UNITED NATIONS

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

STATISTICS DIVISION

UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION

FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

**UN/DESA Development Account project for countries of South East Asia**

# Initial Assessment Questionnaire of the National Practices on International Merchandise Trade Statistics Compilation and Dissemination

# Vietnam

The Development Account project aims at strengthening the statistical capacity of five South East Asian countries, namely Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Timor Leste and Vietnam

This part of the overall project aims to improve the collection and compilation of statistics required for national development planning in the area of international merchandise trade. The expected accomplishment is the increased knowledge and capability of the national statistical office to compile international merchandise trade statistics (IMTS) within the national statistical system. The strategy for achieving this is through a workshop, country missions and frequent communications with the countries.

The purpose of this initial questionnaire, prepared by UNSD, is to consolidate the information available on national practices and to be used as an input for the creation of country action plans. The questionnaire consist of two parts: Part I focusing on the fundamental aspect of data compilation and Part II focusing on IMTS Methodology and Compilers Practices. The results of the questionnaire Part I will be presented on the Workshop and questionnaire Part II will be discussed during the Workshop.

**Therefore, we would like to request that you complete and return <u>Part I of this questionnaire</u> by 15 January 2010. As mentioned, <u>Part II</u> will be discussed during the workshop and if possible, please complete and return <u>Part II</u> before or at the workshop. There is only <u>one questionnaire per country</u>, thus if necessary, please make arrangement and coordination between agencies involved in the collection, compilation and dissemination of IMTS.**

Country: Viet Nam (Customs)

### PART I. Fundamental Aspect of Data Compilation and Dissemination

**Institutional Arrangements**

1. Who is the responsible agency for the compilation and dissemination of international merchandise trade statistics (IMTS)?
   ☒ National Statistical Office
   ☒ Customs Administration
   ☐ Central Bank
   ☐ Ministry, *please provide the name*:
   ☐ Others, *please specify*:
   If no responsible agency or more than two agencies are selected, *please explain:*

2. Who are the agencies providing detailed trade data for the responsible agency mentioned above?

| | Frequency of data submission | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Monthly | Quarterly | Semi-Annual | Annual |
| Customs Administration | ☒ | ☒ | ☒ | ☒ |
| Free Zones Authority | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Central Bank | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| National Energy Agency | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Others, please specify: | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

3. Does the responsible agency have any memorandum of understanding (MoU) or any similar working agreement with any of the agencies mentioned above?
   ☒ Yes ☐ No

**Data Sources**

4. What are the present[1] and potential[2] sources of data in your country?

| | Present | Potential | Not Applicable |
|---|---|---|---|
| Customs Declarations | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Records from Free Zones Authority | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| Records of monetary authorities | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| Reports of commodity boards | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| Foreign shipping manifests | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| Parcel and letter post records | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| Aircraft and ship registers | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| Administrative records associated with taxation | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Enterprise surveys | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Others, *please specify*: | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

If customs declarations are not main source of data, p*lease indicate the main data source:*

5. How does the responsible agency receive the data from providing agencies?
   *Please indicate data format and the frequency of data submission:*
   - Data format: electronic data and documents
   - Frequency of data: monthly, quarterly or annual. It is not stable, it belongs to kinds of data.


**Basic Data Quality Control**

6. Do *the providing agencies* validate data entries, i.e., proper coding for commodity, partner country, etc?
   ☒ Yes ☐ No
   If you would like to highlight other related information, please provide details:

7. Does *the compiling agency* validate data entries, i.e., proper coding for commodity, partner country, etc?
   ☒ Yes ☐ No
   If you would like to highlight other related information, please provide details:

8. Does the responsible agency check individual records, i.e., unit value checking?
   ☒ Yes ☐ No
   If you would like to highlight other related information, please provide details:

9. Does the responsible agency implement macro level checks, such as checking growth rates or checking against other statistics, e.g., domestic production?
   ☒ Yes ☐ No
   If you would like to highlight other related information, please provide details:

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[1] Refers to data sources that are currently being used
[2] Refers to data source that may be used in the future to improve IMTS coverage

10. Does the responsible agency implement further check on the outputs, i.e., structure of trade?
    ☒ Yes ☐ No
    If you would like to highlight other related information, please provide details:


**Data and Metadata Dissemination**

11. In how many days after the closing of the reference period (exactly or approximately), data become available to public?

|  | No of days | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Monthly Data | Quarterly Data | Annual Data |
| Printed or CD/DVD Publications | 12-15 | 12-15 | 18-20 |
| Press Releases | 15 | 15 | 20 |
| Web Sites | 15 | 15 | 20 |

    If printed publications are available, *please indicate the name of publications:*



