Tourism Statistics: Challenges and Good Practices

Regional Workshop for South East Asian countries

Tourism statistics as a case study of integrated economic statistics : from basic statistics to the TSA

Linking the IRTS 2008 and the TSA-RMF 2008

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A system of Tourism Statistics: First requisite: to structure the observation of tourism

- Non monetary indicators
  - Characterizations of visitors and trips
  - Characterization of their demand for goods and services
  - Characterization of "tourism industries"
- Classifications
- That might be related to value indicators but not necessarily

The role of a Satellite Account

- A Satellite Account is an economic account:
  - Its main focus is on economic values, though clearly associated with non monetary variables
- It should be:
  - Consistent with the content of the subject matter it covers in terms of providing macroeconomic measurements and aggregates that are relevant
  - Providing explicit links with the System of National Accounts, its main aggregate and detailed accounts

The TSA (1)

- Its main aggregates:
  - Tourism Consumption
  - Tourism Direct Gross Value Added
  - Tourism Direct Gross Domestic Product
- To be compared with global aggregates:
  - Total GDP
  - Total Value Added
  - Total household final consumption

The TSA (2)

- Breakdowns are also of interest:
  - Tourism consumption that are:
    - **Resident to resident transactions : Domestic**
    - **Resident to non resident transactions: Imports (outbound tourism consumption) or Exports (inbound tourism consumption)**
    - **(consequence on the sequence domestic, outbound, inbound tourism and that of domestic, outbound, inbound tourism consumption)**
  - Tourism consumption by products
  - Activities that are mostly of tourism interest: tourism characteristic activities

- Reconciliation use/supply

- Reconciliation within the framework of Supply and Use Tables of the national system of national accounts

The consequences of aiming at a TSA compilation for the System of Tourism Statistics

- The use of the concept of residence instead of that of nationality (as in BoP and NA)

- Based on acquisition and not payment (accrual basis vs. cash basis) (clarification in IRTS 2008)

- The boundary of production should be the same as that used in National Accounts (exclusion of the production of services on own account…) (clarification in TSA 2000)

Consequences on tourism consumption/expenditure

- Tourism expenditure/tourism consumption: exclusively acquisition of goods and services:
  - exclusion of interests, transfers, etc…
  - exclusion of shuttle trade…
  - treatment of durable goods of important unit value (to be included because part of HH final consumption expenditure)
  - Treatment of valuables
- Clarification of the treatment of operations in kind (included in HH final consumption expenditure)
- Clarification of the treatment of acquisition on behalf of visitors that are not part of HH final consumption expenditure
- Package tours, time shares, etc…
- The coverage of tourism consumption: beyond tourism expenditure in the same way as HH actual consumption goes beyond HH final consumption expenditure
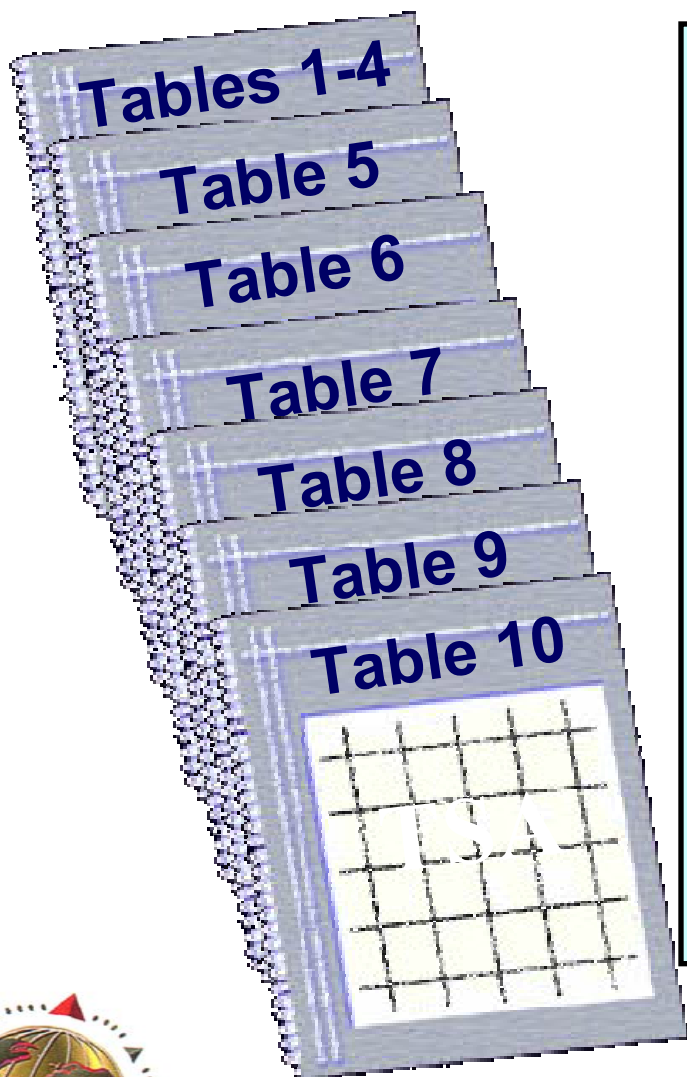
Main aggregates associated with the TSA

- Tourism expenditure by categories (inbound, outbound, domestic)

- Tourism consumption (related with the concept of HH final consumption) (inbound, outbound, domestic)

- Tourism Gross Value Added/ Tourism Gross Domestic Product
  - Direct
  - Indirect and induced

All these related with measurements within the context of a system of National Accounts

The basic structure of the TSA: the proposed tables

Tables	
1- 4	Tourism Consumption
5	Production
6	Demand meets Supply
7	Employment in Tourism industries
8	Tourism Gross Fixed Capital Formation
9	Tourism Collective Consumption
10	Physical Indicators

Tables 1-4
Table 5
Table 6
Table 7
Table 8
Table 9
Table 10

Basic steps for the implementation of a TSA

1. **A good undestanding of the TSA framework and proposed tables**
2. **Description of the country's tourism activity;**
3. **Description of the country's system of tourism statistics (STS);**
4. **Description of the country's system of national accounts and related systems;**
5. **Compilation of an experimental TSA;**
6. **Setting up of a feasibility study considering different alternatives**
7. **Implementing the decisions and getting results**
   - **Pilot estimations to monitor the advance of the project**
8. **Statistical assessment of the quality of the TSA**
9. **Disseminating the results and proceeding further**

Conclusions

- The feasibility of having a developed TSA depends on the degree of advance and of the quality of the national accounts of a country;

- It is necessary to have a good knowledge of national accounts to understand how to build a TSA: thus the need for interinstitutional cooperation.

- The TSA conceptual framework which is proposed here is not the only possible design for a TSA: others options were possible, with weaker links to SNA93 and thus greater freedom in defining the boundary of production: the present option was chosen because credibility was the main objective.