooks and manuals on energy statistics.

The work program for the Oslo Group from February 2007 to February 2008 was set up at the Oslo Group meeting in India, in February 2007. The program was set up with main focus on elements that needed better coverage in the revised UNSD manual.

Milestones achieved by the Oslo Group during the last year:

A. 3rd meeting of the Oslo Group

The third meeting of the Oslo Group was held in Vienna, Austria 4-6 February 2008 and hosted by Statistics Austria. The third meeting focused on the further work on revision of the UN manuals on Energy Statistics. The meeting went through all the issues addressed in 2007. The list of issues for 2008 will have to include most of the remaining elements that need to be covered in order for UNSD (as editor) to set up the revised manuals. The meeting also focused on cooperation with other groups, and on collection of national and international best practices.

B. Detailed disposition of the new manuals

An important step forward in defining the scope and contents of the International Recommendations of Energy Statistics (IRES) and the Energy Statistics Compilers Manual (ESCM) was made by the Oslo Group in the preparation of the 'Proposal for a detailed disposition of the new manuals'.

Using that proposal, as well as the scope and contents of the draft international recommendations for other areas of basic statistics submitted for adoption by the UN Statistical Commission, UNSD in collaboration with the Oslo Group Secretariat prepared a draft outline of IRES which has been sent out for a worldwide consultation to all national statistical offices, energy ministries/agencies and international organizations. Deadline 14. June 2008.

C. Basic Energy Statistics

Several papers on important issues which have to be researched and covered in IRES and ESCM have been submitted to the Oslo Group. The papers were discussed during the third meeting in Austria.

- 'Principles and definitions', by Atle Tostensen and Sara Øvergaard, Statistics Norway. The purpose of this chapter is to clarify definitions and explanations of central terms related to the work with the manuals.
- 'Fundamentals: Fuels, Sources, Energy Systems and the Laws of Thermodynamics', initiated by the Swedish Energy Agency. The chapter gives a brief introduction to concepts and relationships in energy and energy systems.

- ‘International principles for official statistics and the importance of making energy statistics official statistics’, by Olav Ljones and Atle Tostensen, Statistics Norway. This paper presents the characteristics of official statistics, and discusses why it is important to develop energy statistics as Official Statistics.
- ‘Data collection strategies’, by P.K. Ray, Central Statistical Organization, India
- ‘Dissemination’, by Martin Howley, Sustainable Energy Ireland. This section is intended to provide a framework so that best practice can be applied to effectively disseminate any given energy statistic.
- ‘Users’ Needs’, by Jun Toutain, Statistics Norway. In order for the manual to give the reader an overview of the complexity of energy statistics, it is important to clarify the user needs. The chapter explains the need for data on production, transport, end use, user group distribution etc.
- ‘Heat pumps in energy statistics – Suggestions’, initiated by the Swedish Energy Agency. The paper suggests methods for finding the heat production and the consumed drive-energy for heat pumps in Sweden, but the methods are also applicable in other countries.

D. Best practices

An important part of the Oslo Group mandate is to identify and collect national and international best practices. Best practices will be integrated in the ESCM. A template for Best Practices prepared by Statistics Norway was presented to the Oslo Group at the meeting in Austria. Country practices were presented at the third meeting in Vienna and the meeting encouraged more countries to submit their practices to the Oslo Group.

E. A questionnaire on Official Energy Statistics

To define the scope of official energy statistics a questionnaire “Global Assessment of Energy Statistics and Balances” was developed by UNSD in close cooperation with the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics and dispatched to national statistical offices (NSOs) of 210 countries/territories in June 2007.

The analysis was performed by UNSD Energy Unit, and the results were presented to the Oslo Group for discussion through the meeting in Austria and the discussion forum. The results are important for the fulfilment of the Oslo Group’s mandate. Presentation of the results for Statistical Commission is provided by UNSD.

Coordination with other Groups

F. London Group

Representatives from the London Group have attended the meetings of the Oslo Group and vice versa. Several members of the Oslo Group participated at the London Group meeting in Rome in December 2007. The Chairs for the two groups are working together on coordination of the work in order to prevent misunderstandings and duplications of work. Topics under the London Group, in close relation to the work of the Oslo Group, are issues on assets and reserves, and a focus on defining the users’ needs from environmental and economic accounting related to energy statistics. This will be a valuable input in the OG work.

G. UNCEEA

The Chair of the Oslo Group participates in UNCEEA. At the meeting of UNCEEA in July 2007 the Oslo Group presented the status for its work, and also presented a document giving the Oslo

Groups perspective on “Energy statistics, balances and accounts” in relation to the mandate and objective of the Oslo Group (UNCEEA/2/16).

H. InterEnerStat

The Chair and secretariat of the Oslo Group also attend the meetings of the InterEnerStat. InterEnerStat is working towards common definitions, units and conversion factors for energy amongst international organisations. At the second meeting of the InterEnerStat in November 2007 the Oslo Group presented the status for the work in the Group and for the revision of the UN manuals on energy statistics. The importance of cooperation and harmonization was emphasised from both organisations.

I. Other Groups

The Oslo Group has also been presented to several working groups at their meetings, for instance at the meeting of the UNECE/OECD/Eurostat working group on sustainable development in Oslo in November 2006 and at the Eurostat Energy Statistics Committee meeting in June 2007.

Future activity of the Oslo Group

J. List of Issues 2008

The Oslo Group will in cooperation with UNSD put together a list of issues for global consultation and place them on the OG website for further discussion and finalization. The secretariat will also in cooperation with UNSD compile a list of drafting commitments from the members of the Group.

K. International Workshop on Energy Statistics

Attend the International Workshop on Energy Statistics to be arranged by UNSD (4Q 2008).

L. 4rth meeting of the Oslo Group: Ottawa, February 2008

The fourth meeting of the Oslo Group will be held in Ottawa, Canada in February 2008 and will be hosted by Statistics Canada. The meeting will be dedicated to review the draft of IRES. The meeting will also focus on cooperation with other groups, and on collection of national and international best practices.

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