



Seminar on developing the capacity to produce
economic statistics, 10-13 October 2011,
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**Findings of ESCAP needs assessments of
the capacity of NSSs to produce basic
economic statistics**

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Overview

- ESCAP Assessments
- 2009 ESCAP region-wide assessment
- 2011 Pre-Seminar assessment
- 2011 Assessments (in-country)
- Discussion

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ESCAP Assessments

- 2009 ESCAP region-wide assessment of the capacity of NSSs to produce basic economic statistics – 58 countries, selected areas/statistics (focus on availability)
- 2011 Pre-Seminar assessment of the capacity of NSSs to produce basic economic statistics – 24 countries (19 responded), selected areas/statistics (focus on availability)
- 2011 Assessments (in-country) of the capacity of Bangladesh, Bhutan and Lao PDR Statistical Systems to produce the core set of economic statistics 3 countries, comprehensive (focus on capacity)

2009 ESCAP region-wide assessment (cont.)

- **Conducted:** May to December 2009
- **Covered:** all 58 ESCAP members States in the Asia-Pacific region
- **Objective:** to provide an overview of the current capacity of NSS to produce basic economic statistics
- **Results:** used for developing and monitoring the regional programme as well as an input to the global 2008 SNA implementation strategy
- The assessment framework was **developed** on the basis of existing frameworks and reviewed by an expert group

2009 ESCAP region-wide assessment (cont.)



- Conducted May to December 2009
- Covered all 58 ESCAP members States in the Asia-Pacific region
- Main objective to provide an overview of the current capacity of NSS to produce basic economic statistics.
- Results used for developing and monitoring the regional programme as well as an input to the global 2008 SNA implementation strategy.
- The assessment framework was developed on the basis of existing frameworks and reviewed by an expert group

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2009 Key findings



- General: Pacific and South/South West Asia lagged behind in many categories
- General: Members with lower incomes or lower population found it more difficult to produce a comprehensive set of economic statistics
- Resources: 46 per cent described their financial resources as not adequate;
- Resources: All low-income and 15 per cent of the middle-income members had insufficient computing resources
- Resources: 71 per cent described their economic statistics staff numbers as not adequate
- Highest priority skills: Implementation of 2008 SNA and Integrated Economic
- Top priority subject matter training: National accounts statistics, household income and expenditure statistics, informal sector statistics and labour force statistics

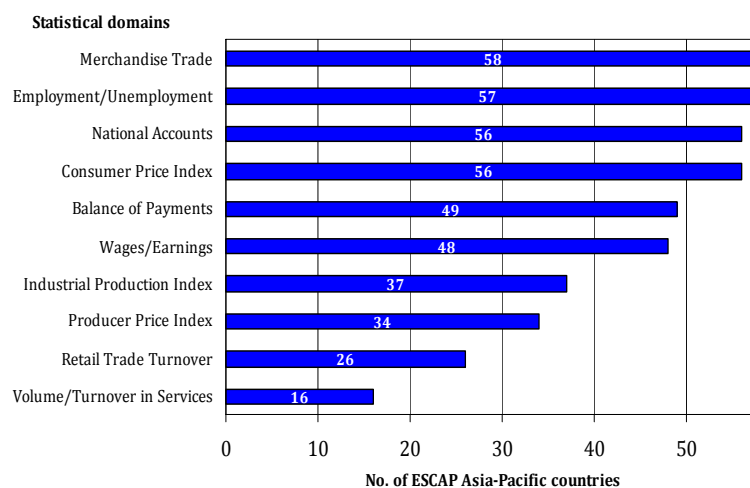
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2009 Key findings (cont.)

- Data sources: Labour Force Surveys and Establishment/Enterprise surveys less common
- Business registers: Less than two-thirds of ESCAP members (60 per cent) had business registers and only 30 per cent of member in the South and South-West Asia had business registers
- SNA: Only a third members in the region produced all seven of the MRDS tables; only a quarter had reached the third of the six ISWGNA milestones
- SNA: 32% of members still compiled national accounts at least partly in accordance with the second (1968) version of the SNA; only a quarter of the members had concrete plans to transit fully to the 2008 SNA
- SNA: Slightly more than half of members produced national accounts at a frequency higher than annual
- Other selected economic statistics: less than half of the members produced statistics on retail trade turnover and only a quarter produced volume or turnover in services statistics
- Seasonal adjustment: only 29 per cent of members produced any seasonally adjusted economic statistics

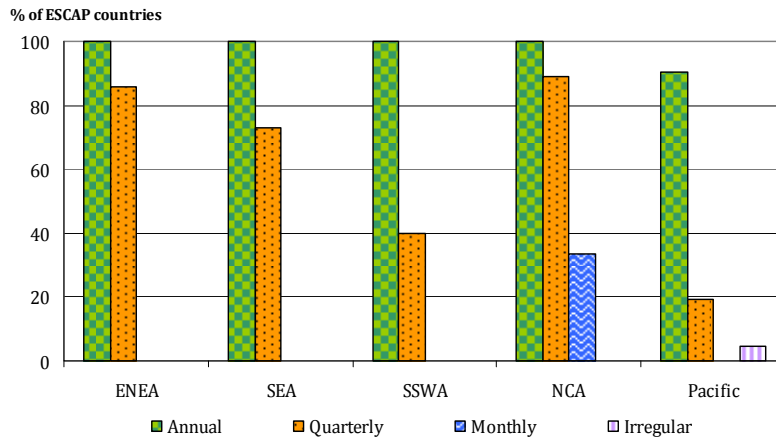
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Availability of economic indicators



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National Accounts by frequency



