# 第7次 ESCAP統計委員會 參加報告書

1987, 11, 24～11, 30

泰國, 방콕

經濟企劃院 調査統計局

031976

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# Ⅰ. 會議 槪要

1. **會 議 名** : The Seventh Session of the Committee on Statistics

2. **會議 主管** : The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

3. **會議 性格**

ESCAP地域의 統計部門 活動事項을 檢討하고, 域內 國家間의 統計技術 協力方案을 討議하기 위하여 매2년(奇數年度)마다 열리는 ESCAP의 法定 會議임.

4. **會議日時 및 場所**

○ 日 時 : 1987. 11. 24 ~ 11. 30 (7日間)

○ 場 所 : 泰國, 방콕 ＥＳＣＡＰ本部 會議室

5. **參加國 및 機關**

○ 參加國

Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, China, Democratic Kampuchea, France, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Lao People's Demogratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain, United States of America, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Cook Islands, Hong Kong, Federal Republic of Germany 等 32國

○ 國際機關

United Nations Statistical Office (UNSO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin, Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), International Labour Organization (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization(UNESCO), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), World Health Organization (WHO), South Pacific Commission (SPC), Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Munich Centre for Advanced Training in Applied Statistics for Developing Countries 等 13機關

* 我國側 參加代表

| 所　　屬 | 職　　位 | 姓　　名 |
|---|---|---|
| 駐泰大使館 | 1等 書記官 | 임 홍 재 |
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| 〃 | 社會統計課長 | 盧 載 坤 |
| 韓國銀行 | 物價調査課長 | 李 成 萬 |

6. 會議日程 및 議題

○ 1987. 11. 24 (火)

- 09:30 ~ 09:40 : 開會式
  - 祝　　辭 : 泰國 總理 Mr. C. Ruangkanchanaset
  - 開 會 辭 : ESCAP총재 Mr. S.A.M.S. Kibria

- 10:00 ~ 10:10 : 任員 選出
  - 議　　長 : 인도네시아대표 Mr. Azwar Rasjid
  - 副 議 長 : 쿡아일랜드대표 Mr. Andrew Turua
  - 副 議 長 : 말레이지아대표 Mr. P. Venugopal
  - Rapporteur : 호주대표 Mr. W. McLennan

- 10:00 ~ 10:20 : 議題 採擇

- 10:30 ~ 11:00 : ESCAP事務局 統計活動 報告
  - 國家情報電算網 確立 方案
  - ESCAP域內 後進國 統計開發 支援
  - 資料處理活動 支援 등

- 11:00 ~ 12:30 : 國家報告書 發表 (印度등 6國 發表)

- 14:00 ~ 17:50 : 國家報告書 發表 (中共등 17國 發表)

○ 1987. 11. 25 (수)

- 09:00 ~ 11:30 : 國家報告書 發表 (韓國등 5국)

〈我國代表의 發表內容〉
- 第6次 經濟社會發展計劃中 統計部門 計劃內容
- 人口統計 改善
- 國民計定統計 改善등

• 11:30 ~ 12:00 : 國際機關 統計活動 報告
(ILO, FAO, UNSO등 6機關)

• 14:00 ~ 15:30 : Item 5(a)
* 國家統計作成能力의 開發에 관한 討議
- 國家統合 家口單位 統計計劃에 관한 討議

• 15:40 ~ 17:00 : Item 5(b)
* 統計生産者와 利用者와의 關係에 관한 討議
(韓國, 필리핀, 뉴질랜드, 印度, 이란, 日本 代表의 發表)

〈我國代表의 發表內容〉
- 統計制度와 對外能力
- 韓國에서의 統計生産者와 利用者와의 關係

○ 1987. 11. 26 (木)

• 09:00 ~ 10:50 : Item 5(d)
* 統計教育의 擴大 및 多樣化를 위한 方案 協議
- SIAP의 活動 및 實績과 向後計劃 報告

• 11:00 ~ 12:00 : Item 6(a)
* 國民所得 統計作成 現況
- 新國民計定 作成時 提起된 問題点의 解決方案
- 統計 後進國에 대한 新SNA 作成技法 支援

Item 6(b)
* 國際間의 統計 比較事業(International Comparison Project - ICP)
- 第5段階 ICP事業 協議
- 1990年基準 第6段階 ICP 繼續事業計劃 說明

