



**Workshop on the Methodology and Data
Compilation of
International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS),
Phnom Penh, 2 -5 February, 2010**

Data compilation strategies

February 2010

The responsible agency for the compilation and dissemination of international merchandise trade statistics (IMTS)

- Department of Statistics (DoS), Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI)
- Ministry of Industry and Trade (MOIT)

The agencies providing detailed trade data for the responsible agency mentioned above

Custom Department, Ministry of Finance (CD , MOF)

Bank of Lao PDR (BOL)

- Provides the raw data contains in spreadsheet
 - The data covers all products, except Electricity and Mining (Gold and Copper) which has to contact directly with the companies in each quarterly
 - Data contain:
 - *Custom checkpoint codes*
 - *Product codes (AHTN 2002 but use AHTN 2007 in some items)*
 - *Products detail*
 - *Supplementary quantity unit*
 - *Net weight in kilograms*
 - *Trade partner country codes*
 - *Trade value (Kip and USD)*
- Provides data based on Balance of Payment (BOP) contains in spreadsheet
 - The data covers all products
 - Data contain the main item of products such as *Agriculture products, Investment goods, etc.*

Memorandum of understanding (MoU) or any similar working agreement

- Because of the trade data result from concerned agencies in Lao PDR are different figures among the concerned agencies and difficult for users, especially for our government and policy makers, so we organized many meetings to discuss the way for solving this problem.
- The last meeting about IMTS on Dec 2008 agreed some titles as following:
 - Agreed to established the IMTS working group among 4 agencies as DoS, CD, BOL and MOIT for harmonization purpose
 - Agreed to submit trade data (in each month)
 - Agreed that the DoS is the central cooperation in the working group.
 - Agreed to implement some working plans that needed for our group
 - Etc.

The present and potential sources of data in the country

- The present source of data
 - Custom Department, Ministry of Finance is the main trade data provider.
- The potential source of data
 - Enterprise Survey. This source could be used for estimating the trade value by focusing on big companies who have lots of market share in the country, but it has to look back and improve the questionnaire for some items.

The way that responsible agency receive the data from providing agencies

- DoS has received trade data by sending through the individual email address, CDs and also came and received directly at the headquarter of Custom Office (Custom Department Office).

Does Customs Administration use a computerized system to register customs declarations?

- They use a system, called “C-2000” to register the customs declarations. The system was settled in most of the checkpoints around the country. There are 33 checkpoints have settled the C-2000, which are in:
 - 19 international checkpoints, 6 local checkpoints and 8 traditional checkpoints. And now there are 9 international checkpoints connected directly with the head-quarter through the fibre optic cable.

Does the responsible agency use a specialized system for data processing and dissemination?

- DoS does use only Ms Excel and SPSS to process the trade data.
- For disseminating trade data, we have main two ways as:
 - Published on the Statistical Yearbook
 - Website: www.nsc.gov.la

Even though, the trade data are reported in the Monthly report on Socio-economic situation

Does the responsible agency have stable and reliable internet connectivity?

- In Department of Statistics Office has internet connectivity system, but sometimes it is quite slow and could not provide for all computers in the department, so we have to wait until they are free or use the internet service at outside.

Does the responsible agency have enough knowledgeable human resources to collect, process, and disseminate trade data regularly?

- Department of Statistics has 57 staff (included directors and division chiefs). Some of them have higher knowledge but some don't have enough (basic knowledge)
- DoS has 7 divisions, the Economic Statistics Division is a division in Department of Statistics who are responsible directly with economic data and has only one staff work for IMTS, so it is not enough and hard/difficult to do the data processing and disseminating.

Does the responsible agency have regular training activities to increase awareness of IMTS compilers on the recommendations outlined on IMTS Concepts and Definitions?

- One long term training on trade analysis and trade negotiation with the ITC since 2007 (8 months, 1-2 week (s) per month)
- Trade analysis with WTO project in MOIT, 2008
- On job training about calculating the IMTS for our purposes



Thank you