    If web sites are available, *please provide the URL:* WWW.customs.gov.vn



12. What is the level of detail of publicly available monthly, quarterly and annual data?

|  | Level of detail | |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Aggregated Data[3] | Detailed Data[4] |
| Monthly Data | ☒ Yes ☐ No | ☐ Yes ☐ No |
| Quarterly Data | ☒ Yes ☐ No | ☐ Yes ☐ No |
| Annual Data | ☒ Yes ☐ No | ☒ Yes ☐ No |


**Information Technology and Human Resources**

13. Does Customs Administration use a computerized system to register customs declarations?
    ☒ Yes ☐ No
    If Yes, *please provide details about the system:*
    1. Declaration Processing and Management System (SLXNK) (for commercial imports and exports;
    2. Integrated Statistical System (for non-commercial imports and exports, C/O statistics);
    3. E-Declaration/E-Filing System; and
    4. E-Customs System.

14. Does the responsible agency use a specialized system for data processing and dissemination?
    ☒ Yes ☐ No
    If Yes, *please provide details about the system:*

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[3] Trade data by major trading partners or by commodity groups
[4] Trade data by detailed partners and by detailed commodities at least on HS 6-digit codes

1. Statistical and Reporting and System;

2. Data warehouse (DWH);

3. MS Office tools (Access, Excel, ..); and

4. Other small supporting systems developed by Customs,

5.  Usage of the other softwares to forecast export and import merchandise such as : EVIEW, SPSS...

15. Does the responsible agency have stable and reliable internet connectivity?
☒ Yes ☐ No

16. Does the responsible agency have enough knowledgeable human resources to collect, process, and disseminate trade data regularly?
☐ Yes ☒ No
If No, *please select the possible reasons:*
☒ Not enough staffs dedicated to compilation of IMTS
☒ Lack of knowledge about IMTS methodology
☒ Others, *please specify*:
- Lack or experience to analyse data
- Lack of off-the-shelf softwares
- Mistake of data entry

17. Does the responsible agency have regular training activities to increase awareness of IMTS compilers on the recommendations outlined on IMTS Concepts and Definitions?
☒ Yes ☐ No

------------------------------------------------------------End of Part I------------------------------------------------------------------

### *PART I I. IMTS Methodology and Compilers Practices*

**Coverage and Time of Recording**

1. As general guidelines, do you record all goods which add to or subtract from the stock of material resources of a country by entering (imports) or leaving (exports) its economic territory?
   ☒ Yes ☐ No
   If No, *please explain*:

2. Do you use date of lodgement (e.g., the date when goods are unloaded, presented at the customs office, or released) of the customs declaration as an approximation for the time when goods enter/leave your territory?
   ☒ Yes ☒ No
   If No, *please indicate the date*: registration as accepted  by customs

3. Do you use change of ownership (between residents and non-residents) as a basis for inclusion of certain goods in trade statistics (e.g.: ships and aircrafts)?
   ☐ Yes ☒ No
   If necessary, *please provide additional explanation*:

4. Do you INCLUDE in trade statistics the following:

| | Yes | No | Not Applicable |
|---|---|---|---|
| Non-monetary gold | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Goods traded on government account | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Humanitarian aid, including emergency aid | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Goods for military use | ☒ | ☒ | ☐ |
| Goods on consignment | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Media, whether or not recorded | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Goods for processing | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Returned goods | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Electricity, gas and water | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Goods dispatched or received through postal or courier services | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Migrants' effects | ☒ | ☒ | ☐ |
| Goods under financial lease | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Ships and aircrafts | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Bunkers, stores, ballast and dunnage | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Goods in electronic commerce | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Used goods | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Waste and scrap (positive commercial value) | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |

If you would like to highlight other related information, please provide details:

5. Do you EXCLUDE in trade statistics the following:

| | Yes | No | Not Applicable |
|---|---|---|---|
| Goods simply being transported through a country | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Goods temporarily admitted or dispatched | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Monetary gold | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |

| | Yes | No | Not Applicable |
|---|---|---|---|
| Goods treated as part of trade in services[5] | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Goods under merchanting | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Goods under operational lease | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Goods functioning as means of transport[6] | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Waste and scrap (no commercial value) | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Content delivered electronically | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Goods for repair | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |

If you would like to highlight other related information, please provide details:

**Trade System**

6.  Does definition of statistical territory (the territory with respect to which trade data are being compiled) coincide with the economic territory[7]?
    ☒ Yes ☐ No

    If No, *please explain*:

7.  Do you provide detailed definition of statistical territory as part of metadata to users?
    ☐ Yes ☒ No

8.  Do you include in your trade statistics goods entering or leaving the following territorial elements from / to rest of the world?

| | Yes[8] | No | Not Applicable |
|---|---|---|---|
| Premises for customs warehousing[9] | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Premises for inward processing[10] | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Industrial free zones[11] | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |

