11\textsuperscript{th} meeting of the Steering Group

2 – 3 November 2021

Session 2 – Round-table updates

Summary of activities that have been implemented at country and regional level since the 10\textsuperscript{th} meeting in January 2021

Discussion on successes, challenges and upcoming activities related to economic statistics

Chair and moderator: Ms. Wai Yee Yen
Afghanistan
Republic of Armenia
Bangladesh

- Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) has rebased Annual GDP from 2005-2006 base year along with CPI rebasing
- BBS has taken initiative for Quarterly National Accounts, with compilation procedure to start soon
- BBS has plan for Regional GDP, as well as rebasing QIIP
Bhutan
Cambodia
China
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China

- In view of the increasing popularity of online shopping amid COVID-19, additional data item on online retail sales has been included in the Monthly Survey of Retail Sales starting from January 2020. The online retail sales statistics have been released since January 2021.

- The local economy has been hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, particular for those activities relating to tourism. As the regular survey on tourists' expenditure has been discontinued, a review on the methodology for compiling tourism related statistics (e.g. business receipts index for tourism domain) is being conducted; and

- The use of big data to compile alternative tourism indicator is being explored with reference to the experience shared by Bali, Phuket and the Maldives.
Malaysia

1. Challenges
   i. Health, social and economic crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic
   ii. Series of Movement Control Order / Lockdown that affecting data collection especially Face to Face method

2. Successes
   i. Coordinate and collaborate with stakeholders, data provider and users to ensure the continuation of production of economic statistics during the COVID-19 pandemic
   ii. Optimising the usage of ICT and new data sources in statistical production
   iii. Collecting and producing more social and economic statistics to gauge the impact of COVID-19 in Malaysia – special surveys, timely, frequent and more granular data collection
   iv. Disseminate and communicating official statistics via portal, social media, greater access to online forum, webinars and video conference.
Malaysia

3. Upcoming plans

i. Strengthening the National Statistical System and empower the National Statistical Office

ii. Aligning the statistical production with recent National Development Plans and focus area, conducting economic census, advocating and exploring new data sources.

iii. Participating in global consultations such as UNSD’s Updating of 2008 SNA and BPM6 update, continuously improving the compilation and reporting of SDGs indicators
Maldives

• PRICE STATISTICS PROGRESS

CURRENTLY PUBLISHING & ONGOING WORK

➢ Consumer Price Index (CPI) - last Monday of the next month
➢ Producer Price Index (PPI)

➢ Education Sector – Last day after two months of the Quarter
  ❖ Information and communication – will start publishing this month (Nov 2021)
  ❖ Water supply, sewerage and waste management - planning to publish Jan 2022
  ❖ Electricity - planning to publish Jan 2022

❖ Accommodation and food Service Activities – Initiation Started
❖ Construction - Initiation started
❖ Upcoming work – Fisheries, Manufacturing, Transport and Health

➢ International Comparison Program (ICP) – data collection, intra and inter country data validation ongoing as per ADB work schedule
Maldives

• NATIONAL ACCOUNTS & ECONOMIC STATISTICS PROGRESS

CURRENTLY PUBLISHING

• Gross Domestic Product, Production and expenditure approach - Publishing with a nine months lag
• Quarterly National Accounts - Publishing with a three months lag
• Tourism Satellite Accounts – TSA 2017, published on World Tourism day 2021
• Quarterly Wage Index
• Quarterly Resort Price Index – not publishing, Use for Internal purpose only
• Quarterly Unit Value Index – not publishing, Use for Internal purpose only
Maldives

ON GOING WORK

• Supply and Use Table 2019
• Planned to Rebase GDP to 2019 and publish on 2022
• Economic census July to September 2022
• Collecting all the required information to compile a Business register
• Now designing the sector level Questionnaires
Mongolia
Nepal
New Zealand

- Ongoing advice and capacity building delivered via the Statistics New Zealand Pacific Program to a range of countries. This includes partnering with ABS, SPC, IMF-PFTAC. Since January 2021 examples include, Covid19 rapid assessment surveys development, CPI reviews and trade statistics quality assurance plus training.

- Building and sharing experiences across the region via engagement and a number of presentations at the UN ESCAP Café Series, bilateral exchanges with countries and ongoing support of the regional program.

- In New Zealand, ensuring covid-19 impacts are reflected in economic statistics is an important focus. A significant achievement in July was the publication of a full set of experimental quarterly national accounts.
Pakistan
Philippines

- **Overall revision of the Consolidated Accounts/Income and Outlay Accounts**
  As part of the continuous effort of the Philippine Statistics Authority to improve its statistical products, the Consolidated Accounts/Income and Outlay Accounts (CAIOA) underwent overall revision to be consistent with the revised and rebased national accounts released in 2020. This is to account for the more comprehensive data coming from censuses and surveys of the PSA, updated and available data from administrative sources as well as other data and indicators which served as benchmark data in the compilation of these accounts.

