Report of 14th Management Seminar for Heads of National Statistical Offices in Asia and the Pacific:

The Future of Economic Statistics

The 14th Management Seminar for Heads of National Statistical Offices in Asia and the Pacific on the theme **"The Future of Economic Statistics"** was held on 11-12 December in Chiba, Japan.

Introduction

The Seminar brought together representatives of statistical offices from national, regional and international organizations and research institutes. During the two-day seminar several broad areas were discussed including:

a. Current challenges faced by statistical systems in providing relevant information to various user groups, especially to policy makers for the formulation of economic policies;
b. Demands for economic and other statistics at the global, regional and national levels;
c. Priority topics in the areas of globalization, digitalization, well-being and sustainability for further research and experimentation in economic statistics;
d. Issues such as relevance, responsiveness, governance that should be considered when updating the system of economic statistics.

The objectives of the Seminar were to:

- Produce inputs from the Asia and the Pacific region to the work of the Friends of the Chair Group on Economic Statistics.
- Provide a reference for capacity building and knowledge sharing in Asia and the Pacific to be used by ADB, ASEAN, ESCAP, FAO, SIAP, SPC, UNSD and other regional agencies.
- Provide a knowledge base for prioritization of work in economic statistics at the country and regional levels.

Seminar programme and presentations are available at:
http://www.unsiap.or.jp/programmes/ms_materials/ms14.html

Main recommendations and outcomes are included in the next section with further details in the subsequent sections.

Main recommendations

Global level

Recommendations and guidance notes for the update of the system of economic statistics must be drafted reflecting testing and experimentation undertaken by countries in several regional priority areas of economic statistics including new methods for the measurement of e-commerce, globalization, inequality, human capital, and natural capital.

There is a need to update the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics specially to reflect big data developments and issues around private sector engagement, such as protection of confidentiality.

Quality assurance frameworks need to be adapted to address different data sources (e.g. for administrative data, for big data, etc.).

International partners should support the use of modern tools such as cloud environments to facilitate the use of such tools by countries to produce statistics in a cost-effective manner using big data, administrative data and other data sources while respecting the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

Regional/multicounty level

Regional organizations should facilitate the sharing of knowledge that is generated at the global level and facilitate sharing of experiences by countries in the region for global knowledge generation.

Collaboration between countries should increase in order to learn from best practices and better understand new methods that are tested by countries.

There is a need to develop multi-country partnerships for innovative data solutions and mutual support.

Countries in Asia and the Pacific would benefit from having in place the infrastructure for cloud environment on a regional or sub-regional basis so that countries themselves would be empowered to have access to safe cloud-based environment without investing in their own. Collaboration with the Asia Pacific hub of the UN Global Platform Network for Official Statistics should be actively explored.

National level

Legislation must be updated to empower the national statistical office and system to better respond to the new demands, utilize new data sources and data solutions, and improve coordination.

Countries should create networks or incubator environments bringing together teams comprised of staff from NSOs, line ministries and other partners to jointly work and experiment on new statistical products utilizing new methods and data sources as needed.

It is important that the compilation of statistics is country-led and country-owned, and is based on country priorities. Shared regional priorities need to be identified and promoted to allow for regional collaboration. In consultation with the global level, these regional priorities could be promoted to become shared global priorities.

Work should be undertaken to build statistical literacy for the proper use of economic statistics across user groups, especially policymakers.

Deliberations and detailed recommendations

Details of deliberations and recommendations identifying priority economic statistics and methodology/system for production of such statistics are given below:

1. <u>Challenges faced by statistical systems at the global, regional and national level</u>

Statistics agencies at national, regional, and international are facing many challenges in a dynamic world. Some of the more pressing challenges from the demand side include the need for integrated economic, social and environmental data in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Work is underway in the Asia Pacific region in the compilation of digital economy accounts, global value chain accounts, SEEA accounts, sustainable tourism satellite accounts, ocean accounts, and distribution accounts; and, disaggregated data along several dimensions including subnational data.

Statistical offices are also facing challenges in adopting to and building capacity around the use of data sources such as big data and data generated by non-traditional data providers such as private sector entities. These issues can be addressed through increased coordination between the international, national and subnational level. New data solutions should be pursued that address the quality of statistics, including availability and timeliness as the quality of statistics remains a challenge for many national statistical systems.

In the Asia-Pacific region, many smaller countries face additional challenges including the low number of staff working on statistics in the NSO/NSS and the high number of indicators required for reporting on national and international commitments. New data solutions using Big Data (like earth observation data for agricultural crop production, surface water, land cover/use statistics; vessel tracking information (AIS data) for transport and international trade statistics; mobile phone data for tourism statistics) should be further explored and promoted through collaboration between regional and global agencies based on agreed priority areas.

2. <u>The demand for economic statistics and related areas</u>

At the global level, there is a push to update the system of economic statistics with the objectives for economic statistics to better reflect interlinkages between the economy, environment and society in support of the monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. User consultations are essential in setting the priorities for the update of the system of economic statistics, which covers not only the methodological frameworks, but also the normative manuals related to the statistical production process and statistical infrastructure.

Collaboration between United Nations Economists Network (UNEN) and statisticians has started at the global level and needs to be strengthened at the regional and national level to ensure that the statistics are responsive to the "new economics for sustainable development". The new economics for sustainable development is being formulated around the short and long-term policies for the global megatrends, related to rapid sociodemographic shifts, technological breakthroughs, rising inequalities, rapid urbanization, climate change and environmental degradation. It is clear from discussions thus far among users and producers of statistics that national statistical offices need to look beyond macro related accounts and statistics and make available a broader set of statistics informing about the relationship between economic growth and the social and environmental dimensions.

