

**Tenth Management Seminar for the Heads of National Statistical
Offices in the Asia Pacific Region: Shifting from “Stove-pipe” data
producer to “Information Service” provider.**

Bhutan

I. National and International development Programs

1. What role does statistics play in monitoring the achievements of your country's development programs?

Statistics plays a very crucial role not only in monitoring the achievements of the development programs but is also used extensively to identify and plan development needs make decisions on resource allocations. The role of statistics is particularly important in monitoring the MDGs.

2. Does the NSO provide/coordinate the statistics used for monitoring the above programmes? If not who does?

Yes, the National Statistics Bureau does provide most of the data or information. For some data that are not available at the NSB, the office coordinates with the concerned sector to collect and see that standards and definitions are comparable with other data – e.g. agricultural household survey.

II. International Standards.

1. Do you find international standards useful and do you try to apply them whenever possible? If not please indicate in which areas they are not being applied.

Yes, international standards are useful and we apply them as far as possible because they not only help comparability within the country but also with other countries, development organizations and agencies that use them.

2. Do you have an effective way of coordinating and imposing standards for statistics within your own country?

We do have an executive order that states all large national surveys and censuses should have the clearance of the National Statistics Bureau. This requirement has helped us to bring about coordination in the statistical activities as well as in coordinating standards and methodologies. However, it is not as smooth as is stated here. There are organizations and agencies that simply do not want to cooperate for various reasons.

3. In what areas would you like to have more standards be developed?

I think one of the weaknesses in our economic accounts is not being able to capture and standardize is the informal sector which in many developing countries is considered large. Hence if we can develop a standard for this sector will definitely increase the reliability of the estimates.

4. Do you think the views of developing countries taken sufficiently into account in developing and agreeing on international statistical standards? If not please suggest a mechanism for improvement.

I think the views of developing countries are well taken care of through various forums and Commissions.

III. Micro data dissemination

1. Do you provide the following micro data sets?
 - i. Population Census
 - ii. Household surveys
 - iii. Establishment/Enterprise surveys

Yes we provide micro data but in keeping with the principle of anonymity. We develop user file of the primary data and provide these files to the users. Recently, we have developed the National Statistics Bureau Data Archiving System (NSB-DAS) a web-based survey cataloging system powered by the National Data Archive (NADA) developed by the International Household Survey Network (IHSN). The repository system was developed with assistance from OECD/Paris21 and the World Bank under their Accelerated Data Program (ADP). We hope to archive as well as disseminate our survey and census data through this system. We are in the process of negotiating with other government agencies to bring their data within the NSB for archiving.

2. What kind of disclosure control do you employ?

At present we do not have any system in place. Data is given to users who come to us with a request for certain data. We give the either part of the data or even the whole set but with some aggregation and anonymization.

3. Do you have micro data dissemination policy?

Not as yet but we are already in the process of developing one. We have been told that a training course will be conducted under the ADP. Hence we are waiting to finalize our dissemination policy only after we have completed the training.