International Seminar on Early Warning and Business Cycle Indicators

14 to 16 December 2009
Scheveningen, The Netherlands

Agenda of the meeting
International Seminar on Early Warning and Business Cycle Indicators
14 – 16 December 2009, Scheveningen, The Netherlands

Provisional Agenda

Monday 14 December

08:30 Registration

Session 1 Opening

09:00 Opening of seminar and welcoming remarks
Paul Cheung - Director, United Nations Statistics Division
Pieter Everaers - Director, External Cooperation, Communication and Key Indicators, Eurostat
Gosse van der Veen - Director-General, Statistics Netherlands

9:30 Opening address
Frank Heemskerk – Minister of Economic Affairs of The Netherlands

10:00 Key note
Lex Hoogduin - Executive Director of the Central Bank, The Netherlands

10:30 Coffee break

Session 2 Global statistical response to the economic and financial crisis

Chair: Pieter Everaers - Eurostat

11:00 Progress on the global statistical response to the economic and financial crisis
UNSD

11:20 Glossary of statistical terms associated to the estimation of key economic indicators
Roberto Barcellan – Eurostat

11:40 Plenary discussion

13:00 Lunch
Session 3  The role of sentiment indicators in tracking economic trends

Chair: Paul Cheung - United Nations Statistics Division

Session Organiser: OECD

14:30  Introduction
Gyorgy Gyomai – OECD

14:50  Using business tendency surveys to reduce revisions
Jan-Egbert Sturm – KOF Institute, Switzerland

15:10  The EU programme of business and consumer surveys: scope and relevance for economic analysis
Reuben Borg and Kristine Vlagsma – DG Ecfin: European Commission

15:30  Coffee Break

15:50  Discussant of supporting papers: Gian Paolo Oneto - Italy
Supplementary commentaries by contributors of the supporting papers

16:10  Plenary discussion

Supporting papers

Using turning point indicators based upon business surveys: the French case and beyond
Éric Dubois – France

Establishment and empirical analysis of China’s macroeconomic climate index and early-warning index
Jiancheng Pan - China
Session 4  The role of Composite Indicators in tracking Business Cycles

Chair: Eduardo Nunes - Brazil

Session Organiser: Conference Board

17:10  Introduction
Ataman Ozyildirim – Conference Board

17:30  Tracking and anticipating Singapore’s growth cycles
Teck Wong Soon and Yi Ding Lim – Singapore

17:50  10 years of experience in forecasting turning points
Jacques Anas – Coe-rexecode, France

18:10  Close

Tuesday 15 December

Session 4  The role of Composite Indicators in tracking Business Cycles - continued

09:00  Discussant of supporting papers: Geert Bruinooge - Statistics Netherlands
Supplementary commentaries by contributors of the supporting papers

09:20  Plenary discussion

Supporting papers

A monthly assessment of Euro Area cyclical situation
Gian Luigi Mazzi and Filippo Moauro – Eurostat

Tracking the Mexican business cycle
Yuriko Yabuta – Mexico

OECD System of Leading Indicators, 2008
Gyorgy Gyomai and Emmanuelle Guidetti – OECD

Useful data and tools for quickly estimating economic trends
Ho Sup Lee, Jong Rlog Choi and Sung Joo Lim – Korea

The role of composite indicators in tracking business cycles in Mongolia
Gerelt-Od Ganbaatar – Mongolia

Monitoring business cycles: Malaysian experiences
Abd. Latib Talib - Malaysia
Session 5  Flash Estimates of Gross Domestic Product

Chair: Pronab Sen - India

Session Organiser: Eurostat

10:20  Introduction
Pieter Everaers - Eurostat

10:40  Towards a flash GDP
Adriaan Bloem – Expert

11:00  Coffee Break

11:20  The Euro-area recession and nowcasting GDP growth using statistical models
Gian Luigi Mazzi (Eurostat), James Mitchell (NIESR) Gaetana Montana (Eurostat),
Kostas Mouratidis (Sheffield University) & Martin Weale (NIESR)

