ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Committee on STATISTICS
11-13 December 2024
Power of Data

Roundtable on whole-of-society approach to building agile statistical systems

Concept Note

11 December 2024, 11:10-11:55 hrs., UN Conference Centre, Bangkok
Agenda Item 2

Background

The statistical community in Asia and the Pacific committed to advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development as set out in two documents: "A collective vision and framework for action by the Asia-Pacific statistical community",[1] endorsed at the fifth session of the Committee on Statistics in 2016 and the "Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind",[2] endorsed by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) at its seventy-fifth session in 2019.[3]

The ninth session of the Committee on Statistics will discuss progress made in implementing the Declaration. It starts with a high-level segment on 11 December which will reflect on priority actions that require resources, initiatives, engagement or other investment by Governments, as well as participation by the whole of society, to put the region fully on track to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Agenda item 2 will consider the document ESCAP/CST(9)/2 on Harnessing the power of data to leave no one behind: reflections on the status of implementation of the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind. The document notes the need for increased political and financial support for inclusive national statistical systems and emphasizes that implementing the Declaration requires a whole-of-society approach, involving both state and non-state actors in decision-making processes for official statistics.

Objectives

This is the second of two panel/round tables. This second session will highlight the importance of a whole-of-society approach in building agile statistical systems. This approach involves the collective efforts of government, private sector, civil society, academia, and individuals in identifying issues and creating, sharing, and using data, promoting inclusivity and collaboration for

[1] E/ESCAP/CST(5)/1/Rev.1.
[2] ESCAP/75/4/Add.1.
[3] ESCAP/75/9

better decisions and better outcomes.

This **roundtable discussion** will deliberate on the following questions:

- *How can we harness data from traditional and non-traditional sources to create a richer, more comprehensive understanding of complex issues?*
- *How can high-quality data attract investment, inform business strategies, and contribute to research?*
- *What opportunities, lessons and successful examples exist for national statistical offices to engage stakeholders beyond government?*

Organization and speakers

The panel discussion is organized under Agenda item 2 which will consider the document ESCAP/CST(9)/2 on Harnessing the power of data to leave no one behind: reflections on the status of implementation of the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind.

The roundtable will have speakers from outside government providing their perspectives on building agile statistical systems. Speakers will be asked not to use Powerpoint slides.

Speakers

- **Haishan Fu, Chief Statistician, World Bank**, Director of the Development Data Group of World Bank Group.
- **Lisa Grace S. Bersales,** Executive Director, V, Commission on Population and Development, Philippines
- **Seyong Park**, is the Director of Strategy and Innovation for World Vision's East Asia Regional Office.
- **Alfian Manullang,** Vice President of Data Solutions, Telkomsel, Indonesia.

Moderator

- **Prim Rajasurang Wongkrasaemongkol, youth advocate**, AI Engineer and delegate from the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) Youth Forum 2023 and World Data Forum 2023

Roundtable questions

In this roundtable discussion we will explore different perspectives on how to build agile statistical systems. There will be three rounds of questions. For the first round speakers will be given three minutes, then in the second round they will have two minutes and in the third and final round they will have just one minute.

First round of questions

Speakers will have three minutes for this first intervention.

- *From your perspective, how can we harness data from traditional and non-traditional sources to create a richer, more comprehensive understanding of complex issues?*

Second round of questions

Speakers will have a maximum of two minutes for the second round of questions.

- *From your perspective what can national statistical offices do to attract more investment for data to inform business strategies and to contribute to research?*

Third round of questions

Speakers will have just one minute for this final intervention.

- *What one suggestion would you make to a head of a national statistical office who is looking to engage stakeholders beyond government?*

Conclusion

The roundtable will finish with the moderator highlighting key issues and thanking the speakers.

After the completion of the two formal sessions ministers and heads of delegations are invited to deliver brief statements on national efforts to implement the commitments of the collective vision and framework for action, and the Declaration. They may also want to share their perspectives on the midpoint reflections and express their commitment to the proposed priority actions outlined in document (ESCAP/CST(9)/2).

Short bio details of moderator and speakers



Moderator: Prim Rajasurang Wongkrasaemongkol is a youth advocate, AI Engineer and delegate from the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) Youth Forum 2023. She was the opening speaker at APFSD 2023, UN ESCAP and APFSD Youth Forum 2023. She is the youth speaker at the UN ECOSOC Youth Forum and UN Youth Representative to the UN World Data Forum 2023. She was the winner of AI Innovator award pitch competition where she utilizes AI to help blind people read books promoting long life learning. Furthermore, Prim is the founder of Child Teach Child program empowering marginalized children through quality education and socioeconomic development.



Haishan Fu is Chief Statistician of the World Bank and Director of the World Bank's Development Data Group. She leads the development and implementation of the World Bank's data agenda, overseeing initiatives like the World Development Indicators, Statistical Performance Indicators, and the Development Data Hub. Haishan co-chairs the Data for Countries and Global Priorities working group and oversees the Global Data Facility. She has played key roles in global statistical efforts, including the UN Data Revolution group and the International Statistical Institute. Before joining the World Bank, she held leadership positions at UNESCAP and UNDP. She holds a Ph.D. in Demography from Princeton University and a B.A. in Economics from Peking University.



Lisa Grace S. Bersales, is undersecretary for population and development of the Philippines, heading the Commission on Population and Development. She was the first National Statistician of the Philippines and served in this capacity from 2014 to 2019, heading the Philippine Statistics Authority. She is currently Her recent research papers include: Reaching the Demographic Dividend to Achieve Inclusive Economic Growth, Measuring the Contribution of the Informal Economy to Philippine Economic Growth in the context of a Pandemic; Big Data in the Philippines: How Do We Actually Use them; Team Approach in the Conduct of Households Survey; and, The Multidimensional Approach to Measuring Poverty.



Seyong Park, is the Director of Strategy and Innovation for World Vision's East Asia Regional Office. He leads strategic direction and innovation for field offices in Cambodia, China, Laos, Mongolia, Myanmar, North Korea, Thailand, and Vietnam. Seyong oversees key sector portfolios like climate change, gender equality, and social inclusion, ensuring alignment with World Vision's global strategy. He supports strategy development, business planning, funding allocation, and progress monitoring. Seyong has been with World Vision since 2011 and previously worked with Shinyoung Securities, Goldman Sachs, and McKinsey & Company. He is also a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA).



Alfian Manullang, Vice President of Data Solutions, Telkomsel, Indonesia
He oversees Telco's big data analytics, offering solutions to sectors such as financial institutions, governments, and ecommerce. He is actively engaged in supporting the government with Mobile Positioning Data, Alfian also plays a role in Telkomsel's Innovation Center (TINC), collaborating with startups in the IoT and Digital Products space. Recognized as one of LinkedIn's IoT analyst influencers in 2022, Alfian has extensive knowledge of the IoT ecosystem.

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