Asia-Pacific Stats Café Series
"The Good, the Bad and the Ugly:
Revelations from reviews of national statistical systems"
Monday 09 November 2020
12:00 -13:00 hrs. (Bangkok time, GMT+7)

About the session

The second in a series of Stats Café sessions showcasing outcomes from the Regional Programme for Economic Statistics, this session will give perspectives and reflections from assessments and review of National Statistical Systems. It will cover:

(a) Why should assessments and reviews be undertaken and what is involved?
(b) What do they reveal? (the good, bad and the ugly)
(c) What impact do they have?

Experiences from Maldives, Sri Lanka and Lao PDR and perspectives of a lead reviewer will provide a basis for discussing the value of national statistical reviews.

Key messages:

● National statistical system reviews (or global assessments) are a major undertaking. They involve bringing in independent reviewers from other countries and consulting with stakeholders across government who are producing and using data.

● Like a high-level audit, they involve opening the doors to scrutiny and criticism. The information that surfaces might be confronting but incredibly valuable for moving forward in the right direction.

● Findings can include strengths and weaknesses in organizational structures, resources, independence, professional standards, and coordination.

● The impacts of NSS reviews include raising the profile and value of statistics, increasing budgets and support, more or less data production, and better-quality statistics for informed policymaking.

Panelists & moderator:

1. Ms. Aishath Shahuda
Chief Statistician,
National Bureau of Statistics, Maldives

2. Ms. Indu Bandara
Director-General,
Department of Census and Statistics, Sri Lanka

3. Mr. Gabriel Gamez
Inter-Regional Adviser – Organization and Management of National Statistical Systems,
UN Statistics Division, Dept. of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)

4. Ms. Rikke Munk Hansen
Chief, Economic and Environment Statistics Section, Statistics Division, ESCAP

SPEAKERS



Ms. Aishath Shahuda
Chief Statistician, National Bureau of Statistics, Maldives

Currently the Chief Statistician of National Bureau of Statistics in Maldives since 2013. She has worked in the National Statistics Office in different capacities for the past 25 years and has extensive practical experience in the field of official statistics. She has played a lead role in the planning and implementation of Population and Housing Censuses and major household and economic surveys in the country.

She has been actively involved in the strategic planning and implementation of National Statistics Development Strategy and coordination of the National Statistical System.

Prior to her current post she was the head of economic statistics division and have hands on experience in national accounts and price statistics. She has played lead role in the planning and implementation of Population and Housing Censuses and major household and economic surveys in the country.

Ms.Shahuda served as the chair of the ESCAP committee on Statistics. She also represented the South Asia Region at the PARIS21 board.

She has a Master's degree in Economics from the University of Wollongong, Australia.



Ms. Indu Bandara, PhD
Director-General, Department of Census and Statistics (DCS)
Sri Lanka

Currently Director-General of the DCS for more than 2 years. Prior to her current post, she held the positions of Additional Director General, Director, Senior Statistician and Statistician. She has served more than 34 years in DCS.

She obtained her PhD in 2019 from the University of Colombo. She has Master's degree in Women Studies and post-graduate diplomas in population and sustainable development.

She has vast experience in conducting lectures in various fields of statistics.



Mr. Gabriel Gamez
Inter-Regional Adviser – Organization and Management of National Statistical Systems at UN Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)

Currently the Inter-Regional Adviser on Organization and Management of National Statistical Systems, UN Statistics Division (UNSD), Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA).

He was one of the members of the assessment team in the NSS review of Maldives in 2017. He also led the global assessment in Mongolia in 2014, Kyrgyzstan in 2011 and Tajikistan in 2013 (for the ESCAP region). So far, he has participated as assessor/reviewer in more than 20 peer reviews and global assessment.

His previous posts include: Regional Adviser, Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) from 2010 – 2015; Director of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Statistical Office from 2004 - 2010 and Director of international relations and cooperation, Swiss Federal Statistics Office from 2000 – 2004.