The statistical community needs to be responsive to the demands for more economic data but at the same time recognize that there are human, financial and institutional constraints. A potential innovative approach is to have more experimentation at a smaller scale bringing together teams comprised of representatives from various agencies (e.g. NSO, Central Bank, Ministry of Finance) to tackle specific data needs/requests within a short period. National and regional networks of multi-disciplinary working teams could be established that address a limited number of topical priorities in an integrated fashion. Such networks would need to address the methodological frameworks and at the same time leverage administrative, big data, and registers to experiment and test the new requirements of the statistical production process and statistical infrastructure. In particular, the networks should respond to user needs by exploring cost-effective and efficient conceptual and data solutions. For instance, the use of administrative data should be investigated first since traditional sources such as surveys and censuses are expensive and should be used only when non-traditional data sources are not available.

Several topics were highlighted in the discussion around demands and responses to such demands from the national statistical system.

- There is an increased demand for data for the SDGs and national plans; process for prioritization and reporting needs to be country led and country owned.
- GDP remains an important barometer of progress that must be progressively augmented by using other data.
- There is a need to integrate data on economic, social (e.g. education, health) and environmental (e.g. water, energy) dimensions building on increasing regional and country practices. Use of common methodology, definitions and classifications is key to achieving integration across the national statistical system and to ensure comparability between countries.
- Some data needed by policymakers and to report on the SDGs is already available, but it is being produced in a silo-ed manner; institutional transformation should be pursued to enhance the coordination and integration of the national statistical system with the NSO as the focal point.
- Disaggregated data is a must in the current environment of "leaving no one behind", including subnational data, rural/urban, sex, etc.
- Regional priority areas of work include environmental-economic accounts, sustainable tourism satellite accounts, inequality statistics and disaggregated data (especially by geography).
- It is important to build capacity for the use of data (improve statistical literacy of different user groups).
- Communication and outreach activities need to be scaled up. More focus should be given on story- telling and data visualization to better inform the public and create interest in official statistics.
- Micro databases on household and business surveys should become accessible to the greatest extent possible to the public and other user groups while maintaining the confidentiality of the data.

3. <u>Priority areas for further research and experimentation in economic statistics</u>

Given the many demands and financial and human resource constraints faced by data providers, priority areas and topics in economic statistics should be identified for future research and collaboration. Five

broad areas of work were discussed: globalization; digitalization and e-commerce; inequality; beyond GDP and well-being; and, sustainability and SDG indicators. In each of the areas several issues were identified as a priority in the Asia-Pacific region for future work; they are listed below.

(I) Globalization

- There is a need to agree on guidance and methodology at the global level on measuring value chains.
- Certain concepts and definitions need to be clarified including what is an enterprise given their multinational nature.
- Better coordination is needed in order to ensure that Regional and Global Input-Output tables can be produced (one of the major difficulties is the asymmetry in trade data between counties); this is related to putting in place mechanisms for countries to share transaction level trade data confidentially.
- There is a need to produce Regional and Global input output tables in order to better meet the needs of policy makers.

(ii) Digitalization and E-commerce—There is an overall need to update statistical legislation so that NSOs can have access to data from e-commerce companies in order to produce official statistics. Several issues were raised that can be taken up by regional initiatives such as"

- Definition of e-commerce to be established (what is in scope?)
    - What jobs are part of e-commerce?
    - How do we measure penetration (maybe using proxies such as internet usage, smart phone availability)?
    - How do we measure the portion of e-commerce that is part of international trade?
    - How do we measure the portion of e-commerce that is part of other sectors of the economy (e.g. what portion of an UBER ride is with the transportation sector and what portion is with e-commerce)?
- Data that is collected and held by companies such as Facebook and Google is valuable; guidance is needed on the valuation of data, free services and assets. Can the data valuation be based on advertising revenues?
- E-wallet/money—how do we leverage transactions that are made electronically to measure e-commerce activities?
- What is the growth, value added and employment generated by the digital economy?
- It was noted that, in a not-so-distant future, "e-commerce" may encompass most commerce hence the urgency of fully accounting for it, yet recognizing the likely transient nature of the concept.

(iii) Inequality—Efforts should be made to produce inequality measures to support policy discussion; Areas of focus of the regional initiatives should include:

- Distributional analysis of income, expenditures, and wealth;
- How often should inequality data be reported in order to be policy relevant;
- There is a need for disaggregation, especially subnational inequality data;
- Data should also be further disaggregated by age and gender.

(iv) Beyond GDP/well being

- NSOs should play a leading role in measuring well-being; such work should be statistically sound and based on a new accounting system for wellbeing and the principles of official statistics.
- GDP is here to stay, but there is a need for GDP to be complimented (rather than replaced) by other measures.
  - Subjective measures of wellbeing and happiness
  - Equality measures (see section on inequality above)
  - Adjusted measures of GDP (e.g. adjusting for environmental degradation)
- Trust in institutions is important as well as measures of social capital, education, health and human capital.

(v) Sustainability/SDG Indicators

There is a need for improved coordination and communication across government to ensure data is fit for purpose. Areas of work include the below.

- Climate change statistics/Green growth framework
  - Disaster related statistics
  - Poverty
- Land and water resources (SEEA type of accounts more broadly)
  - Ocean accounts
  - Land resources
- Sustainable Tourism accounts
- Social indicators
  - Education especially quality of education
  - Health specially relating to immunization and other important aspects
  - Labor data (including data on unemployment and underemployment)

4. Issues to consider when updating the production of economic statistics

Having identified the priority areas, participants discussed ways in which the global, regional and national statistical systems can adapt in order to respond to these new demands and challenges in economic statistics and related areas.

