

# **UNSD TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (UAE) ON INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS (IMTS)**

## **Report**

The mission which was led by the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), Mr. Paul Cheung visited the UAE on 18-30 April 2009 at the request of the Central Department of Statistics (CDS) of the Ministry of Economy. The objective was to assist the UAE in strengthening their national statistical system in general and the UAE international merchandise trade statistics (IMTS) program in particular by assisting CDS in the preparation of an action plan to modernize the trade data compilation and to improve the trade data flow.

The mission conducted a series of meetings with the Central Department of Statistics and other federal agencies such as the Federal Customs Authority, the Central Bank, the Ministry of Foreign Trade and the Ministry of Energy which are either involved in the compilation of the UAE IMTS or are important users of these statistics. The mission visited also Customs Authorities of all Emirates and the Statistical Centre of Abu Dhabi and reviewed their data collection activities as well as the arrangements for data submission to CDS. The mission briefed all visited institutions on the international recommendations for IMTS and provided copies of the relevant documents (hard copies and on CD-ROM) on concepts and definitions, classifications etc. for use in data collection and processing. In addition, the mission trained the staff of the section of the CDS responsible for IMTS in using UN Comtrade and discussed with the CDS Statistical Information System Section the organization of statistical data processing in general and merchandise trade data in particular.