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[5] Example: goods acquired by all categories of travelers, goods purchased by foreign governments through their embassies, media carrying customized software, etc

[6] This includes a wide range of items from ships and aircrafts to containers used to transport cargo in ship/rail/road supply chains to empty bottles which are returned to be refilled

[7] The economic territory is the area under the effective economic control of single government

[8] If you select "Yes" to all applicable territorial elements, then it implies that the general trade system is used, otherwise country uses the special trade system

[9] Premises where imported goods are stored under customs control (a customs warehouse) without payment of import duties and taxes

[10] Premises where goods can be placed conditionally relieved from payment of import duties and taxes. Such goods must be intended for re-exportation within a specific period after having undergone manufacturing or processing

| Commercial free zones[11] | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
|---|---|---|---|

If the answer to any part of question 8 is no, *please explain how do you record transaction with*

*these areas (i.e. as partner free zone[12]):*

**Commodity Classification and Quantity Measurement**

9. Do you compile trade data based on the Harmonized System (HS) as the basis for detailed commodity trade database?
   ☒ Yes ☐ No

   If No, *please explain*:

10. Please specify the edition of Harmonized System currently used by Customs Administration*:* HS 2007

11. Do you use HS chapter 00, 98 or 99 for special use?
    ☐ Yes ☒ No
    If Yes, *please provide the description of chapter 00, 98 and 99*:

    Chapter 00

    Chapter 98

    Chapter 99

12. Do you publish / disseminate any data in terms of these following commodity classification:

| | Yes | No |
|---|---|---|
| Harmonized System (HS) | ☒ | ☐ |
| Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) | ☒ | ☐ |

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[11] In commercial free zones the permitted operations are generally limited to those necessary for the preservation of the goods and the usual forms of handling to improve their packaging or marketable quality or to prepare them for shipment.  In industrial free zones processing operations are authorized
[12] The recording of trade with its free zones clearly indicates that country does not use the general trade system

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Classification by Broad Economic Categories (BEC) | ☐ | ☐ |
| Common Product Classification (CPC) | ☐ | ☐ |
| International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) | ☐ | ☐ |
| Others, please specify: | ☒ | ☐ |

*From all of commodity classifications mentioned above, which one is the most widely requested by users*? HS

13. Do you collect quantity data (net weight and supplementary quantity units)?

| | Yes | No |
|---|---|---|
| Net weight | ☐ | ☒ |
| Supplementary quantity units | ☒ | ☐ |

If No, *please explain:* gross weight  not from customs declarations but from bill of lading

14. Do you compile World Customs Organization (WCO) recommended units of quantity for each of the sub-headings of HS (6-digit codes)?
☐ Yes ☒ No

If No, *please explain*: depending on trader

15. Do you compile net weight for quantity measurement of all commodities, where applicable?
☐ Yes ☒ No

If No, *please explain*:

**Valuation and Currency Conversion**

16. Do you follow recommendation to use for imports CIF-type value and for exports FOB-type value?
☒ Yes ☐ No

If No, *please explain*:

17. In addition of CIF-type value for imported goods, do you also compile FOB-type value?
☐ Yes ☒ No

18. In conversion of foreign currencies into national currency, do you use a rate published by the official authorities of your country?
☒ Yes ☐ No

If No, *please indicate the source of exchange rate*:

19. Do you use the exchange rate which is in effect at the date of exportation or importation?
☒ Yes ☐ No

If No, *please explain*:

**Partner Country and Mode of Transport**

20. Do you compile import statistics by:

|  | Yes | No |
|---|---|---|
| Country of Origin | ☒ | ☐ |
| Country of Consignment | ☐ | ☒ |
| Country of Purchase | ☒ | ☐ |
| Others, please specify | ☐ | ☒ |

*If country of origin is used, do you broadly follow the origin criteria outlined in the Revised Kyoto Convention?*
☒ Yes ☐ No

21. Do you compile export statistics by:

|  | Yes | No |
|---|---|---|
| Country of Last Known Destination | ☒ | ☐ |
| Country of Consignment | ☐ | ☒ |
| Country of Sale | ☐ | ☒ |
| Others, please specify | ☐ | ☒ |

22. Do you register trade with yourself? [13]
    ☐ Yes, only for imports ☒ Yes, both for imports and exports ☐ Not at all

23. If you compile trade statistics by mode of transport, do you identify the following modes:

| | Yes | No | Not Applicable |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Air | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 2. Water | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
|   2.1 Sea | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
|   2.2 Inland Waterway | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 3. Land | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
|   3.1 Railway | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
|   3.2 Road | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 4. Not elsewhere classified | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
|   4.1 Pipelines and cables | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
|   4.2 Postal consignments, mail or courier shipments | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
|   4.3 Self-propelled goods | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
|   4.4 Others, please specify | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

