

Asia-Pacific Conference: Transforming Official Statistics for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

24 – 26 AUGUST 2016

PROGRAMME

UNCC, CONFERENCE ROOM 4

Wednesday, 24 August 2016

08:00 - 09:00 Registration

09:00 - 10:00 Opening & Introduction

Opening remarks

- Mr Hongjoo Hahm, *Deputy Executive Secretary, ESCAP*
- Ms Aishath Shahuda, *Chief Statistician, National Bureau of Statistics, Maldives (Chair, Committee on Statistics)*
- Mr Ivo Havinga, *Chief of the Economic Statistics Branch, UNSD*

Introduction to Conference: Purpose and Expected Outcomes

- Ms Margarita Guerrero, *Director, Statistics Division, ESCAP*

10:00 - 10:30 Morning Tea Break and Photo

10:30 – 17:30 **Session 1: The Need for Transformation**

Session Chair: Mr Sefuiva Muagututia, Government Statistician, Samoa Bureau of Statistics

The 2030 Agenda creates a unique opportunity for bringing statistical development to the centre of attention. Business as usual will not meet the new demands of users on national statistical systems, with transformation of existing national statistical systems a must. This session will explore the types of transformations required and the reason why collaboration is crucial and the time to act now, providing insights from leaders of national statistical systems, national users such as planners, and regional experts from within and outside the region

Presentations to be delivered:

National perspectives on priorities and challenges

Leaders of national statistical systems must take centre stage as the coordinators of supporting statistics, and ensure they engage with high-level decision-makers to ensure that national statistical systems are responsive to the demand of users. Building on the existing strengths of national statistical systems, and addressing the weaknesses and challenges ahead will be a crucial component of this. Sharing their views from a national statistical leadership perspective are:

Mr Alexander Surinov, *Head, Federal State Statistics Service (Rosstat) (tbc)*

Mr T.C.A. Anant, *Chief Statistician of India (tbc)*

Mr Nguyen Bich Lam, *Director General, General Statistics Office of Viet Nam (tbc)*

Mr Kuenga Tshering, *Director General, National Statistics Bureau of Bhutan (tbc)*

Mr Roko Koloma, *National Statistician, National Statistics Office of Papua New Guinea*

12:00 - 13:30 Lunch

Regional perspective on priorities and challenges

The new statistical demands arising from the SDGs pose particular challenges, which no country can tackle on its own. Collaboration among countries can add value to the national efforts in the form of common methodologies, quality standards and sharing of expertise and experiences. Sharing their views on these issues from a regional perspective are:

Mr Kaushal Joshi, Principal Statistician, Asian Development Bank (tbc)

Mr Mukesh Srivastava, Senior Statistician, FAO

The urgency of action from the perspective of users

Making sustainable development operational requires a commitment from all parties, and a common language between users and producers of statistics. The monitoring of development results can only be achieved through relevant, timely and quality statistics. Sharing their views from a national development perspective are:

Mr Michael Provido, Project Coordinator, NEDA, Philippines

Mr Poch Sovanndy, Deputy Director General of Planning, Cambodia (tbc)

Ms Ladawan Kumpa, Deputy Secretary General, NESDB, Thailand (tbc)

Perspectives from beyond the region (video)

Mr Oliver Chinganya, Director, African Centre for Statistics (tbc)

Reflections from the floor



Launch of ESCAP Regional Programme on Economic Statistics: Resource Facility

15:20 - 15:40 Afternoon Tea

Discussants:

Mr Gabriel Gamez, *Inter-regional Adviser, United Nations Statistics Division*

Mr Priit Potisepp, *Statistics Consultant, Estonia (tbc)*

Mr Maciej Truszczynski, *Head of Section, Statistics Denmark*

Reflections from the floor

Reflections from the chair

Mr Sefuiva Muagututia, *Government Statistician, Samoa Bureau of Statistics*

Introduction to Day 2

Mr Yanhong Zhang, *Chief, Population and Social Statistics Section, Statistics Division, ESCAP*

Thursday, 25 August 2016

09:00 – 17:00 Session 2: Elements of the Transformation

The session will aim to learn lessons from successful transformation of statistical systems and identify mechanisms for strengthening national statistical systems in support of the 2030 Agenda.