Item 6(c)
* 에너지 統計의 效率的 作成方案 討議

· 13:00 ~ 15:30 : Item 7(a)
* 人口 및 社會統計 改善方案 協議

Item 7(b)
* 1990年 世界 人口센서스計劃 協議

○ 1987. 11. 27 (金)

· 09:00 ~ 10:20 : Item 5(c)
* 各國의 統計資料處理에 관한 討議
(한국,호주,쿡아일랜드,스리랑카대표의 發表)

〈我國代表의 發表內容〉
- 資料處理 SW選定, 導入 및 訓練方法
- 統計資料處理 SW의 國內外 協力 可能性
→ 太平洋 小國에 대한 支援用意 表明

· 10:30 ~ 12:00 : Item 8
* 國家情報網 電算體制 構築에 관한 討議
- SW 및 HW 相異에 따른 標準化 必要性
- ESCAP域內 電算後進國에 대한 技術支援

· 13:00 ~ 13:50 : Item 8
* 國家情報電算網 現況에 대한 特別報告書 採擇

· 14:00 ~ 16:50 : Item 9
* ESCAP事務局의 1988~1989년 當面課題 및
1990~1995년 中長期事業計劃 說明

· 17:00 ~ 18:00 : * ESCAP傘下 委員會의 統合運營에 관한
緊急建議

( 建議內容 )
. ESCAP傘下 9個委員會를 7個委員會로
縮小調整하는데 따른 開發委員會와
統計委員會의 統合에 대한 異議提起

( 各國의 反應 )
. 統合贊成 : 일본,소련 등
. 統合反對 : 호주,뉴질랜드,남태평양제국
및 중공
. 意見未提示 : 미국,영국,프랑스 및
동남아의 대부분국가

○ 1987. 11. 30 (月)　　- Final Report 修正 및 確定

- 閉　會

# Ⅱ. 會 議 內 容

— 參加國의 Country Papers —

1. Afghanistan

2. Australia

3. Brunei

4. China

5. Cook Islands

6. Hong Kong

7. India

8. Indonesia

9. Iran

10. Japan

11. Lao

12. Malaysia

13. Maldives

14. New Zealand

15. Pakistan

16. Philippines

17. Republic of Korea

18. Singapore

19. Sri Lanka

20. Thailand

21. USSR

22. Vanuatu

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Committee on Statistics

Seventh Session
24 ~ 30 November 1987
Bangkok, Thailand

# COUNTRY REPORT ON STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES

# IN AFGHANISTAN

Statistical System:

Statistical Organization: For the first time in 1972, a centralised statistical system of the country with the establishment of the Central Statistics Office(CSO) of Afghanistan was organised. Since then, the CSO has been reorganised several times in order to meet the ever-increasing needs of the country. According to the latest reorganisation of the CSO in 1986, its existing set-up consists of the following nine Departments:

(1) Planning & Coordination;

(2) Censuses and Surveys;

(3) Economic Statistics;

(4) Demography & Social Statistics;

(5) National Accounts;

(6) Provincial Statistical Affairs;

(7) Computer Services Enterprise;

(8) Documentations & Relations; and

(9) Administration.

Each of the above Department is composed of its relevant Divisions and Sections. Also, there are 29 provincial statistical offices and the Kabul City Statistical Office attached to CSO. In the current year, CSO has started to establish statistical units at the level of local governments in the provinces of the country in order to create a permanent capability of recording and timely reporting of statistical information. Such statistical units, at the first stage, are being organised in four provinces and more such units are envisaged to be

gradually founded in other provinces of the country as well in future.

Statistical Law and Legal Authority: The statistical law of Afghanistan, promulgated in 1975 and revised in 1984, gives wide powers and authority to CSO in strengthening and developing statistical activities and providing programme priorities. The law institutes the right to get statistical data from governmental and non-governmental organisations, establishments, enterprises, households and individuals and also guarantees the confidentiality of information to respondents. Further, the statistical law calls for coordination of statistical activities of CSO and all other specialised statistical cells of the various Ministries and organizations. The statistical law of the country also provides provision for various Ministries and organisations to collect and compile their sectoral current statistics and to carry out some specialized sample surveys for collection of data for their current use after the approval of CSO.

