



**WELCOMING REMARKS
AT THE OPENING
INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON TRADE AND
TOURISM STATISTICS
JAKARTA, 7 OCTOBER 2013**

Member Country Delegates, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and gentlemen,

It gives me a great pleasure to welcome all of you on the occasion of the International Seminar on Trade and Tourism Statistics which is held for four days beginning from today, 7th October 2013 until 10th October 2013. This International Seminar is organized jointly by UNSD, APEC, and ASEAN Secretariat, hosted by BPS-Statistic Indonesia and supported by the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area Economic Cooperation Work Program (AANZFTA ECWP), AUSAID Technical Assistance and Training Facility (TATF), and the Government of the Republic of Indonesia.

This four-day seminar is held to support the parties, particularly the ASEAN and APEC economies in developing and enhancing statistics on international trade in services (SITS) as well as to promote networking among producers and users of statistics at the multilateral level.

Nowadays, trade and tourism are the fast-developing and significant parts of the global trade. Trade and tourism generates different types of income for a community, including business income, wage earnings, share earnings, rates and levies. Direct spending by visitors has a positive impact on business profitability and employment growth.

In developed countries, services become the most contributor of GDP. The data from Office for National Statistics 2006/2007 and WTO 2008 show that the service sector contributes almost 80 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and more than 50 percent of total expenditure consumers spent on services in United States. Service production accounted for 75 percent of GDP and service exports and imports for 9.5% and 7.4% respectively, made the UK the second largest exporter and the third largest

importer of services in the world. In 2009, more than 9 million people employed or 86 percent of all jobs in Australia are a service sector.

The developing countries started to develop its service, including tourism sector. As a developing country, tourism in Indonesia is an important component of the Indonesian economy as well as a significant source of its foreign exchange revenues. In 2012, more than 8 million international visitors entered Indonesia, stayed in hotels for 7.70 nights and spent an average US\$1,133.81 per visit.

The measurement of trade in services is, then, a major challenge. Governments require statistics to support the negotiation of specific commitments, thereafter, to monitor developments in the areas concerned. Statistics can aid the evaluation of market access opportunities, help to prepare decisions on negotiating priorities and strategies, facilitate the assessment of the extent of liberalization achieved in specific service markets, and provide a statistical background for the settling of disputes.

Rapid technological advances in the past few decades in transport, information and communications technology (ICT), including the development of the internet and electronic commerce, have resulted in enterprises availing themselves of more distant resources for production and enabled them to serve ever wider markets.

This trend towards globalization, reinforced by liberalization policies and the removal of regulatory obstacles to economic activities, has fuelled the steady growth of multinational enterprises, foreign direct investment (FDI) and trade in goods and services. Better communication and transport have also facilitated the movement of people for the purposes of tourism, migration, employment and trade in general.

However, globalization has also increased the difficulties in measuring international transactions on services. Internationalization of services has resulted from increased mobility of capital, people, know-how, and other resources, which have the effect of increasing the interdependency of national economies. There are some

countries that have implemented SITS, and they will share their experience in implementing it to their country. The seminar is expected to obtain the comparability of SITS data between the member countries in an organization or between an organization to the other organizations.

The rapid growth in trade in services and the advent of international trade negotiations and agreements covering services (GATS) have made it increasingly important that measures of international trade in services are as comprehensive, detailed, accurate and internationally comparable as possible.

Specific attention will be given to travel and tourism-related services during the seminar, which is among the priority sectors for ASEAN integration as well as APEC. In this seminar, the linkage and growing importance of trade in services in the global value chains as well as statistics on FDI will also be discussed.

We do hope that this seminar will allow all participants to capitalize enough knowledge and experience especially

about trade and tourism statistics, as a means of capacity building.

Thank you very much for your participation. I do hope that you would enjoy this meeting and gain valuable benefit from it. Have a productive and nice meeting to all of you. At the end of this meeting, that is on the fourth day, the Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia would like to invite all of you to a gala dinner. You will also be entertained with a special performance of a colossal dance, namely Ramayana dance. Please do not miss the occasion.

Finally, I would like to thank all parties that have supported the preparation of this special event. Thank you.