- **Compilation of the Provincial Product Accounts**
  For 2021, three pilot regions were selected for the compilation of the Provincial Product Accounts (PPA), namely: MIMAROPA, Region X (Northern Mindanao), and Region VII (Central Visayas). The PPA will serve as a means to derive the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the provinces to provide a suitable measure of economic performance at the provincial level and as a source of indicators to monitor the economic development or progress at the local level.
Philippines

- **Conduct of the 2021 Monthly Labor Force Survey (LFS)**
  Starting February 2021, the labor force survey is now undertaken by the PSA monthly except for the months where Quarterly LFS is conducted. This will provide high-frequency statistical information on the Philippine labor market to better understand the current situation of employment and the economy of the Philippines during unprecedented events such as the COVID-19 pandemic.
Samoa
SIAP
SPC

Successes:

PICTS: Greater use of administrative data for compiling statistics

SPC: Supported countries with IMTS. Collaboration with OCO on PACHS 2022. Contributed to FEMM and FTMM. Letter of Agreement signed by partners for the development of a Pacific Commodity Trade Database. Participation in the ISCO working group. Population census fieldwork in RMI, Nauru, Tonga, Tuvalu (HH listing), FSM, Samoa, Cook Islands and reporting and analysis of 2020 census in 2021 for Vanuatu and Kiribati. HIES fieldwork in Tonga and reporting and analysis of 2020 survey in 2021 for RMI, Vanuatu and Kiribati. Pacific IMTS compilation guide draft ready. Knowledge products released on tourism; trade; prices; kava production, trade and consumption and statistical indicators to monitor the economic and social impacts of covid-19 on Pacific Island countries and territories – also a paper on COVID-19 Socio-economic Impact Assessment was delivered to FEMM. TYPSS end-of-programme review completed.
SPC

Challenges:

PICTS: Collection of business statistics was difficult due to lockdown. Due dates for releases and reports were affected. Budget cuts.


Upcoming plans and activities:

PICTS: Process re-engineering to address new challenges and situations.

Sri Lanka
Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey

- Securities statistics were revised to align with the international methodology set by the G20 Data Gaps Initiative as well as to enrich the information content. The statistics in the new format and new content were published beginning with the data of 13 August 2021 at the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey (CBRT) web page.

- Short Term External Debt Statistics, International Investment Position, Foreign Exchange Assets and Liabilities of Non-Financial Companies statistics were revised as a result of the study cooperated with Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT) and CBRT. According to this co-work, “Export Receivables” and “Import Payables” data under Trade Credits were began to be compiled by the TURKSTAT from the enterprises using direct reporting method.

- CBRT is currently producing Deposit Banks’ set of interest rate statistics including “Weighted Average Interest Rates For Banks’ Loans and Deposits” on weekly flow data and “Weighted Average Interest Rates For Deposits” on monthly stock data. We are planning to enhance the coverage of these statistics by adding monthly stock loan interest rates of deposit banks and also publishing Participation Banks’ rates on deposits/loans and Consumer Finance Companies’ rates on loans.
Turkish Statistical Institute

- General overview on weights to CPI
- Publication on institutional Sector accounts for 2019-2020
- Improvement over timeliness in Government accounts
UNSD
Viet Nam

- Successes

- Successfully organizing the Covid-19 Survey integrated into Monthly and Quarterly surveys on the economic field, thus demonstrating the timely response of the General Statistics Office (GSO) in the context of the epidemic, which are highly evaluated by Management Agencies, Business and Data Users.

- Implementing the way of data collection via webform and CAPI in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic in the 2021 Economic Census and the IO Table Survey and intermediate cost coefficients for base year conversion and National account compilation.

- Blockchain application to manage livestock heads and diseases represents an effort of GSO on applying big data in Vietnam.

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Viet Nam

Challenges

- Difficulty when accessing the areas that are suffered by epidemic directly to collect data while ensuring the health of the enumerators.

- Applying Webforms and CAPI requires hands-on training and good operation between Statistical Offices and Business Sector, Business Establishments, and Households.

- Blockchain application in statistics is new, so it takes time and require some resources to deploy and disseminate to stakeholders.
Viet Nam

- Continue to study and enhance the implementation of combining direct and indirect forms of data collection in the new situation of living with the Covid-19 epidemic;

- Focus on implementing SNA 2008 recommendations after completing the IO Table Survey 2021, thus proceeding to compiling national account indicators; satellite accounts.

- Further expand the application of Big data in data collection;

- Pay more attention to research the methodology and build data sources to calculate digital economic activities.