Statistical Activities:

The priorities of socio-economic development programmes in DRA are determined considering the needs of the strategies adopted in the planning process and the availability of financial resources for the purpose. The Government of Afghanistan has been assigning due priority to the development of statistical activities and programmes. Statistical programmes of the CSO of Afghanistan at present cover agriculture and livestock, industry, mining and energy, transportation and communication, construction, planned projects and indicators, trade and prices, national accounts, demography, manpower and social statistics, conducting censuses

and surveys, training of statistical personnel, data processing and publication and dissemination of statistical information. However, at present, the statistical requirements of users cannot be thoroughly met in some of the above-mentioned statistical areas but consistently attempt is being made to provide data for the most urgent statistical needs of the planning and policy formulating authorities. CSO has to go a long way in developing a fully integrated and articulated system to meet the increasing demand of statistics. For this reason, the important step, i.e. basic registration and reporting method of data in the Ministries and establishments has been prepared and distributed for improvement of their sectoral statistical recording and reporting.

Since the establishment of CSO in Afghanistan, priority attention has always been paid to recognise it in line with its work programme. Afghanistan participated in the Sixth Session of the Committee on Statistics, held at Bangkok in 1985. Since then, the pace of statistical development in Afghanistan has received further momentum as a result of activities of CSO. Some of the main statistical activities in the country in the past two years in various areas are described below:

1 - Current Statistics:

- Collection, compilation, analysis, publication and dissemination of all sectoral statistics, mentioned earlier in accordance with their specified reporting period.

- Collection, compilation, analysis, publication and dissemination of statistics of the implementation of the developmental projects and planned socio-economic indicators on quarterly basis.

2 - Censuses & Surveys:

- Population Census of Kabul City in 1986.
- Weekly & Monthly Survey of the Consumer's commodity prices.
- Monthly & quarterly Survey of registered industrial enterprises and establishments.
- Household income and expenditure sample survey in Kabul city in six rounds, of which three rounds have already been carried out.
- Craftsmen sample survey in Kabul city.
- Preparation for Agricultural Survey

- Since changes had taken place in size, structure and composition of Kabul city population and previous demographic data of the city could not meet the present statistical needs, therefore, the population census of Kabul city was undertaken in 1986. The preparatory activities of the census were completed within a short time of six months. The enumeration started on 22nd November, 1986 and was completed according to the planned period in 20 days. Post-enumeration check was also carried out for checking and rectification purposes. The preliminary results of the census are already published and disseminated. The detailed processing of the census data is being done on the computer. The final result of Kabul city population census will include the detailed analysis and tabulations of the demographic, economic and social characteristics of the population of the city. The computer data processing of the census has recently been accomplished. The ultimate result will be prepared and disseminated soon.

- - CSO has begun carrying out household income and expenditure sample survey in Kabul city in the current year. The survey covers income-expenditure pattern of the households along with various other parameters. The design of the Survey adopted, was stratified in two stage-random sampling. The districts within Kabul city were the strata. The first stage units were the blocks, selected with probability proportional to number of households which were selected with simple - random sampling scheme.

The survey is to be carried out in six rounds, out of which three rounds are already over. The data processing of the survey will be manual as well as computerized. The detailed data processing will be carried out on computer. The tabulation programme of the survey has already been formulated and the final report of the results of the survey is likely to be ready in 1988. This survey will be extended to other cities and even to the rural areas of the country gradually. The sub-sample of this survey will periodically be continued in order to provide updated statistical information in this regard.

- At present, the growth rate of industrialization in DRA, as in some other developing countries, is at a low level. A good proportion of population is engaged in small-scale and handicrafts industry. It has also got good contribution in the GDP of the country. There is wide scope for broadening this branch of economy to provide more and diverse commodities for local use and for export as well. With this aim in view, CSO is presently in the process of carrying out Handicrafts and Small-scale Industries Sample Survey in Kabul city. The sampling design adopted

is stratified simple-stage sample random sampling. Prelisting of the aforesaid units has already been prepared and 10% of such units have been selected on the basis of proportional allocation. After completion of the preliminaries, the survey was conducted in Kabul city a month ago. The data processing of the survey will be done on computer.

This survey will be extended to other cities and rural areas of the country in future.

— Since agriculture and livestock production is the main stay of Afghan economy, therefore, urgent need is felt for improvement of the system of agricultural statistics.

