ESCAP Regional Programme on Improving Economic Statistics

ESCAP Statistics Division
Mandate for Programme

1st Session- Committee on Statistics, 2009

- Coordinating governance structure to guide the development, implementation and monitoring of an action plan for the development of economic statistics in the Asian and Pacific region

- Establish a technical advisory group (TAG) to provide guidance to its Bureau and the ESCAP secretariat on the development and periodic revision of a regional programme for the improvement of economic statistics
Building a Programme

- Agree on a **core set of economic statistics** that each NSS in the region should *be able* (aspire!) to produce

- **Assess capacity of NSSs** to produce economic statistics and determine main impediments to produce core set

- Identify what **NSSs and statistics development partners** are doing/planning to do to overcome capacity constraints
... Building a Programme

- Identify **remaining gaps** in capacity of NSSs
- Determine **priorities** of each NSS
- Develop **work plans** to address priorities
  - Integrating capacity building requirements for economic statistics in *National Strategies for the Development of Statistics*
  - Mobilizing (advocating for the mobilization) of national and international **resources** (funding)
User Needs

Core Set of Economic Statistics

Required capabilities to produce the statistics

Regional Programme Content

delivers

facilitates production of

SNA08 implementation

Capability building initiatives

determines

informs
Relationship of Core Set to Regional Programme

- Purpose of programme is to develop the capacity to produce a range of economic statistics, i.e., remove the constraints preventing their production.

- Core set fulfils two roles:
  - Determines the **scope** of the programme.
  - Provides guidance on the **minimum** set of economic statistics to be produced.
Determining Core Set

- Driven by user needs, national & international
- Produce database to inform, analyse and monitor:
  - trends in macroeconomic growth
  - stability in real & financial markets
  - monetary and fiscal policy
  - efficient functioning of markets
  - policies to deliver sustainable development and improvements in economic well-being
  - international reporting needs; etc
- Not driven solely by SNA08 implementation needs - but SNA and MDG needs influence it
Laying out the Core Set

- Seven priority economic domains
- Key statistics within a domain
  - Each statistic is “core”
  - Allows for flexibility according to NSS needs
- Recommendations on
  - Frequency
  - *Other characteristics*
- Identification of international standards, guidelines and/or recommendations
## Economic Domains

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Categories of Statistics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prices and Costs</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demand and Output</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income and Wealth</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money and Banking</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Labour Market</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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<td>Natural assets and Environment</td>
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</table>
Domain: Prices & Costs

- CPI
- PPI
- **External merchandise trade price indexes**
- Commodity price index
- Labour costs index/Wage index
- Earnings
- Terms of trade
- Exchange rates
- PPPs
## Statistics Category: EMT Price Indexes

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<td>Frequency</td>
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<td>Commodity detail is country specific</td>
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<tr>
<td>International standard/guidelines</td>
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</table>
Domain: Demand & Output

- GDP (production) nominal and real
- GDP (expenditure) nominal and real
- External trade- merchandise (EMT)
- External trade- services
- Short term indicator (STI)- industry output
- Economy structure statistics
- STI- consumer demand
- STI- fixed investment
- STI- inventories
- Productivity
## Statistics Category: EMT

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<td>IMTS Concepts and Definitions: 2010</td>
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</table>
Capacity Building

- Technical
  - Assessments
  - NSDS
  - Work plans
  - Improving statistical infrastructures
  - Improving methodological transparency

- Training
  - Coordination- regional and national levels
  - Advocacy- regional and national levels