In Asia and the Pacific, NSOs are working with different organizational and management structures to explore what is more efficient. Countries are also experimenting with different data sources, including administrative data to determine their usability in generating official statistics. Given the diversity of countries in the region, different organizational structures, working methods and data compilation practices must be considered; there is not one solution fit for all.

In order to provide better economic statistics, NSOs must be responsive, agile and allow for experimentation. Responsiveness can take several dimensions including: having legislation in place to be responsive to new sources of data; having good coordination; responding to user needs and building user trust; and, being responsive to new technology and additional data sources (e.g. big data, administrative data). NSOs should also be flexible and experiment more by creating small teams from

the national institutional networks to experiment and test with new accounts and work with big data, administrative data and other sources of information in order to generate statistics and indicators relevant to the priority areas identified above. Such experimentation is important for the development of suitable new frameworks and standards to be included in the update of the system of economic statistics.

An important part of the experimentation with new approaches is to share results and experiences. Regional agencies should facilitate the expressed need for increased in-country and multi-country collaboration by offering countries innovative mechanisms using modern collaborative technologies like wikis, internet-based communication (Skype, webex), Slack, Github, etc.

5. Priority Areas for production of economic statistics:

The following five priority areas for production of economic statistics were identified for detailed discussion. (I) conceptual frameworks, (ii) statistical operations, (iii) statistical infrastructure, (iv) partnerships and (v) governance.

(I) Development and update of conceptual frameworks for economic statistics (macroeconomic, business, trade and price statistics)

- The data needs are getting increasingly complex and NSOs are not keeping pace with what is required. There is a deluge of demand. It is important to be focused on priorities and demands from relevant user groups.
- When drafting new/updates to frameworks, it is important to consider the following issues: What are the challenges, what are the policies that the framework responds to, can it be efficiently implemented, does it support integrated statistics, is it intuitive?
- Infrastructure (e.g. transport, ICT, cities, digital) must be better understood
    - Some elements are not currently connected (e.g. business and trade).
- In the Asia and Pacific region, the following frameworks are a priority:
    - Global value chains accounting;
    - Natural capital accounting (implementation of SEEA);
    - Price and volume statistics (are we overestimating inflation, how can we buy the commodities);
    - Human capital accounting.

(ii) Update of the statistical operations using administrative and big data, microdata linking, geo-coding, sharing and exchanging data, etc.

- Integrated register/integrated information systems are important as they help reduce the burden on data providers; such integrated systems also help in utilizing multiple data sources to produce disaggregated data. Countries face several challenges in integrating registers and other administrative data sources including common identifiers, legal environment, technical capacity in the NSS (not just NSO), intersectoral collaborations, and improving existing systems (e.g. aligning definitions, classifications between administrative registers and statistical needs).
- New data sources such as geospatial data (satellite), citizen generated data, mobile phone data must be utilized more in producing official statistics. However, there is a need to consider issues around the legal environment, confidentiality, and cooperation with partners collecting such data.

- Open data sharing platform
  - Cooperation framework is essential. It's not just ICT: other issues include privacy, standards, legal environment
  - Platforms need to support dissemination of microdata as well as aggregates
- Capacity building is needed in international standards, in building trust, including users and producers, in using technology (e.g. blockchain) for real-time, continuous data collection. Regional and sub-regional mechanisms should be leveraged in capacity building efforts.

(iii) *Update of the statistical infrastructure including capacity building, update of legal statistical framework, profiling MNEs for statistical registers, introduction of cloud-environment*

Statistical infrastructure is an integral part of a statistical system. Therefore, it needs to be upgraded to meet today's and future demands. Also, there is a need to mobilize the NSS and address how to have access to big data, open data, and other sources, to produce official statistics.

- There is a need in many countries to update and revise their statistical legal framework. It is also important to raise or elevate the status of official statistics and the head of the NSO. The legal framework for countries should allow for MOUs with private sector and call for data sharing relationships with line ministries. Rules and regulation should be developed covering aspects of confidentiality, while being aware of accessibility of data as well as the quality of the data itself.
- NSO and NSS need to work with various user groups to build statistical literacy; there is a need to engage throughout the statistical production process with all relevant user groups in order to ensure buy-in and raise awareness. Collaboration with schools can help in building statistical literacy at an early age and help in having a more numerically literate general public in the long term.
- Quality assurance frameworks for different data sources need to be developed (e.g. for administrative data, for big data, etc.).
- There is a need to establish or update business registers to support administrative data collection as well as provide a frame for economic surveys. An issue that continues to be problematic is how to capture the informal sector, including in e-commerce.
- Countries should develop capability building framework which NSOs can follow providing a blueprint for the capacity building activities needed in countries. It is important to start training throughout the NSS, based on train-the-trainer approach.
- Countries in Asia and the Pacific would benefit from having in place a regional or sub-regional cloud-based infrastructure. This infrastructure will offer statisticians working at the national level access to safe and secure cloud-based environment even if they do not have the resources to purchase these data and infrastructural services.

(iv) *Development of partnerships for innovative data solutions and mutual country support*

- Country-led partnerships for innovation are key to help everyone work out definitions and other measurement issues.
- Multi-country partnership can facilitate south-south partnerships by collaborating with other NSOs.
- Sectoral partnership at the national level are needed in order to create networks for experimentation with new data sources and methods. Examples include NSO-Private sector, NSO-local government, NSO-NGO, NSO-Ministries and combinations thereof.

- Regional forums should be held on a regular basis to showcase new innovative data solutions and create multiplier effect.