As carrying out of agricultural census is a gigantic and expensive task and presently administrative records in this branch of economy are not satisfactory, CSO is preparing an agricultural sample survey in order to provide more reliable agricultural statistics. Some of the preliminaries for this sample survey have already been completed. The questionnaires and the methodology for the Survey will be quite useful as a pilot survey for a complete census of agriculture whenever it is carried out. The questionnaire of the survey will include all necessary data pertaining to individual fields as well as individual households. The tabulation plan of the survey has also been prepared and the data will be processed on computer. This survey is going to be conducted gradually in various zones and provinces of the country.

Relation with data users:

For better utilization of statistics collected and compiled, CSO

endeavours to maintain a good relation with users and tries its best to provide them complete, accurate and timely statistics. State Planning Committee (SPC) and other authoritative organizations of the DRA which are at present the main data users in the country for monitoring and assessment of plan implementation in addition to getting general statistics from CSO relating to various socio-economic areas, regularly obtain information on progress of developmental projects and planned indicators from the concerned organizations through this office. Generally, information from CSO to the users is communicated through the following channels:

- Pamphlets, circulars and folders.
- Quarterly statistical bulletin.
- Statistical pocket book.
- Statistical year book
- Statistical Tabulations and Reports
- Mass media (Radio, TV, Newspapers and Magazines).
- Seminars and Conferences.
- Based on request of national and international users.

Furthermore, a separate section for dissemination of population information under the title of Afghan Population Documentation and Information Centre (APDIC) is functioning in the framework of CSO.

Attempt is made to foster and maintain communication of statistical information among other countries to improve data quality and comparability of results in the context of government information system. It is also attempted to foster communication among

government Ministries and Departments, primarily to maintain consistency in approaches and procedures.

Computer Services:

The Computer Centre of CSO, which became a self supporting enterprise in the last two years, is the only main computer centre in the country. This centre is engaged actively in processing of statistical data and commercial and accounting statistics of other government organizations. According to the statistical law of Afghanistan and the regulation of Computer Services Enterprise(CSE), this enterprise is charged with the responsibility for the coordination of computer activities and computerisation projects in the country. The CSE of CSO has a large computer system ROBOTRON EC 1055, compatible with IBM/S/370 with 1 mb memory, 800 mb of disk magnetic storage, 1600 bpi magnetic tapes and I/O device for diskettes cards, paper tapes, local and remote display stations and 15000 LPM printer. It has also got computer system IBM 360 model E-30 with 32 KB memory, which due to obsolescence and scarcity of spare parts could not be maintained any longer. There are also two computer systems IBM S/34, with card diskettes, tape diskette converters functioning in the centre. There are twenty EC A5130 micro computers used as intelligent terminals for the EC 1055 system. This centre has a rather large number of key to diskette data entry stations.

The data of censuses and surveys conducted by CSO are processed on the computer. The computer data processing of the census of Kabul city has recently been completed. At present, data processing of the income and expenditure survey as well as Craftsmen Survey is going on. Moreover,

some other current statistics such as foreign trade statistics on monthly basis and plan projects and indicators statistics on quarterly basis are computerized. Industrial, manpower and price indices and some other specialized statistical data are also planned to be computerized in near future.

The remaining computer time of this enterprise is allocated to commercial and accounting applications such as civil aviation accounts, electricity bills, banking accounts, pension allowance, government employees coupon accounts and other applications.

The computer centre of CSO has been actively involved in Regional Information Processing activities of UNESCO. This centre has been chosen as the national focal point of project RINSCA (Regional Informatios Network for South and Central Asia). The delegates of the Centre so far have participated in the regional focal point coordinators' meeting and other various workshops and seminars conducted by UNESCO/RINSCA.

An important contribution of the computer centre of CSO to the above project is the promotion and hosting of regional workshop entitled 'Software Aspects of Computer Application in Engineering', scheduled to be held in Kabul on November 24-28, 1987, with the participation of delegates from Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and India.

However, the available computer systems in the computer centre of CSO are not being fully utilised due to acute shortage of systems analysis staff as well as hardware staff. There is also the problem of

access to the spare parts for the systems. Therefore, whenever any system breaks down , the processing activities are disturbed. Another great problem is the lack of software, dedicated to the type of work done in the centre. CSO has a plan to make the computer centre as a data-base organization. A top priority scheme has been prepared in this direction. Once it is converted to a data-base organization, it will facilitate the relevant storage and retrieval of information.

Statistical Training:

To develop the technical capability skill and awareness of statistical staff of the country, CSO has conducted several on-the-job training courses and seminars since the last meeting of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics. Similarly, several courses and seminars have been carried out in various areas of computer. Simultaneously, some staff members of statistics and computer services were sent abroad for training and higher education. Also, protocols on the basis of mutual cooperation have been signed between CSO and Kabul University for training of staff in the various fields of statistics and computer science in accordance with the needs of CSO.

