



Seminar on developing the capacity to produce
economic statistics, 10-13 October 2011,
Bangkok

Overview of the Regional Programme initiative

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Overview

- Background
- Core Set
- Regional programme
- Why are we here
- Next steps

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Background – CST1 decision

- ESCAP Committee on Statistics (CST):
 - Regional forum for leaders of national statistical systems

 - Decision on “Action plan for the development of economic statistics in the Asian and Pacific Region” at the 1st session, in February 2009. The Committee:
 - Adopted a coordinating governance structure to guide the development, implementation and monitoring of an action plan (Regional Programme) for the development of economic statistics in the Asian and Pacific region
 - Established a technical advisory group to provide guidance to the Bureau and the ESCAP secretariat on the development and periodic revision of a regional programme for the development of economic statistics

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Follow up to the decision of CST1

- Technical advisory group (established in August 2009)
 - 6 countries, 7 organizations / agencies
 - Co-chairs: Jeff Cope (NZL) and Kim Zieschang (IMF)
- Consultative meetings
 - Expert Group Meeting, Sept 2009
 - Workshop, December 2009
 - Meetings of TAG back-to-back with above meetings
- Region-wide assessment of the capacity of NSSs to produce basic economic statistics (May to December 2009)
- **Core Set** submitted to all CST members (ESCAP members and associate members) for their consideration and comments (Aug/Sept 2010)
- **Regional Programme** finalized in Oct 2010

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Core set of economic statistics

- Dual purpose:
 - Determines scope of regional capacity strengthening programme
 - Provides guidance on minimum set of statistics to be produced for analysis and decision-making
 - By both government and non-government actors
- Identifies economic policy analysis, making & evaluation needs → Domains
- Covers both short-term and structural statistics

Core set of economic statistics (cont.)

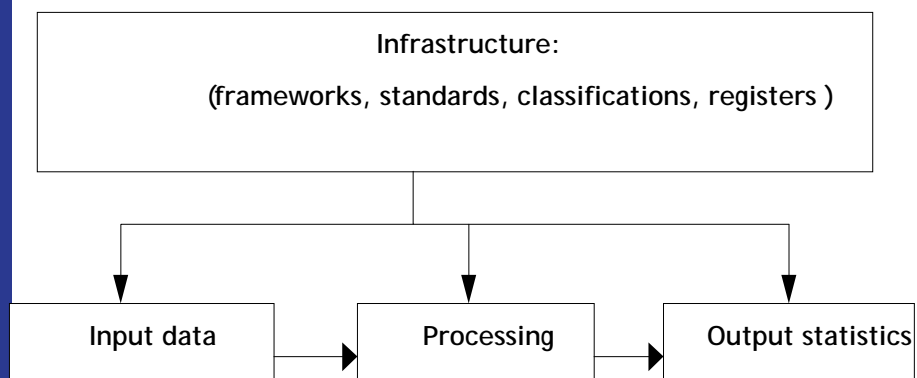
- Relevant for **all** countries, regardless of:
 - Stage of economic development
 - Degree of sophistication of markets
 - Extent of government intervention in economic process
- However: **size and structure** of economy of countries vary largely and parts of the core set may not be relevant to all

Core set of economic statistics (cont.)

- Defined by:
 - Priority domain and key statistics within each domain
 - Their frequency
 - Existing international standards / guidelines for each domain
- Guided by existing work on recommended economic statistics:
 - IMF: General Data Dissemination Standard (GDDS) and the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)
 - European Central Bank requirements for short-term statistics for monetary policy analysis

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Core set of economic statistics (cont.)



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Core set of economic statistics (cont.)

Sets a clear and achievable target for the region by identifying the minimum set of economic statistics that all countries in Asia and the Pacific should have the **capacity** to produce by 2020 after taking into account their varying needs.

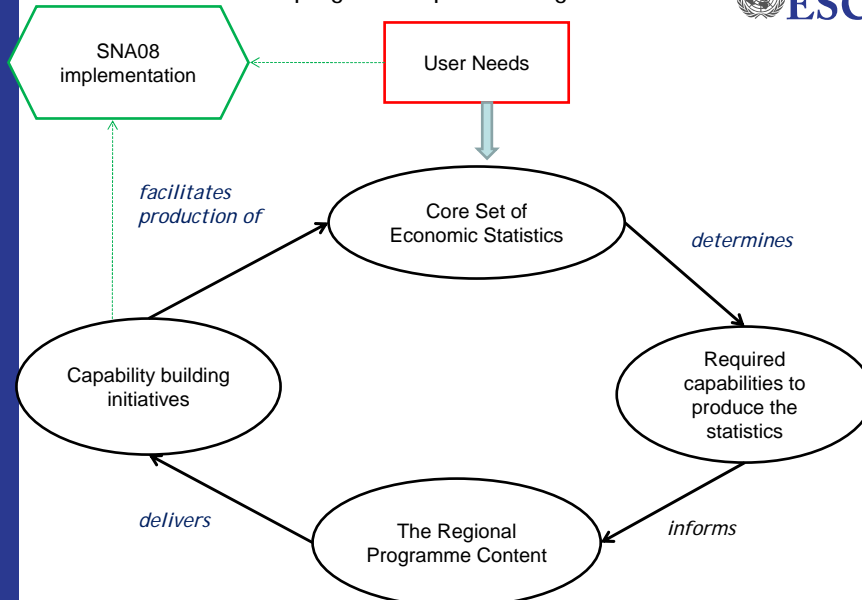
Core Set (ESCAP) and Data Template of High Frequency Indicators (UNSD, IMF, etc)

- Although the Core Set has a different purpose, it has much in common with the Data Template
- Core Set complements the Data Template as it will help develop the necessary capacity of countries to produce the economic statistics
- The two data sets have a significant number of statistics in common, but:
 - Data Template focuses on the short-term indicators and is intended to be used as early warning tools
 - Core Set covers short-term and structural statistics and is a **guide for capacity development**.