(v) System of governance at the national, regional and global level for the system of economic statistics

- Reform/revise/develop principles (global level)
  - o In current environment and for the future development of official statistics, there is a need to consider updating the FPOS to: explicitly include private sector and big data to the list of data sources; clearer statement of role of Chief Statistician to lead/coordinate the NSS; and, stronger language about protecting confidentiality of respondents.
  - o There is a need to develop principles at the global level based on country experiences for how countries could/should manage the data demand deluge.
- Promote principles into practice (regional level)
  - o Regional bodies can serve as a conduit between the global and national level by facilitating the sharing common methodologies among countries, transferring of technologies and knowledge among countries, and sharing good practices between regional or countries facing similar challenges.
- Adopt and adapt ourselves to reflect standards (national level)
  - o There is a need to update legal frameworks as noted above, put in place human resource frameworks, as well as have annual and multi-year plans for official statistics.
  - o Statistical literacy remains a challenge and NSO/NSS need to improve communication, outreach and engagement with users on how to use existing statistics better.
  - o NSOs need to better engage with other government entities and create networks for experimentation in order to facilitate compilation of statistics.
- Meeting local level needs
  - o Many countries in Asia and the Pacific are facing increased demands for geographically disaggregated data. Hence there is a need to strengthen local capacity and promote partnerships between localities to ensure coordination and sharing of good practices at the local level.

Seminar documents :

Annex 1. Concept note

Annex 2. Programme

Annex 3. List of participants

Annex 4. List of members of Group Discussion

Presentations and other details are available on the website of SIAP at the following link:

http://www.unsiap.or.jp/programmes/ms_materials/ms14.html

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

STATISTICAL INSTITUTE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (SIAP)

Management Seminar of SIAP-The Future of Economic Statistics

11-12 December 2019, Chiba-Japan

CONCEPT NOTE

Collaborating agencies: United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific **(SIAP)**; Statistics Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific **(SD ESCAP)**; United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Statistics Division **(UNDESA SD);** and Statistics Bureau of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of the Government of Japan **(MIC)**.

I.   Introduction and Objectives

Improving sufficiency and responsiveness of economic statistics is very important in achieving policy objectives of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Policy objectives increasingly demand a better understanding of how economic activity relates to outcomes for people across material and non-material aspects of well-being as well as environmental sustainability. The quest for outcome measures requires the explicit connection with the quality of life of individuals and demographic groups (such as by age, gender, education, ethnicity, location) and the impact of economic activity on the environment. When we consider the broader methodological framework for the system of economic statistics in better measuring the links between economic activity and the outcome for the citizens, society and the environment, there is also a need to consider the capacity and capabilities of the national statistical agencies to transform their operations and their role in the national statistical system to meet the new requirements with the use of new data and technology.

The discussion on the future of economic statistics commenced with Friday Seminar on the Future of Economic Statistics held prior to 50th Session of the UN Statistical Commission. Thereafter, the following developments have taken place globally and in the region:

(i)   The **50th Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission (March 2019**) created the Friends of the Chair Group on Economic Statistics. The commission requested it to undertake an assessment on the efficiency, effectiveness and responsiveness of the governance of the current system of economic statistics; take stock of existing initiatives and make recommendations to take these forward in an update of the system of economic statistics through a broader consultation; take forward issues of the statistical update that have already reached a high level of maturity; and to report back to the Statistical Commission in 51st Session (2020) with a clear plan how to move forward.

(ii)   **Friends of the Chair Group on Economic Statistics**[1] conducted their first meeting in New York (28-30 May 2019) and discussed the future system of economic statistics, design of economic statistics within SDG and other results frameworks, future design of economic statistics from the perspective of international/regional agencies and NSOs; need for a responsive and relevant system of economic statistics and infrastructure required for such a system; need for institutional transformation of NSOs to new methods, appropriate governance structures to ensure a responsive and relevant system of economic statistics.

(iii)   A **High-Level Seminar on the Future of Economic Statistics (3-5 June 2019) in Shanghai, China**[2] with the participation of twelve countries (ten countries from the Asia- Pacific region) summarized priorities for the future as follows:

- Need to move beyond contemporary economic statistics into new areas such as digital economy, sustainable tourism, and new economy. Also felt need for partnership with scientific community.
- Need to move beyond macro-economic statistics to the areas of distributional national accounts, system of environmental-economic accounts with focus on both physical and monetary measurements and disaggregated and local level statistics.
- Role redefinition of national statistical systems where the NSOs are being entrusted with new roles like authority for issue and maintenance of national identity whereas their conventional role of statistics generation is being taken by many agencies in the government or outside
- Change in the role of NSOs from data collection agencies to users of data from various sources of big data including mobile data, geospatial data, and use of administrative data beyond taxation and customs data, such as data from credit rating agencies and health insurance.
- Use of non-traditional data processing techniques including blending of data from traditional sources with non-traditional sources of data to improve accuracy and timeliness of standard economic statistics like national accounts statistics.
- Moving beyond publications, there is a need for data visualization, storytelling sharing of data through social media. There is need for data for geographic regions smaller than nation-state and population groups other than the household sector.

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[1] https://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/events/2019/FOCG/FOCG_1st_meeting_summary_report_final.pdf

[2]

https://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/events/2019/Shanghai/UNSD_UNESCAP_Future_of_Economic_Statitsics_June_3-5_2019_Summary_Final.pdf

The high level seminar also recognized the important objective of "Leaving No One Behind" and specifically noted that priorities for generation of new forms of economic statistics are to be determined by the policy makers since the resources are always limited, existing capacities of the NSOs are stretched to the maximum and many countries are not in a position to generate even the basic, minimum economic statistics such as preparation and maintenance of business register, conduct labour force surveys and the production of national accounts using SNA 2008.

