

11 December 2009

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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 Ecfm: 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
Faqi 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.

Breakout	Topic	Organizations
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