UNITED NATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

STATISTICS DIVISION
TRADE STATISTICS BRANCH

International workshop on Country Practices in Compilation of International Merchandise Trade Statistics

12-15 December 2006, Bangkok

Purpose: The workshop will review the country practices in compilation of international merchandise trade statistics (IMTS) in the regions of South and South-East Asia. This review will be guided by the country replies to the questionnaire on the National Compilation and Dissemination Practices (NCDP), which was sent out in July 2006. The questionnaire deals with a broad range of issues starting from institutional arrangements to reporting practices. In addition, current concepts, definitions and recommendations of IMTS, Rev.2 will be reviewed and discussed in light of the revisions of SNA93, BPM5, the Manual on SITS, the Kyoto convention and relevant economic classifications. Issues which will be covered are – among others - the boundary between goods and services, goods for processing abroad, and linkages between trade and business statistics.

Expected outcomes: First of all, it is expected that the workshop will fuel the cooperation between UNSD and the participating countries, which should lead to an increase in trade data for UN Comtrade. Secondly, the results of the discussions will become direct input to the draft Supplement to the Compiler Manual, which should be completed by March 2007. Since the Supplement is viewed as a first stepping stone in the preparation of the new revision of IMTS, the results of the discussions are indirectly also the first input to IMTS, Revision 3.

Participants: Experts from the external trade statistics departments of national statistical offices or custom authorities. Members of the Task Force on IMTS will be invited to participate and provide their views. UNSD will fund participation of experts from about 20 developing countries or areas and will provide two resource persons. Experts from OECD member states will also be invited.