IMT Statistical Status Report:
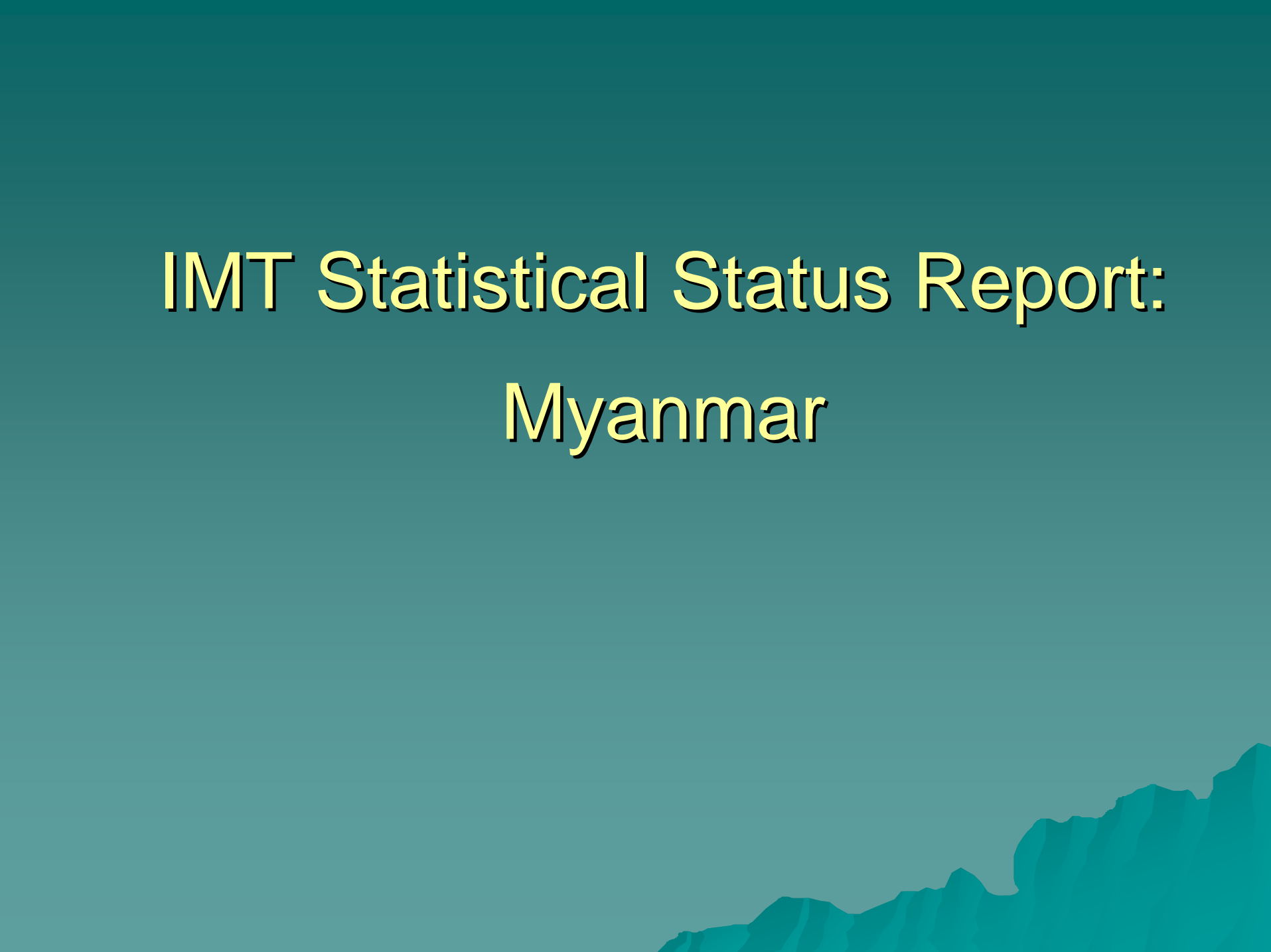
Myanmar

A. Institutional arrangements

B. Statistical outputs released

C. Alignment with international standards

D. Major classification

E. Data providers and sources

F. Scope and coverage

G. Business process and systems

H. Quality assurance

I. Staffing and resources

J. Other relevant measures

A. Institutional arrangements

(1) Agency primarily responsible for IMT statistics
Central Statistical Organization (CSO)

(2) Other agencies with significant statistical roles
Customs Department is responsible for data collection based on customs Export/Import Declaration Forms providing primary data to CSO.