(iv)   **A High-Level Panel discussion held on Monitoring Sustainable Development: The future of economic statistics in Asia and Pacific Economic Statistics Week (APES)**[3] in Bangkok, Thailand (17-19 June 2019). The panel discussed the use of economic statistics for monitoring the 2030 Agenda and highlighted the shortcomings of current measurements of economic activity across social and environmental aspects of wellbeing. The session pointed to ways and directions for transforming economic statistics to ensure its continued relevance. Key messages from the discussion were as follows:

- GDP will continue to be an important economic statistic required by governments and institutions for understanding economic activity. Complementary measures are needed to capture well-being, inequality and sustainability.
- The NSOs must continue "doing what they do best" or producing what and how they have been traditionally producing statistics while welcoming new approaches and new statistics.
- Emerging technologies hold great potential to transform statistical business processes. Adaptation to such technologies requires development of additional skill sets that will enable and equip NSOs to better coordinate the activities within the national statistical system (NSS) in filling data gaps, and in updating and/or identifying appropriate statistical infrastructure to integrate new methods and new data sources with the traditional ones.
- The UN must continue to lead initiatives, coordinate and support statistical activities across the world; establish guidelines and frameworks; and support and enable countries to enhance and develop the required skills necessary to face and adapt to the challenges in producing statistics in a dynamic data ecosystem.

Management Seminar of SIAP

The main objective of this seminar is to seek views of heads of NSOs in Asia and Pacific region about the current status of the economic statistics including data availability and what they perceive as future requirements of data, statistics and indicators relating to economic statistics keeping in view the policy objectives in their countries specially in the context of implementation of Agenda 2030 and how these can be met. The Seminar will brief the participants on the key outcomes of consultations on the "Future of economic statistics" so far and generate recommendations and other inputs from the Asia-Pacific region to the ongoing global Friends of the Chair initiative.

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[3] http://communities.unescap.org/system/files/apes2019-report-final-sept2019.pdf

II.   Target Participants

The seminar is designed for Heads of NSOs in the Asia-Pacific region.

III.   Seminar Programme

Details are presented below:

Session 1: Friends of the Chair Group (FOC Group) initiative on the Future of Economic Statistics; why are we here?
The session will start with an overview presentation on the Friends of Chair Initiative and continue with thematic presentations from the users of economic statistics perspective and from regional perspective on the following topics: (i) Globalization and Global Value Chains, (ii) Digitalization/Digital Economy, (iii) Inequality, (iv) Well-being/Beyond GDP (v) Sustainability/SDG Indicators.

Session 2: Demands for economic statistics and services
This session will outline the country needs and demands. The session will clarify the existing and new demands from policy makers/public for new statistics. Countries will focus on the following questions in their presentations during a panel discussion: (i) What kind of requests do NSOs receive from users of economic statistics and which requests are they able to respond to? (ii)What are the new policy requirements and the implications for new statistics and accounts, their compilation and dissemination and for the delivery of new type of services? (iii) Are there policy and user demands for integrated and broader measures of progress which are generally not classified as economic statistics?

Session 3: Break out session: What new priority statistics is needed for policy formulation?
Group Discussion in five groups on the following topics: (i) Globalization and Global Value Chains, (ii) Digitalization/Digital Economy, (iii) Inequality, (iv) Well-being/Beyond GDP (v) Sustainability/SDG Indicators. This will be followed by a plenary discussion.

Session 4: Global, regional and national initiatives to meet the country needs/ demands

This session will explore how NSOs can be more responsive to the demand from policy makers/public for current or new accounts and statistics. Countries will focus on the following questions in their presentations during a panel discussion: (i) How can we be more responsive to demands from our users through changes in statistical operations and statistical infrastructure? (ii) How can we increase in-country and multi-country collaboration and increase concerted experimentation on agreed priorities? (iii) How can we improve the agility of our systems of economic statistics and contribute to the update of the system of economic statistics?

Session 5: Break-out session: How to generate what has been identified as priority economic statistics?

Group discussion: 5 groups will work in parallel to give recommendations on the following five topics: (i) Development and update of conceptual frameworks of economic statistics (for macroeconomic, business, trade and price statistics), (ii) Update of the statistical operations using administrative and big data, microdata linking, geo-coding, sharing and exchanging data,

etc. (iii) Update of the statistical infrastructure including capacity building, Update of the legal statistical framework (for use of big data, data sharing, preserving confidentiality), profiling MNEs for statistical registers, introduction of cloud-environment (iv) Development of partnerships for innovative data solutions and mutual country support (v) System of governance at the national, regional and global level for the system of economic statistics. This will be followed by a plenary discussion.

Conclusions/recommendations:

Two participants will discuss main issues raised and recommendations made in the seminar.

IV.   Expected Output of the Seminar

The management seminar will be to:
a)   Identify new economic statistics and services demanded by policy makers and other users of economic statistics;
b)   Challenges faced in meeting these demands and changes required;
c)   Expectations from Global. Regional and National Organizations for production of relevant statistics;
d)   Regional response to the Friends of the Chair Group (FOCG) initiative on future of economic statistics.