2011 Pre-Seminar assessment

- Conducted Sept to Oct 2011
- Covered all Seminar participants (19 out of 24 responded)
- Main objective to provide an updated overview of the current capacity of NSS to produce basic economic statistics

2011 Pre-Seminar assessment – key results



- Difficult to compare with 2009 results as many countries which have not responded in 2009 responded in 2011
- Shows that the publicly available information is often not fully correct/outdated
- Shows that countries continue to improve their statistics (improvement in frequency and timeliness)
- Shows that the initial plans for SNA implementation were too ambitious (for countries with 2010 and 2011 timeframes)

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Implementation of 2008 SNA and ISIC Rev.4 – ESCAP Region



Country	Plans for implementation of 2008 SNA	If yes, when do you plan to implement SNA2008	Plans for implementation of ISIC Rev4	If yes, when do you plan to implement ISIC Rev4
Armenia	Y	2011-2012	Y	2010
Australia	Y	2009	Y	2009
Bhutan			Y	5years time
Fiji	Y	2009, GDP released. Working on all other national accounts tables eg up to lending, integrated accounts etc	Y	
Hong Kong, China	Y	around 2012	Y	2011
India	Y	2015	Y	2015
Indonesia	Y	2014		
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	N		Y	2011
Japan	Y	2015	N	
Republic of Korea	Y	2014		

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Implementation of 2008 SNA and ISIC Rev.4 – ESCAP Region



Country	Plans for implementation of 2008 SNA	If yes, when do you plan to implement SNA2008	Plans for implementation of ISIC Rev4	If yes, when do you plan to implement ISIC Rev4
Macao, China	Y	2010	Y	2011
Malaysia	Y	2014	Y	2014
Maldives	Y			
Mongolia	Y	2015	Y	2010
New Zealand	N		Y	2011
Samoa	Y	2010	Y	2009/10
Singapore	Y	SNA2008 will be implemented progressively.	Y	Implemented ISIC Rev4 (draft) in 2007. Implementing ISIC Rev 4 in 2011-12.
Thailand	N		Y	201X
Tonga	Y		N	
Viet Nam	Y	2011	Y	2007

2011 Assessments (in-country)



- **Conducted:** January to May 2011
- **Covered:** Bangladesh, Bhutan and Lao PDR NSSs
- **Objective:** to assess the capacity of selected NSSs to produce the core set of economic statistics
- **Scope:** covered all aspects of NSSs involved in the collection and processing of data for, and compilation, analysis and dissemination of the core set of economic statistics.
- **Structure**
 - Pre-mission assessment (validation of the *2009 ESCAP region-wide assessment*)
 - In-country interviews (3-4 days): availability of core set of economic statistics; availability of data sources; relationships with data providers; collection, compilation and dissemination practices; capacity of the staff to produce statistics and training needs; state of infrastructure and the needs required
 - National consultative meeting (users and producers)
 - Review of statistical publications

2011 (in-country) - Key findings

- the three selected statistical systems have the capacity to produce most of the statistics within the core set of economic statistics (Bangladesh 30 out of 32, Bhutan 24 of the 32, and Lao PDR 21 of the 32)
- the three NSSs have limited capacity to produce many of these statistics at the recommended frequency (meeting core set recommendations on frequency: Bangladesh 21, Bhutan 13, and Lao PDR 16), coverage and in accordance with relevant international standards and good practices
- although the three statistical NSSs are different they experience very similar constraints and have similar capacity development needs

2011 (in-country) - Key findings (cont.)

- **financial and human resources** are a significant constraint and affect the capacity of the NSSs to collect data for, compile and disseminate the core set of economic statistics of sufficient quality and in accordance with international practices and methods
- limited **training opportunities** at the national level, limit the ability of the three NSSs to develop the statistical skills of their new staff as well as improve the skills of existing staff. Lack of training affects the capacity of the NSSs to produce economic statistics and make the necessary improvements.
- lack of, or poor frequency of necessary **survey and administrative data** significantly affects the quality and timeliness of statistics
- **business registers** of the three NSSs are in the early stages of development and at present are not of sufficient quality, limiting the capacity to conduct coherent and comprehensive business surveys.
- **computer systems** of the three NSSs are in need of modernization as they inhibit efficient production of economic statistics.

2011 (in-country) - Key findings (cont.)

- **coordination** is often based on informal arrangements, limiting the NSOs/NSSs accesses to the necessary administrative and other data in a timely and efficient manner, affecting expertise sharing and resolving of discrepancies
- **quality assessment frameworks** are not used to ensure the overall quality of statistics that are being produced. There are currently no systemized processes used for ensuring the overall quality of statistics
- **release calendars** are not published
- **metadata and documentation** is an area in need of improvement and assistance. The poor metadata and documentation affect the transparency and transfer of knowledge.
- **advocacy efforts** to date have not resulted in securing the necessary resources and the strategic planning has not led to the development of the necessary capacity

National consultative meetings

- Bangladesh 11 January 2011, Bhutan 31 March 2011 and Lao PDR 8 April 2011
- Organized following the in-country interviews
- Attended by:
 - units/organizations involved in the various stages of the production of the core set from main data providers to those responsible for compilation and dissemination
 - main users of economic statistics
- Provided forum to:
 - Discuss the preliminary results of the in-country interviews
 - Identify the main issues and constraints faced by the NSSs in producing the core set from the data providers' and users' perspective
 - Get a agreement on key priorities, commitments and recommendations on a strategy to be supported by NSSs stakeholders in improving core economic statistics

Question

What is the top constraint limiting the capacity of your NSS to produce the core set of economic statistics?

Thank you