(3)   What national legislation provides for the collection of the data
The central Statistical Authority Act No 34 of 1952

B. Statistical outputs released

(1)   National requirements

National summary aggregates by the CSO

_ Monthly report: Foreign trade data are published by selected monthly economic Indicators

_ Annual report: Foreign trade data are released by statistical Yearbook. CSO regularly prepares weekly and monthly foreign trade statistics report for only used by trade policy council

(2)   Detailed commodity and partner country data

_ Monthly report: Principal commodity by national classification and major trading country are provided on the selected monthly economics Indicators

(3)   Other major output requirements

The CSO publishes trade statistics annually in a Statistical Yearbook.

(4)   Regional requirements

IMTS series for ASEAN Statistical Indicators (ASI): Supplied by CSO

Detailed trade data to ASEC: Supplied by CSO

Detailed tariff data to ASEC : Supplied by AFTA Unit, Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development.

C. Alignment with internationals standards

(1)   General Trade System is used : Yes
(2)   Export valued on free on broad (FOB) basis: Yes
(3)   Import valued on cost, Insurance and freight (CIF): Yes
(4)   Export classified by country of final destination: Yes
(5)   Import classified by country of origin: Yes
(6)   Good for processing are included : Yes
(7)   Good for transit are excluded: Yes
(8)   Monetary gold is excluded: Yes

   Foreign trade data include government and private exports and imports on trade account, gift, aids, and parcel posts. All data exclude exports and imports under military accounts. Exports and Imports under diplomatic privileges have been excluded since 1966. Starting from 1988, when border trade was opened, the total foreign trade data include border trade.

Export: Domestic exports are exports of national produce. All exports are domestic exports plus re-exports from bond. Exports have been recorded according to the date of completion of consignment.

Import: Import represents General Imports or All Imports. Imports have been recorded as of the date of payment of duty.

D. Major classification

(1) Commodity classification

        For data capture and for data dissemination: currently using AHTN 10 digits based on HS 6 digits (version 2007) for intra-ASEAN and non-ASEAN trade.

(2) Country classification

        country classification by geographical country published by UN are used

(3) Extent of misclassification of goods or country about 5% of total exports/imports annually. Main reason is miss-filling in customs declaration forms by some exporters/importers.

E. Data providers and sources

CSO organized the data with the help of the Customs Department, a group of CSO staff are assigned for compilation of Foreign Trade Data in collaboration with Customs Officials in Yangon. Customs department provides CSO with weekly data undertaking day by day data entry.

Myanmar has border trade with four neighboring countries. They are Bangladesh, India, China and Thailand. The Department of Border Trade was Established in 1996. It consists of Normal Trade Method. There are altogether 13 border trade checkpoints. The unit of customs-staff was attached to the checkpoints. The customs outstations send monthly trade data to Customs Head Office. The data come to CSO through Yangon Customs Head Office.

F. Scope and coverage

Foreign Trade data include government and private exports and imports on trade account, gifts, aids, and parcel posts. All data exclude exports and imports under military accounts. Exports and imports under diplomatic privileges have been excluded since 1966.Starting from 1988, when border trade was opened, the total foreign trade data include border trade.

G. Business   processes and systems

The business process and systems used to capture and transform raw data are done by CSO.

The Customs Department monthly as well as weekly provides raw data to CSO, by Excel files. CSO processes value of exports and imports and Trading partners using Microsoft Access. CSO submits the weekly foreign trade data to the Trade Policy Council. Raw   data are annually transferred to CSO with electronic format including 30 data field. Data checking and editing are done by CSO as logic of data , price unit, misclassification of commodities and country. After checking and editing the data, CSO produces the official data in publication.

H. Quality assurance

Quality assurance checks are done by CSO. CSO is mainly responsible for foreign trade statistics. The results will be better if Customs Department shares in the responsibility with the CSO. CSO has set up a steering committee on export/import statistics headed by DG of CSO, comprising customs department, department of border trade and directorate of trade. This committee meets regularly to have strengthen quality data.

I. Staff and resources

There are 18 staff in foreign Trade Statistics Section of CSO. 9 computers are available for compiling, computing and reporting foreign trade statistics data by weekly and monthly. All staff could use computer well.

J. Other relevant measures

The cooperation of CSO and Customs Departments as well as the awareness of customs staff on statistical responsibility, play an import role in improving data quality and meeting the data requirements of foreign trade statistics in timely manner.