Annex 2

**14th Management Seminar for Heads of National Statistical
Offices in Asia and the Pacific
The Future of Economic Statistics**

11-12 December 2019, Chiba, Japan

PROGRAMME

Date/Time	Sessions and Events
DAY 1 - 11 DECEMBER 2019	
09:00-09:30	Registration
09:30-10:00	**Opening** • Welcome message from ESCAP **Ms. Gemma Van Halderen** *Director, Statistics Division, ESCAP* • Welcome message from the Government of Japan **Mr. Nobutaka Yokota** *Director-General for Policy Planning on Statistical Standards, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), Government of Japan* • Objectives of the 14th SIAP Management Seminar **Mr. Ashish Kumar** *Director, SIAP*
Group Photo and Coffee/Tea Break	

Date/Time	Sessions and Events	Presenter
10:15-11:45	**Session 1: Why are we here: the Friends of Chair Group Initiative on the Future of Economic Statistics** *The session started with an overview presentation on the Friends of Chair Initiative and continue with thematic presentations from the users of economic statistics perspective and from regional perspective on the following topics:* 1. **Globalization and Global Value Chains** 2. **Digitalization/Digital Economy** 3. **Inequality** 4. **Well-being/Beyond GDP** 5. **Sustainability/SDG Indicators** Briefing about the work of the FOC Group and future course Presentations: · Sub-regional perspective · Inequality · Sustainable Development	Chair and facilitator: Mr. Akira Tsumura, *Director for International Statistical Affairs, Office of Director- General for Policy Planning on Statistical Standards, MIC, Government of Japan* Mr. Ivo Havinga *Assistant Director, UNSD* Mr. Anang Laksono *Senior Officer, ASEAN Secretariat* Mr. David F Abbott *Manager, Data analysis and Dissemination, Pacific Community* Dr. Rana Hasan, *ADB* (slides with voices) Ms. Zhenqian Huang *Associate Economic Affairs Officer*, *ESCAP*
\multicolumn{3}{	c	}{Lunch hosted by Director-General of Statistics Bureau, MIC, Government of Japan From 12:45 video presentation on Digital economy by Dr. Jose Ramon G. Albert, *Senior Research Fellow Philippines Institute for Development Studies* was put on the screen of the room for the seminar.}

Date/Time	Sessions and Events	Presenter
13:00-13:30	**Session 1** (Continued) Presentations (Continued): · Globalization and Global Value Chain **Comments from participants**	Mr. Satoshi Inomata *IDE-JETRO*
13:30-14:45	**Session 2: Demands for economic statistics and services** *This session outlined the country needs and demands. The session clarified the existing and new the demand from policy makers/public for current and new statistics. Countries focused on the following questions in their presentations:* 1. What kind of requests do NSOs receive from users of economic statistics and which requests are they able to respond to? 2. What are the new policy requirements and the implications for new statistics and accounts, their compilation and dissemination and for the delivery of new type of services? 3. Are there policy and user demands for integrated and broader measures of progress which are generally not classified as economic statistics? *Panel discussion (50 minutes)* · *Mongolia* · *Philippines* · *Maldives* · *Fiji* Plenary discussion (25 minutes) ***Observations and discussion by participants based on their experience***	Chair and facilitator: Mr. Ivo Havinga *Assistant Director, UNSD*
	Coffee/Tea Break	

Date/Time	Sessions and Events	Presenter
15:00-17:00	**Session 3: Break out session: What new priority statistics is needed for policy formulation?** Group discussion: 5 groups worked in parallel to give recommendations on the following policy themes: (45 minutes) 1. **Globalization and Global Value Chains** 2. **Digitalization/Digital Economy** 3. **Inequality** 4. **Well-being/Beyond GDP** 5. **Sustainability/SDG Indicators** Presentations of reports by each group in plenary session followed by discussion and formulation of recommendations (45 minutes) **Recommendations by** Group 1 **Recommendations by** Group 2 **Recommendations by** Group 3 **Recommendations by** Group 4 **Recommendations by** Group 5 Plenary discussion (30 minutes)	Chair and Facilitator: Ms. Rikke Munk Hansen*,* *Chief, Economic and Environment Statistics Section, Statistics Division, ESCAP* Group 1 Group 2 Group 3 Group 4 Group 5

Date/Time	Sessions and Events	Presenter
	**DAY 2 - 12 DECEMBER 2019**	
09:00-09:30	*Summary reflections from Day 1*	Presentation by Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste
09:30-11:00	**Session 4: Global, regional and national initiatives to meet the country needs/ demands** *This session explored how NSOs can be more responsive to the demand from policy makers/public for current or new accounts and statistics. Countries focused on the following questions in their presentations:* 1. How can we be more responsive to demands from our users through changes in statistical operations and statistical infrastructure? 2. How can we increase in-country and multi-country collaboration and increase concerted experimentation on agreed priorities? 3. How can we improve the agility of our systems of economic statistics and contribute to the update of the system of economic statistics? *Panel discussion (60 minutes)* · *Bhutan* · *Nepal* · *China* · *Indonesia* · *Thailand* **Plenary discussion (30 minutes**)	Chair and facilitator: Ms. Gemma Van Halderen *Director, SD, ESCAP*
	Coffee/Tea Break	

Date/Time	Sessions and Events	Presenter
11:15-12:15	**Session 5: Break-out session: How to generate what has been identified as priority economic statistics?** Group discussion: 5 groups worked in parallel to give recommendations on the following five topics:	Chair and facilitator: Mr. Ashish Kumar *Director, SIAP*
	1. **Development and update of conceptual frameworks of economic statistics (for macroeconomic, business, trade and price statistics)**	Group 1
	2. **Update of the statistical operations using administrative and big data, microdata linking, geo-coding, sharing and exchanging data, etc.**	Group 2
	3. **Update of the statistical infrastructure including capacity building, update of the legal statistical framework (for use of big data, data sharing, preserving confidentiality), profiling MNEs for statistical registers, introduction of cloud-environment**	Group 3
	4. **Development of partnerships for innovative data solutions and mutual country support**	Group 4
	5. **System of governance at the national, regional and global level for the system of economic statistics**	Group 5
Lunch hosted by Director-General of Statistics Bureau, MIC, Government of Japan		
13:15-14:30	Presentations of reports by each group in plenary session followed by discussion and formulation of recommendations (45 minutes) **Recommendations by** Group 1 **Recommendations by** Group 2 **Recommendations by** Group 3 **Recommendations by** Group 4 **Recommendations by** Group 5 Plenary discussion (30 minutes)	

