



UNITED NATIONS  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS  
STATISTICS DIVISION



UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION  
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

ESA/STAT/AC.164.2

**Workshop for Developing Countries on the Revision of the International  
Recommendations for International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS),  
Bangkok, 9-12 September, 2008**

**Final Agenda**

Morning session will be as much as possible from 8:30 to 11:30 and afternoon sessions from 13:00 to 16:00 (*Each 3 hour session includes a break of 15 minutes*)

**Tuesday, 9 September**

*Registration for participants: 8:00-9:00*

*Morning session* 9:00 - 11:30

1. Opening of the meeting (ESCAP)
2. Opening statement by Paul Cheung, Director, UNSD
3. Adoption of Agenda, Purpose of workshop and Administrative matters (UNSD)
4. UNSD activities in the field of International Trade Statistics (UNSD presentation)
5. Use of merchandise statistics for informed-trade policy making (ESCAP presentation)
6. Need for the revision of IMTS, Rev.2; Outline and status of the revision process (UNSD presentation followed by General Discussion)

*Afternoon session* 13:00-16:00

7. Coverage (Definition of IMTS and nature of transactions covered; Change of ownership; Goods for processing; Trade between affiliated enterprises)  
UNSD introduction  
Country presentations (Kenya, Philippines, Vietnam)  
General discussion

## Wednesday, 10 September

*Morning session* 8:30 -11:30

8. Coverage - cont. (Packaged software; Downloadable software and audiovisual products; Asymmetric inclusions and exclusions; Other inclusions and exclusions)
  - UNSD introduction
  - Country presentations (China, Pakistan, Vietnam)
  - General discussion
  
9. Trade system (Clarification of territorial elements; Boundaries of the relaxed definition of the special trade system; Other concerns)
  - UNSD introduction
  - Country presentations (Bangladesh, Malaysia)
  - General discussion

*Afternoon session* 13:00-16:00

10. Commodity classification and quantity measurement (Review of existing recommendations; Other concerns)
  - UNSD introduction
  - Country presentations (Ethiopia, Pakistan, Thailand)
  - General discussion
  
11. Mode of transport (What to record; How to classify)
  - UNSD introduction
  - Country presentations (Ethiopia, India, Malaysia)
  - General discussion
  
12. Valuation (Compilation of Imports FOB in addition to Imports CIF; Valuation reviewed, i.e. value components, estimation methods, valuation and time of recording in case of non-customs sources; Valuation in certain special cases, i.e. electricity, gas and water, used goods etc.)
  - UNSD introduction
  - Country presentations (Kazakhstan, Kenya, Mongolia, Philippines)
  - General discussion

## Thursday, 11 September

*Morning session* 8:30 -11:30

13. Partner country (Country of origin and country of consignment for imports; Country of last know destination and country of consignment (destination) for exports; Country of sale/ purchase; Calculation of trade balances; Issues concerning the determination of the country of origin and re-exports (rules of origin); Other concerns)

UNSD introduction  
Country presentations (China, India)  
General discussion

14. Data sources (Use of non-customs sources; Data compilation strategies and promotion of an integrated approach to economics statistics)

UNSD introduction  
Country presentations (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Vietnam)  
General discussion

*Afternoon session* 13:00-16:00

15. Institutional arrangements (Adding a recommendation on the need for establishing and maintaining necessary institutional arrangements; Promoting data exchange)

UNSD introduction  
Country presentations (Bangladesh, India, Kazakhstan)  
General discussion

16. Data quality and metadata (Providing guidance on data quality (reporting, assessment and indicators); Ensuring data quality; Compilation and dissemination of metadata; Main elements of metadata)

UNSD introduction  
Country presentations (Ethiopia, Mongolia, Thailand)  
General discussion

## **Friday, 12 September**

*Morning session*      8:30 -11:30

17. Data dissemination (Review of existing recommendations; Use of new technologies)

    ESCAP introduction

    Country presentations (Kenya, Pakistan, UAE)

    General discussion

18. Supplementary topics (External trade indices; Relationship and differences to national accounts and balance of payments statistics; Recommendation on seasonally adjusted data; Other)

    UNSD introduction

    Country presentations (Malaysia, Mongolia)

    General discussion

*Afternoon session*      13:00-16:00

19. Round Table Discussion: Identification of the important issues for developing countries

20. Preliminary findings and conclusions (UNSD, ESCAP)

21. Evaluation of the Workshop and other business