**Data and Metadata Dissemination**

24. When confidentiality is applied to certain products, do you always report the full trading partner details at the next higher level of commodity aggregation, which adequately protects confidentiality?
    ☐ Yes ☒ No

    If No, *please explain the current practice on handling confidential data:*

25. Do you publicly announce scheduled release dates?
    ☐ Yes ☒ No

26. Do you make documentation on your sources and methods publicly available?
    ☒ Yes ☐ No

    If it's available online, *please provide the URL:*

27. Do you regularly revise data (when additional information is available)?

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[13] It is possible that in the case of re-imports and the use of country of origin, a country registers trade (imports) with itself.

☒ Yes ☐ No

28. Do you compile and disseminate trade indicators, index numbers or seasonally adjusted data?
    ☐ Yes ☒ No

29. If you have working agreements with other agencies, does your office regularly meet or consult with these agencies before release of the trade statistics?
    ☐ Yes ☒ No

30. If non-customs sources are used, are the users informed (as metadata) that non-customs data are merged and integrated with customs data?
    ☒ Yes ☐ No

**Data Quality Control at Customs Administration**

31. Do you use the Revised Kyoto Convention (the International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs procedures) as the basis for the definitions of customs procedures?
    ☒ Yes ☐ No

32. Are all customs declarations stored electronically?
    ☒ Yes ☐ No
    If No, *please provide percentage of customs declarations (approximately) that <u>are not</u> stored*

    *electronically:*

33. Do you use a threshold value below which customs declarations are not required to be filed?
    ☒ Yes ☐ No
    If Yes, *please specify the level of the threshold:* no *and do you make estimates of trade below the threshold and include them in your trade statistics?*
    ☐ Yes ☒ No

34. At custom declaration form, are these information set as mandatory item?

| | Yes | No | N/A |
|---|---|---|---|
| Transaction value | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Insurance and freight | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| Weight  (Net) | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| Supplementary quantity and its unit of measurement | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |

If necessary, *please explain:*

35. Please select partner country attribution(s) that are available at custom declaration form.

| | Partner Attribution(s) |
|---|---|
| For import declaration | ☒ Country of Origin |

| | |
|---|---|
| | ☒ Country of Consignment<br>☐ Others, please specify: |
| For export declaration | ☒ Country of Last Known Destination<br>☐ Country of Consignment / Destination<br><br>☐ Others, please specify: |

If necessary, *please explain:*

36. Do you verify the accuracy partner country declared by trader?
    ☒ Yes ☐ No
    If Yes, *please explain how do you verify country of origin in case of imports and country of last*

    *known destination in case of exports:* Certificate of origin, use of technology for checking

37. Do you validate quantity declared by trader using commodity price?
    ☒ Yes ☐ No
    If Yes, *please explain how do you compile and maintain the list of minimum and maximum*

    *commodity prices:* use of historical price data

38. Do you regularly conduct outreach and education for customs officers and traders?
    ☒ Yes ☐ No
    If Yes, *please explain:* for new customs officers

**Data Quality Control at Responsible Agency**

39. Do you compile customs procedures codes as part of data item submitted by Customs
    Administration?
    ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable (because the responsible agency is Customs Administration)
    *Please explain who is responsible for mapping customs procedures codes into exports/imports:*

40. Do you use estimates to replace missing values or quantities at detailed record level?
☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, *please explain briefly about estimation methodology:*

41. Do you use estimates to replace missing values (for major commodities or partners) at macro level?
☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, *please explain briefly about estimation methodology:*

42. Have you conducted bilateral or multilateral reconciliation studies with your trading partners in recent years or do you plan to conduct such studies in the near future?
☒ Yes ☐ No

If applicable, *please share the result of the studies:* Bilateral data exchange with Russia Customs

and Belarus Customs (under negociation)

43. If errors are detected, do you request clarification to the data providers and correct the errors?
☒ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, *please explain the correction process:* Declarations send to Customs check points for

checking

44. Please provide the detailed list of validation checks done at the responsible agency:

Country of origin,  Country of Last Known destination, HS code, volume, value, price,

**General Questions/Comments**

45. What are the greatest obstacles you had to face in IMTS compilation and dissemination? Please specify.
    Lack of staff
    Lack of experiences
    Difficult to understanding concepts and definitions
    Lack of soft ware


46. What are the plans for further improvement in IMTS compilation and dissemination?

    Traning, workshop, capacity building,


47. In case you would like to highlight other related issues and information, please provide details.

--------------------------------------------------------End of Questionnaire -----------------------------------------------------

*Should you have any question or require further information on how to fill out the questionnaire, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Matthias Reister, Email: reister@un.org. Thank you!*