Coffee/Tea Break		
Date/Time	**Sessions and Events**	**Presenter**
15:30-16:30	Conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar Presentations based on discussion of two days Plenary discussion (30 minutes)	Fiji and Indonesia
16:30-16:55	Concluding remarks	UNSD, UNESCAP, Government of Japan

16:55-17:00	**Closing**
	• Closing message
	  Mr. Ashish Kumar
	  Director, SIAP	

Annex 3   **List of Participants**

Country/Organization	Name
Armenia	Mr Araik Hayrapetyan
Bangladesh	Mr Kazi Tofail Hossain
Bhutan	Mr Chhime Tshering
China	Ms Yunhong Ba
	Mr Laiyun Sheng
	Mr Ping He
	Mr Yongshan Huang
	Ms Yu Jin
Fiji	Mr Kemueli Naiqama
Hong Kong, China	Mr Chun Keung Yu
India	Mr Vijay Kumar
Indonesia	Mr Wisnu Winardi
Indonesia	Ms Yunita Rusanti
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Mr Ayoub Faramarzi
Japan	Mr Nobutaka Yokota
	Mr Akira Tsumura
	Mr Tetsuya Yoshida
	Ms Chika Arita
Kyrgyzstan	Ms Elvira Surabaldieva
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Mr Thipsavanh Intharack
Maldives	Ms Aishath Shahuda
Marshall Islands	Mr Frederick J Debrum
	Mr Scott Keju
Mongolia	Ms Ariunzaya Ayush
Nepal	Mr Hem Raj Regmi
Niue	Mr Kimray Nikosemo Poihele Vaha
Papue New Guinea	Mr Joseph Yakatambu Yaramai
Philippines	Mr Claire Dennis Mapa
	Ms Josefina Almeda
	Ms Geraldine Dela Pena
Republic of Korea	Ms Na Jae Min
	Ms Kim Jeong Ran
Russian Federation	Mr Sergey Egorenko
	Mr Georgy Oksenoyt
Samoa	Mr Aliielua Salani
Sri Lanka	Ms Shyamalie Deepika Karunaratne Muhandiramlage Dona
Thailand	Ms Hataichanok Puckcharern
Timor-Leste	Mr Elias Dos Santos Ferreira
Tonga	Ms Masivailo Masila
Turkey	Mr Ahmet Kursad Dosdogru
Vanuatu	Mr Ben Tokal
Viet Nam	Ms Thi Huong Nguyen
	Mr Van Vinh Luu
IDE-JETRO	Mr Satoshi Inomata
University of the Philippines	Ms Zita Albacea
SPC	Mr David Frank Abbott
ASEAN	Mr Anang Laksono
FAO-AP	Ms Sangita Dubey
ISI	Mr Shigeru Kawasaki
UNSD	Mr Ivo Cornelis Havinga
ESCAP	Ms Zhenqian Huang
ESCAP SD	Ms Gemma Van Halderen
	Ms Rikke Munk Hansen
SIAP	Mr Ashish Kumar
	Mr Makoto Shimizu
	Mr Eunkoo Lee
	Ms Pinar Ucar
	Mr Sokol Vako
	Ms Ni Ni Thein
	Ms Eunyoung Lee
	Ms Akiyo Shibuya
	Mr Shuji Fukuyama
	Ms Mengxing Li
	Ms Zhaowen Wang

Annex 4

List of members of Group Discussion

Day 1

Group 1			Name	Role
Globalization and global value Chains	Countries	China	Mr. Laiyun Sheng	
		China	Ms. Yunhong Ba	
		China	Ms. Yu Jin	
		Indonesia	Mr. Wisnu Winardi	Presenter
		Timor-Leste	Mr. Elias dos Santos Ferreira	Chair
		Turkey	Mr. Ahmet Kursad Dosdogru	
		Viet Nam	Mr. Van Vinh Luu	
	International organizations	ISI	Mr. Shigeru Kawasaki	
		UNSD	Mr. Ivo Havinga	
		ESCAP	Ms. Zhenqian Huang	
		SIAP	Ms. Akiyo Shibuya	Notetaker

Group 2			Name	Role
Digitalization/Digital Economy	Countries	Armenia	Mr. Araik Hayrapetyan	Notetaker
		Bhutan	Mr. Chhime Tshering	
		China	Mr. Ping He	
		China	Mr. Yongshan Huang	
		Hong Kong, China	Mr. Chun Keung Yu	Presenter
		Indonesia	Ms. Yunita Rusanti	Chair
		Kyrgyzstan	Ms. Elvira Surabaldieva	
		Niue	Mr. Kimray Vaha	
		Philippines	Ms. Geraldine Dela Pena	
	International organizations	SPC	Mr. David F Abbott	
		ESCAP-SD	Ms. Gemma Van Halderen	
		SIAP	Mr. EunKoo Lee	

