



Official statistics and regional collaboration for SGDs in Asia- Pacific

Zeynep Orhun Girard
ESCAP, Statistics Division

EECCA Conference for a Transformative Agenda for Official Statistics
Minsk, Belarus
6-7 October 2016

Outline of presentation

- Impact of global development agendas on official statistics
- Regional collaboration and Collective Vision for Advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



Impact of the global development agendas on official statistics



UNITED NATIONS
ESCAP

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

STATISTICS

MDGs: Compact agenda with a focus social policy issues

- National statistical capability not a purpose in and of itself
- Donor emphasis on social data collection activities, e.g. MICS, DHS, etc.
- Environment indicators mainly based on international modelling
- Economic statistics not in focus

SDGs: Comprehensive agenda with a cascade of goals, targets and indicators

- Three pillars: social, environmental and economic
- Core element of a data revolution
- Statistics development as a central part of means of implementation (Targets 17.18 and 17.19)—availability, quality (especially timeliness) and disaggregation

Unprecedented attention to national capacity also challenges official statistics

- Scope of data, statistics and analysis required for SDGs points to the need for expanding data producers and sources
- NSOs faced with the question of redefining their role as quality assurers and information providers

Particular challenges: Scope of legal framework, code of practice, NSO's standing in government hierarchy and resources



*Regional collaboration and
Collective Vision for Advancing official statistics
for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*



UNITED NATIONS
ESCAP

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

STATISTICS

Asia-Pacific, a case of diversity

- From 1.4 billion people in China to 11,000 in Tuvalu
- Highly developed countries, Least Developed countries, Small Island Developing States and Landlocked Developing Countries
- Statistical systems range from highly centralized to decentralized-- thousands of staff to just a handful

Diversity also reflected in 'Readiness' for SDGs

- No country has data available for all suggested indicators
- Preliminary estimates suggest huge gaps
- In the Pacific, countries are still lacking the capacity to produce some Tier 1 indicators

Country	Availability
Pakistan	35 per cent of targets
China	25 per cent of indicators
Mongolia	26 per cent of indicators
Rep. Korea	50 per cent of indicators
Japan	60 per cent of indicators

A-P Statistics Development Agenda comprises 2 strategic goals

- 1) Ensure all countries in the region by 2020 have the capacity to produce an agreed basic range of population, economic, social and environment statistics; and
- 2) Create a more adaptive and cost-effective information management environment for national statistical offices through stronger cooperation.

“Collective Vision” proposing to extend the strategic goals of Asia-Pacific statistical community

- ...By 2030, the national statistical systems of the Asia-Pacific region have transformed to supply the statistical evidence necessary for progress monitoring and integrated policy analysis, and leveraged these for effective 2030 Agenda implementation

Principles of the “Collective Vision”

- Building on existing commitments
 - Regional & global initiatives
 - Sub-regional initiatives
 - National commitments on statistics & SDGs
- Adding value to national action
 - Development of “public goods” that benefit groups of countries
 - Sharing expertise and experience
- Adaptable to national progression
 - Action to transform the building blocks of the national statistical system

“Collective Vision” has 5 action areas

...with signposts, collaborative activities and stakeholder responsibilities:

A User engagement and investment in statistics

B Fundamental principles for official statistics and strengthened national statistical systems

C Integrated statistics and innovation

D Modernizing statistical business processes

E Skills and human resources

B Fundamental principles for official statistics and strengthened national statistical systems

Signpost 1: National statistical systems have in place legal frameworks that accord appropriate coordination authority and responsibility to the national statistics office and are fully in line with and facilitates adherence to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

Signpost 2: National statistical systems formulate and implement comprehensive and system-wide strategies for the development of statistics, including statistics for the 2030 Agenda, on a continuous basis

Signpost 3: National statistical systems have implemented a system-wide quality assurance framework

Suggested collaborative activities for signpost B1

Produce

- Guidelines for the formulation of statistics laws, including:
 - Documented good practice legal frameworks [based on country case studies]
 - Analyses of effectiveness of existing legal frameworks [country case studies]
- Communication and advocacy guidance material to support legal framework reviews & revisions

Existing resources include:

The Generic Statistical Law (UN-ECE)

Technical advice (available upon request from UNSD, ESCAP, ASEAN)

Suggested stakeholder responsibilities for signpost B1

Disseminate

- Partnership for Statistics Development in Asia and the Pacific (objectives of the partnership include strengthening the leadership & coordination role of the NSO)
- Asia-Pacific Economic Statistics Week (for sharing documented country experiences on quality assurance of economic statistics)
- SIAP Management Seminars (for dialogues among NSS leadership)
- APFSD (for engagement and advocacy vis-à-vis high-level government users of SDG statistics)
- ACSS (peer reviews of adherence to the ASEAN Code of Practice)...

Questions for reflection

- How can broader support within national governments, beyond NSS, be secured?
- How can existing mechanisms at the national and “sub-regional” level be leveraged to implement the “Collective Vision”?

