

**Regional Event on Using Data in Evidence-Based Decision Making:
Launch of DevInfo version 6.0 in Asia and the Pacific
Siem Reap, Cambodia
2-5 February 2010**

**Tuesday 2nd February 2010, 13.30-15.00: Parallel sessions on the use data for policy-making
Session 2.3: Demographic Transition: emerging population and development challenges in the
Asia-Pacific region**

Moderator: Ms. Rhiannon James, Monitoring and evaluation Specialist, UNICEF

Panellists:

- Mr Rabbi Royan, Technical Advisor Population and Development, Asia-Pacific Regional Office, Bangkok
- Mr Rama Rao, former Deputy Commissioner of Census, India and now independent consultant
- Ms Wassana Im-em, Assistant Representative, UNFPA Thailand

This session will present a brief overview of the concept of demographic transition and its implications on population change, economic growth and prosperity. Emerging challenges in the area of population and development in the Asia-Pacific region will be highlighted, including those that are related to changes in age-structure. The session will also draw attention to the importance of population data for national planning and policy making, and the need for investments for the collection of population data through the national Population and Housing Census, as well as other surveys and administrative records. The case study of Cambodia will show how data from censuses can be used to demonstrate demographic change in the country and how such data can be used for planning. A presentation on Thailand will highlight key demographic changes taking place in a Middle-Income Country, the status of existing population data, and the difficulties often faced with respect to the collection and use of data.

Suggested questions for discussion

1. What are the key challenges faced by countries in using population-based data and information for improved decision-making especially with respect to social development.
2. What do the case-studies of Cambodia and Thailand tell us about the importance of information on population variables for addressing longer-term planning and formulation of policies.
3. How can the UN system help countries to strengthen statistical offices and policymakers to enhance population data collection and its utilization to support policy formulation at the country level.