Relationship of the Core Set to the Regional Programme

- The purpose of the programme is to develop the **capacity** to produce a range of economic statistics, ie remove the constraints preventing their production.
- The core set fulfils two roles:
 - Determines the scope of the programme.
 - Provides guidance on the minimum set of economic statistics to be produced.

Framework for developing and implementing the RP



Regional Programme

- **Goal** - to improve the soundness of economic analysis and decision-making by governments, the private sector, the research community and the public through increased availability and effective use of timely, reliable and comparable economic statistics.
- **Expected outcome** - by 2020, the NSSs of ESCAP member States have the capacity to produce and disseminate, in accordance with internationally agreed statistical standards and good practices, the Core Set required for short- and long-term economic analysis and decision-making by both government and non-government sectors

Focus of the Programme



Regional Programme

- Capacity development is key!
 - through organizing advocacy events & developing advocacy tools; assessing national capacities and developing national action plans; providing advisory services; conducting targeted training; knowledge sharing; facilitating technical cooperation among countries, including through South-South cooperation
- It's not an ESCAP instrument!
 - Implementation through work programmes of NSSs and development partners funding and providing technical assistance
 - Linked to relevant global initiatives

Key Regional Programme components

1. Endorsement of the Core Set as regional guideline
2. Strengthening of statistical advocacy
3. Development of human resource skills
4. Improvement of statistical infrastructure
 1. Adoption of internationally recognized quality assessment frameworks
 2. Development of metadata repositories
 3. Development of business registers
 4. Adoption of modern statistical data editing techniques

Key Regional Programme components (cont.)

5. Improvement in coordination
6. Progress monitoring and programme review
 1. Monitoring the progress in national capacity development
 2. Monitoring the implementation of the regional programme
7. Knowledge sharing and South-South cooperation

Regional Programme and 2008 SNA

- The regional programme supports the implementation of the 2008 SNA in Asia and the Pacific, however its focus is on the development of national capacities, within an agreed timeframe, on a number of related elements, which can be seen as necessary preconditions for the production of economic statistics

Why are we here – CST2 decisions

Decisions on **Regional programme** at 2nd session in December 2010:

- Endorsed the RP as a formal strategy for the improvement of economic statistics in the region, including:
 - principles and strategy
 - key components and main activities;
 - management arrangements;
 - transformation of TAG into a steering group to directly oversee the implementation of the regional programme.
 - role of the secretariat in the implementation
- Encouraged member States and development partners to actively support the implementation of the RP by, among other things, providing the necessary funding and other resources on a voluntary basis and through active coordination of efforts

Why are we here – CST2 recommendation and ESCAP resolution

CST Recommendation on Core Set (Dec 2010):

- Recommended the use of the core set of economic statistics as a regional framework to focus regional efforts, coordinate training and mobilize donor support for capacity-building.

ESCAP Commission resolution 67/10

- *Endorsed* the recommendation of the Committee on Statistics to use the core set of economic statistics as a regional framework to focus regional efforts, coordinate training and mobilize donor support for capacity-building;
- *Recommended* that members and associate members use, as appropriate, the core set of economic statistics as a framework and guide in the development of their national statistical systems.

Progress to date

- In-country assessments (Jan – Apr 2011)
- Steering Group established in June 2011
 - Co-Chairs: Ms. Estela T. de Guzman, Philippines and Mr. Michael Smedes, Australia
- Draft outline of the implementation plan
- Seminar in October 2011

Steering Group

- Direct the development of the implementation plan for the RP
- In consultation with the secretariat, identify the short-term and long-term priorities and establish milestones for the implementation
- Provide strategic and technical advice (day-to-day management, monitor progress in its implementation and propose adjustments)
- Provide guidance, as relevant, to the Subgroup on Agricultural Statistics (establish to support the integration of a regional implementation plan for the global strategy for the improvement of the agricultural and rural statistics into the RP)

Next steps

- Develop the implementation plan (including budget and detail work plan)
- Secure partner commitment
- Secure country commitments
- Secure necessary resources
- Begin implementation sometimes in **2012**

Key documents and information

- Committee on Statistics
<http://www.unescap.org/stat/cst/index.asp>
- Decisions of the Committee (CST2)
<http://www.unescap.org/stat/cst/2/index.asp>
- Core set of economic statistics
<http://www.unescap.org/stat/cst/2/CST2-4E.pdf>
- Regional programme for the improvement of economic statistics in Asia and the Pacific
<http://www.unescap.org/stat/cst/2/CST2-5E.pdf>
- Report on the ESCAP region-wide assessment of the capacity of national statistical systems in Asia and the Pacific to produce basic economic statistics
<http://www.unescap.org/stat/cst/2/CST2-INF9.pdf>

Questions?

Thank you