

**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS**

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION
STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE
EUROPEAN UNION (EUROSTAT)**

**ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD)
STATISTICS DIRECTORATE**

**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (UNESCAP)**

Meeting on the Management of Statistical Information Systems (MSIS 2014)
(Dublin, Ireland, and Manila, Philippines, 14-16 April 2014)

INFORMATION NOTICE No. 2 (Manila)

Background

1. MSIS 2014 will be held simultaneously in Dublin, Ireland, hosted by the Central Statistics Office of Ireland and in Manila, the Philippines, hosted by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), from 14 to 16 April 2014. The two locations will be linked through videoconference facilities.
2. MSIS meetings have been organized regularly during the past decade in different geographical locations in Europe. MSIS 2014 will be the second MSIS held in a European as well as an Asia-Pacific location, facilitating the participation of experts from Asian and Pacific countries in the discussions.
3. MSIS 2014 will, as in earlier years, focus on statistical information systems for the modernization of official statistics, well in tune with the strategic goal set by the ESCAP Committee on Statistics for cooperation on statistics in Asia and the Pacific during 2010-2020: "Creating a more adaptive and cost effective information management environment for national statistical institutions"..

Purpose

4. The purpose of the MSIS is to provide a forum for exchange of experiences; collect, discuss and make available examples of good practice; and facilitate implementation of relevant standards and recommendations. MSIS meetings consider issues related to information technology governance and management, system architecture, accessibility and usability.

Participants

5. The meeting is intended for IT managers from statistical organizations and other specialists responsible for the coordination, planning and management of complex projects in statistical information processing.

Agenda

6. The agenda of MSIS 2014 (Manila) will overlap with the agenda for MSIS 2014 (Dublin) for 3 hours in the afternoon session of each of the 3 days of the meeting.

Joint sessions (Dublin and Manila)

7. The joint agenda will be structured around the following substantive themes:

- (i) How IT can contribute to changing organizational culture;
- (ii) Standards-based modernization;
- (iii) Innovation;
- (iv) Architecture.

8. Detailed explanatory notes on the nature and expected outcomes of the themes are provided in Section V of Information Notice 1 circulated in November 2013.¹

Manila sessions

9. The agenda of the Manila sessions will be structured around 2 topics:

- (i) Big data: Official statistics and the use of non-traditional data sources
- (ii) Implementation of standards supporting the modernization of official statistics

10. We invite participants to contribute with a paper on either of the topics.

Submission of papers

11. Participants to MSIS 2014 (Manila) are invited to contribute with a paper to the joint sessions or to the sessions that are specific to Manila.

12. The official language of the meeting is English. The documents should, therefore, be submitted in English only.

Joint sessions (Dublin and Manila)

13. The following procedure applies to submit paper to joint sessions (as per paragraph 7 above):

- Abstract: Experts are invited to send **a short abstract and indicate the topic** (see paragraph 7 for the list of topics) to which the paper will refer, as well as author

¹ The Information Notice 1 can be found at: <http://www.unescap.org/stat/meet/msis2014/index.asp>

name(s) and contact details, to the UN-ECE secretariat (diane.serikoff@unece.org) as soon as possible but no later than **5 February 2014**.

- Paper: The full **paper** should be sent to the UN-ECE secretariat (diane.serikoff@unece.org) by **14 February 2014**. Papers should be submitted in electronic format in **MS Word**, and should not exceed 10 pages in length.

Manila sessions

14. The following procedure applies to submit paper to Manila sessions (as per paragraph 9 above):

- Abstract: Experts are invited to send a **short abstract and indicate the topic** (see paragraph 9 for the list of topics) to which the paper will refer, as well as author name(s) and contact details, to the ESCAP secretariat (hermouete.unescap@un.org) as soon as possible but no later than **15 February 2014**.
- Paper: The full **paper** should be sent to the ESCAP secretariat (hermouete.unescap@un.org) by **28 February 2014**. They should be submitted in electronic format in **MS Word**, and should not exceed 10 pages in length.

Topic (i): Big data: Official statistics and the use of non-traditional data sources

15. Big data is being embraced by the commercial sector as a way to better understand and address consumer needs. Some governments are launching research and development initiatives to extract knowledge and insights from large and complex collections of digital data. What are the implications of big data on the work of national statistical offices (NSO)? How can NSOs address challenges and seize opportunities that big data represents?

16. This session will share information and experiences from NSO initiatives in using Big Data sources for research/evaluation and data production purposes.

17. As most big data sources are generated from and managed by private sector entities (telecommunication, internet service companies), the session will explore options for strengthening the dialogue between NSOs and the private sector. The session will include working group sessions to reflect on best practices in supporting such dialogue and identify priority topics for future initiatives.

Topic (ii): Standards supporting the modernization of official statistics

18. The modernization of official statistics, understood as the standardization of statistics operations in support of the creation of new statistical products, relies to a large extent on the implementation of a number of emerging standards. Based on country experiences, this session will review standards supporting the modernization efforts.

19. The session will cover: the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) as a standard to describe the various stages along the statistical production process; the Generic Statistical Information Model (GSIM) as a reference framework of information objects, which enables generic descriptions of the definition, management and use of data and metadata throughout the statistical production process; Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX) as the standard data exchange system within and across statistical organizations; and the Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) standard as a way to standardize statistical metadata description.

20. In addition to reviewing standards supporting the modernization efforts, the session will also aim to identify priorities for future initiatives in this area of work and formulate recommendations of how these standards can be applied in the Asia-Pacific region.