



2nd Global Conference on Big Data for Official Statistics

Organized by NBS/UAE, UNSD, ABS and GCC-STAT

20-22 October 2015, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Announcement

Innovations in technology, widespread penetration of electronic devices, and the rapid rise in the use of technology for social purposes all bring fundamental changes to the availability of real-time information. Such massive, highly dynamic and weakly structured data is commonly referred to as *Big Data*. The statistical community officially recognized the potential of Big Data, when, in March 2014, the UN Statistical Commission established a global working group (GWG) mandated to provide strategic vision, direction and coordination of a global programme on Big Data for official statistics. The GWG promotes its practical use of Big Data, capacity building and sharing experiences, while finding solutions for the associated challenges.

On 20-22 October 2015, the second global conference on Big Data for official statistics will take place in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. This conference intends to take the development of Big Data one step further. Thus far, many examples of Big Data projects have been demonstrated¹. Now, the focus will be on lessons learned on the basis of detailed descriptions of those case studies. This is a first step towards guidance on using Big Data for Official Statistics, which can stimulate training, pilot projects and bringing pilot projects into the production environment. Therefore, the theme of the second global conference is ‘moving from examples to guidelines’.

Concept note and provisional agenda

More information on the purpose and context of the conference can be found in the Concept Note. The provisional agenda shows that the conference will open with a high-level segment emphasizing the importance of timely, detailed and high quality statistics to support national policies as well as market and public research.

The opening day, **20 October 2015**, also coincides with the second **World Statistics Day** proclaiming “Better data. Better lives.” This conveys the idea that the ultimate goal of producing high quality official statistics is to improve the lives of people and underlines the connection of

¹ See <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/events/2014/Beijing/default.asp>

data and sustainable development. This also means that we have the unique opportunity to celebrate World Statistics Day, while highlighting the benefits of Big Data for official statistics.