

# International Engagement Program of the Australian Bureau of Statistics

## **ABS International activities include:**

- participation in international statistical meetings, conferences, seminars and working groups
- bilateral exchange and cooperation with statistical agencies of developed countries
- provision of data to international agencies
- assistance to build capacity in developing countries in our region



## **ABS participates internationally to:**

- assist in developing the capacity of national statistical offices in developing countries
  - results in long-term benefits to the statisticians in the recipient countries
- develop international statistical standards and approaches
- contribute to methodological thinking
- strengthen Australia's statistics and improve international comparability



## **ABS Technical assistance - 4 main types**

- ABS staff providing training and support - often part of a longer term program
- ABS staff contributing to workshops or seminars arranged by international organisations
- staff from other countries visiting the ABS for study tours or training
- providing documentation on ABS practices



## **ABS Technical Assistance (TA) - regional focus**

- Australian Government's aid program through AusAID
  - SE Asia, PNG, Pacific Island countries
  - some in South Africa, Africa, Middle East, China & India
- ABS 'in country' TA consistent with this
  - South Pacific and South East Asia focus
  - no budget for TA / capacity building
  - government or international cost recovery req'd - AusAID, SIAP, UN etc



## **Examples - ABS Assistance in Timor**

- Population Census - first since independence
  - ABS TA provided, funding from UN Fund for Population Assistance
  - ABS provided
    - quality advisor to review plans, strategies including
      - ◆ questionnaire design
      - ◆ assist with field and enumeration phase



## Examples - ABS Assistance in Timor

- Consumer Price Index
  - ABS TA provided, funding from USAID
    - collection and compilation system
    - data release model complying with international standards
    - detailed program overview



## Examples - Vanuatu

- Institutional Strengthening Program
- ABS TA provided, funding from AusAid
  - corporate governance
  - advice on legislation
- Future assistance will include:
  - development of a Forward Work Program
  - governance strategy

## Examples - Thailand

- Strengthening of Macro-economic Statistics
- ABS TA provided, funding from AusAid
  - implement SNA93
  - non-profit institutions, new economy, common statistical frame, construction and capital expenditure surveys
  - national balance sheets, supply/use and input/output tables
  - export, import, new house and service industries price indexes
  - government finance statistics

## Summary

- ABS focus is the South Pacific and South East Asian countries
  - requests outstripping capacity
- Training & support 'in country' cost recovered
  - government or international organisations
- ABS participates internationally to strengthen the international system
  - also improves the comparability of Aus statistics