Group 3			Name	Role
Inequality	Countries	India	Mr. Vijay Kumar	Chair
		Maldives	Ms Aishath Shahuda	
		Marshall Islands	Mr. Scott Keju	Notetaker
		Philippines	Mr. Claire Dennis Mapa	Presenter
		Republic of Korea	Ms. Kim Jeong Ran	
		Republic of Korea	Ms. Na Jae Min	
		Tonga	Ms. Masivailo Masila	
	International organizations	SIAP	Mr. Makoto Shimizu	
		SIAP	Ms. Zhaowen Wang	

Group 4			Name	Role
Well-being/Beyond GDP	Countries	Bangladesh	Mr. Mohammad Saiful Islam	
		Mongolia	Ms. Ariunzaya Ayush	
		Nepal	Mr. Hem Raj Regmi	Chair
		Papue New Guinea	Mr. Joseph Yakatambu Yaramai	Presenter
		Sri Lanka	Ms. Shyamalie Deepika	
		Vanuatu	Mr. Ben Tokal	
		Viet Nam	Ms. Thi Huong Nguyen	
	International organizations	ESCAP-SD	Ms. Rikke Munk Hansen	
		SIAP	Mr. Sokol Vako	Note-taker
	Others	Univ. of Philippines	Ms. Zita Albacea	

Group 5			Name	Role
Sustainability/SDG Indicators	Countries	Fiji	Mr. Kemueli Naiqama	Chair
		Japan	Mr. Akira Tsumura	
		Lao P.D.R.	Mr. Thipsavanh Intharack	
		Marshall Islands	Mr. Frederick J. de Brum	
		Philippines	Ms. Josefina Almeda	Presenter
		Samoa	Mr. Aliielua Salani	
		Tajikistan	Ms. GulNora Hasanzoda	
		Thailand	Ms. HataichaNok Puckcharern	
	International organizations	ASEAN	Mr. Anang Laksono	
		SIAP	Mr. Ashish Kumar	
		SIAP	Ms. Pinar Ucar	Notetaker
		SIAP	Mr. Shuji Fukuyama	

Day 2

Group 1			Name	Role
Development and update of conceptual frameworks of economic statistics (for macroeconomic, business, trade and price statistics)	Countries	Indonesia	Ms. Yunita Rusanti	Chair
		Kyrgyzstan	Ms. Elvira Surabaldieva	
		Philippines	Mr. Claire Dennis Mapa	
		Tajikistan	Ms. GulNora Hasanzoda	
		Thailand	Ms. HataichaNok Puckcharern	
		Timor-Leste	Mr. Elias Dos Santos Ferreira	Presenter
		Viet Nam	Mr. Van Vinh Luu	
	International organizations	SPC	Mr. David Abbott	
		UNSD	Mr. Ivo Havinga	
		SIAP	Ms. Akiyo Shibuya	Notetaker

Group 2			Name	Role
Update of the statistical operations using administrative and big data, microdata linking, geo-coding, sharing and exchanging data, etc.	Countries	Armenia	Mr. Arak Hayapetyan	Presenter
		Hong Kong, China	Mr. Chun Keung Yu	Presenter
		Marshall Islands	Mr. Scott Keju	Presenter
		Mongolia	Ms. Ariunzaya Ayush	Note-taker
		Samoa	Mr. Aliielua Salani	
		Vanuatu	Mr. Ben Tokal	Presenter
		Viet Nam	Ms. Thi Huong Nguyen	
	International organizations	ASEAN	Mr. Anang Laksono	
		ESCAP-SD	Ms. Gemma Van Halderen	
		SIAP	Ms. Pinar Ucar	

Group 3			Name	Role
Update of the statistical infrastructure including capacity building, update of the legal statistical framework (for use of big data, data sharing, preserving confidentiality), profiling MNEs for statistical registers, introduction of cloud-environment	Countries	Bhutan	Mr. Chhime Tshering	
		China	Mr. Ping He	
		China	Mr. Yongshan Huang	
		Fiji	Mr. Kemueli Naiqama	Chair
		Lao P.D.R.	Mr. Thipsavanh Intharack	
		Philippines	Ms. Josefina Almeda	Presenter
		Sri Lanka	Ms. Shyamalie Deepika	
		Tonga	Ms. Masivailo Masila	
	International organizations	ESCAP	Ms. Zhenqian Huang	Notetaker
		SIAP	Mr. Makoto Shimizu	
		SIAP	Ms. Zhaowen Wang	
	Others	Univ. of Philippines	Ms. Zita Albacea	

Group 4			Name	Role
Development of partnerships for innovative data solutions and mutual country support	Countries	Bangladesh	Mr. Mohammad Saiful Islam	
		Indonesia	Mr. Wisnu Winardi	
		Marshall Islands	Mr. Frederick J. de Brum	
		Niue	Mr. Kimray Vaha	Presenter
		Philippines	Ms. Geraldine Dela Pena	Chair
		Republic of Korea	Ms. Kim Jeong Ran	
		Republic of Korea	Ms. Na Jae Min	
	International organizations	ESCAP-SD	Ms. Rikke Munk Hansen	
		SIAP	Mr. Eunkoo Lee	Notetaking

Group 5			Name	Roles
System of governance at the national, regional and global level for the system of economic statistics	Countries	China	Mr. Laiyun Sheng	
		China	Ms. Yunhong Ba	
		China	Ms. Yu Jin	
		Japan	Mr. Akira Tsumura	
		Maldives	Ms Aishath Shahuda	Notetaker
		Nepal	Mr. Hem Raj Regmi	
		Turkey	Mr. Ahmet Kursad Dosdogru	
	International organizations	ISI	Mr. Shigeru Kawasaki	Chair, Presenter
		SIAP	Mr. Ashish Kumar	
		SIAP	Mr. Sokol Vako	
		FAO-AP	Ms. Sangita Dubey	