11:40  Discussant of supporting papers: Teck Wong Soon - Singapore
Supplementary commentaries by contributors of the supporting papers

12:00  Plenary discussion

Supporting papers

Methodology of Flash GDP estimates
Abderrahmane El Kacemi – Morocco

Availability and quality of short-term economic statistics in the Asian and the Pacific Region
Jan Smit and Artur Andrysiak – UNESCAP

Methodological basis of the flash GDP estimates: experience of the Republic of Belarus
Yulia Bartkevich– Belarus

Flash estimates of quarterly GDP in China
Faqı Shi - China

13:00  Lunch
Session 6    The Analytical Framework for Assessing Rapid Economic Changes

Chair: Pali Lehola – South Africa

Session Organiser:

14:30 Introduction
Rob Vos – United Nations

14:50 Invited paper 1
Soong Sup Lee – World Bank

15:10 Invited paper 2
Terry Ward – Applica

15:30 Discussant of supporting papers: Daniela Schackis – ECB
Supplementary commentaries by contributors of the supporting papers

16:10 Coffee Break

16:30 Plenary discussion

Supporting papers

Indicators for detection of imbalances leading to economic crises
Ales Capek – Eurostat

Short term statistics in Chile
Michael Stanger – Central bank, Chile

Short term indicators in African economies
Beejaye Kokil – African Development Bank

17:30 Close

Reception: Steigenberger Kurhaus Hotel – Hosted by Statistics Netherlands
Wednesday 16 December

Session 7  Global assessment report on rapid indicators

Session Organiser: UNSD

8:30  Global Assessment on the Availability, Periodicity, Timeliness and Dissemination of High Frequency Indicators
Ivo Havinga and Herman Smith - UNSD

Use of early warning and business cycle indicator in analytical frameworks
Thierno Balde, Ralf Becker, Ivo Havinga

9:00  Break-out sessions
Break out groups, each with a moderator (international organizations) and facilitator (Statistics Netherlands) to guide the discussions. At the start of the seminar, participants will be requested to subscribe to his/her preferred group. Subscription to each group is limited to the number of participants divided by the number of groups.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breakout</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Organizations</th>
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| 1        | Flash estimates of GDP | Roberto Barcellan – Eurostat  
Pascal Ramaekers - Statistics Netherlands  
Mieke Berends-Ballast - Statistics Netherlands |
| 2        | Composite indicators | Ataman Ozyildirim - Conference Board  
Sidney Vergouw - Statistics Netherlands  
Wouter Jonkers - Statistics Netherlands |
| 3        | Sentiment indicators | Gyorgy Gyomai - OECD  
Jeroen Nieuweboer - Statistics Netherlands  
Karin van der Ven - Statistics Netherlands |
| 4        | Analytical framework | Herman Smith - UNSD  
Sjoerd Schenau - Statistics Netherlands  
Bram Edens - Statistics Netherlands |

10:30  Coffee Break

10:50  Report back on break-out sessions by the moderators

11:10  Plenary discussion
Session 8  Communication and dissemination of indicators

Chair: Lidia Bratanova - UNECE

Session Organiser:  World Bank

12:00  Introduction
Soong Sup Lee – World Bank

12:20  Creating statistical information; visualisations and coherent indicator sets
Floris van Ruth - Statistics Netherlands

12:40  Statistics explained
Eurostat

13.00  Lunch

14:30  Communication and dissemination of indicators in Canada
Art Ridgeway – Canada

14:50  Plenary discussion

Background document: SNA News and Notes

15:50  Coffee Break

Session 9  Assessment of Early Warning and Business Cycle Indicators

Co-Chairs: Gosse van der Veen – Statistics Netherlands
Paul Cheung - United Nations Statistics Division
Walter Radermacher – Eurostat

16:10  Report back on sessions by chairs

16:30  Plenary discussion

17:30  Close