The session will see participants split in to three groups, with the morning consisting of a presentation from a “show case” country displaying the fundamental characteristics of their national statistical system, seeking reflections from the floor. The afternoon will see each group focus on different components of the statistical system, led by the “show case” country, and followed by reflections in a round table discussion, with the aim to generate recommended actions at the national, regional, inter-regional and global levels

Group A: Investing in Statistics: (Meeting Room E)

Communication and advocacy; user-producer engagement, including in SDG coordination mechanisms and policy dialogues; policy relevance; costing statistical products and services

Showcase country: Estonia

Discussant lead: India+

Group B: Integrated Statistics and Innovations (Meeting Room G)

Integrated statistical frameworks for SDG indicator production; coordination among agencies of the national statistical systems; integration of data from multiple sources, including “new” data sources; quality assurance; protection of confidentiality

Showcase country: Denmark

Discussant lead: Republic of Korea

Group C: Modernization of Statistical Business Process (Meeting Room H)

Modernization of business processes; application of modernization standards and tools (GSBPM, GSIM, CSPA, SDMX, DDI); technology transfer; metadata; IT; integrated production line for the national statistical systems; open data

Showcase country: Kazakhstan

Discussant lead: Australia (am) & Indonesia (pm)

10:20 - 10:40 Morning Tea

12:00 - 13:30 Lunch

15:00 - 15:20 Afternoon Tea

17:00 – 17:30 Meeting of rapporteurs from Group A, B and C

Friday, 26 August 2016

09:00 – 10:30 Session 2: Elements of the Transformation (cont)

Session 2 will continue with each group providing a brief outline of key finding from their deliberations (5 mins) followed by an open floor discussion proposing consolidated recommended actions

Moderator:

Ms Rikke Hansen, *Chief, Economic and Environment Statistics Section, Statistics Division, ESCAP*

Panelists:

Group A Rapporteur

Group B Rapporteur

Group C Rapporteur

10:30 - 10:50 Morning Tea

10:50 – 12:30 Session 3: Transforming Institutions is Transforming People

This session will highlight success stories in strengthening institutional and staff capacity towards modernising national statistical systems from various perspectives. The notion of a statistical organization evolving into a learning organization; i.e., one where learning is equated with continuous transformation, to underpin sustainable capacity development is also explored. The session is organized as a panel discussion.

Outline of questions

1. *What are the priority capacity improvement needs for institutional transformation in Asia-Pacific? What are the responding skills in need of development?*
2. *What about integrated statistics and corresponding needs for inter-disciplinary expertise and skills?*
3. *What capacity building modalities are effective at national/regional/global levels?*

Moderator:

Ms Margarita Guerrero, *Director, Statistics Division, UNESCAP and SIAP*

Panelists:

From National Perspective outside the region

Mr Priit Potisepp, *Statistics Consultant, Estonia*

Mr Maciej Truszczynski, *Head of Section, Statistics Denmark*

From a National Perspective with the Asia-Pacific region

Mr Mohd Uzir Bin Mahidin, *Deputy Chief Statistician, Malaysia*

Mr Makato Shimizu, *Director-General, Statistical Research and Training Institute, Japan*

From a Regional Training Perspective

Ms Zita Albacea, *Executive Director, Philippine Statistical Research and Training Institute*

From a Sector Perspective focusing on Food and Agriculture

Mr Mukesh Srivastava, *Senior Statistician, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)*

Discussant:

Ms Judy Henson, *Resource Person, Melbourne, Australia*

12:30 - 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:15 Session 4: Advancing the Transformation

This session will discuss how to ensure progress towards implementing a Collective Vision and Framework of Action for transformation of official statistics in Asia and the Pacific. It will aim at producing recommendations on the governance structure and implementation mechanisms, including outlining related reporting and review arrangements and secretariat functions.

Recommendations for Transformation (Highlights from Session 1-3)

Representative from the “Drafting Group”

Ms Rikke Hansen, *Chief, Economic and Environment Statistics Section, Statistics Division, ESCAP*

Activating the Statistical Community: Realizing the Collective Vision and Framework of Action

Presenter

Ms Margarita Guerrero, *Director, Statistics Division, ESCAP*

Discussants

Mr T.C.A. Anant, *Chief Statistician of India*

Ms Antonette Gaffney, *Policy Officer, Global Development Branch, DFAT, Australia*

Mr Ivo Havinga, *Chief of the Economic Statistics Branch, UNSD*

Ms Dong Guo, *Statistician, UNIDO*

Ms Yoriko Yasukawa, *Regional Director, UNFPA*

Reflections from the floor

15:15 - 15:45 Afternoon Tea

15:45 – 16:30 Closing Session

Speakers

Ms Aishath Shahuda, *Chief Statistician, National Bureau of Statistics, Maldives (Chair, Committee on Statistics)*

Ms Margarita Guerrero, *Director, Statistics Division, ESCAP*