Programmes and Proposal:

The Government of DRA accords due priorities to the statistical activities of the country. However, there is acute shortage of necessary funds and trained and qualified staff in various fields of statistics and computer science. With the start of present 5-year socio-economic plan, the CSO has been entrusted with a huge task. It has a huge responsibility

on data sources. It is felt that once the CSO is provided with adequate funds and technical staff, it would be able to meet its obligations in a most rapid way.

The CSO has prepared and submitted to UN agencies certain project proposals for financial and technical assistance in various fields such as national accounts, early warning and crop forecasting system, strengthening of agriculture and livestock statistics capability, socio-economic household surveys, computer software and hardware and training programmes. Recently, a few missions had been assigned by the UN relevant organizations and they came to Afghanistan for formulation of some of these projects. We hope that these projects will be approved soon by concerned authorities. Of course, the acceptance of these proposals will be of great benefit to CSO to the Government of Afghanistan in order to improve some statistical areas in developing the statistical system of the country. The training of Afghan Computer and statistical staff should be given priority, to be included in various training programmes arranged for this region. Some of the UN organizations such as UNFPA, UNICEF, UNESCO, ESCAP and UNDP provided some assistance in the past and we are thankful to them. However, the assistance provided is quite meagre and we look forward to them for more technical and financial assistance to the development of the statistical system of Afghanistan.

Since developing countries benefit from the regional statistical activities, the multi-lateral and bilateral donor agencies are requested to continue their assistance in strengthening the statistical services in this region.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Committee on Statistics

Seventh Session
24 ~ 30 November 1987
Bangkok, Thailand

# COUNTRY REPORT ON STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES

# IN AUSTRALIA

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Committee on Statistics

Seventh session
24-30 November 1987
Bangkok

REVIEW OF STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION: NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

(Item 4(b) of the provisional agenda)

# Australian statement

CONTENTS


1. Summary

2. ABS Corporate Plan
   (a) Introduction
   (b) Structure of the corporate plan
   (c) Situation analysis
   (d) Mission statement
   (e) Corporate ethos
   (f) Objectives

3. Dissemination of statistics
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   (b) Publications
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6. Demographic, labour and social statistics
   (a) Population census
   (b) Demography
   (c) Labour
   (d) Social

## 1. SUMMARY

1. As in earlier years, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) devoted the greater part of its energies in 1985-86 and 1986-87 to maintaining, in volume and quality, its regular and ongoing statistical service to Australian governments and to the wider community. About 1 650 publications, which is the traditional medium for release of official statistics, were produced and distributed to approximately 45 000 clients each year.

2. However, substantial cuts (amounting to $8 million) were made in the Federal Budget for 1986-87 to the work program proposed by the ABS. In order to continue with the major elements of the work program, especially the periodic retail census which was to be collected in that financial year, significant changes were made to the ABS work program. These included:

- Cancellation of the 1986 Population Census preliminary processing.
- Cancellation of the 1985-86 Manufacturing Census.
- Cancellation of the Commonwealth and State Year Books for 1987.
- Deferment of an energy survey planned for 1986-87.
- Scaling down of foreign ownership and control studies.
- Reductions to sample sizes, data requirements etc of some surveys and general reductions in ABS service divisions.

While these changes affected some elements of the ABS work program in 1986-87 a number of activities and significant achievements worthy of mention occurred during the two years.

3. The most significant project undertaken during the period was the successful conduct on Monday 30 June 1986 of the eleventh national census of population and housing. For the first time the external territories of Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands were included in the census. Approximately 38 000 field staff were recruited and trained to deliver and collect the census forms. Initial processing of the six million completed census forms was undertaken during 1986-87 at a data transcription centre established in Sydney; further processing will be undertaken in Canberra. In April 1987 the first 1986 Census results were published. Publication of progressively more detailed statistics will continue into 1988.

4. The 1986 Census was well received by the public. This was due in large part to careful topic evaluation, extensive form testing and the successful public awareness campaign conducted in the months leading up to census day.

5. A revised presentation of balance of payments statistics was introduced in February 1986 to bring Australian practice into line with the latest statistical standards and user requirements.

6. The tenth review and reweighting of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was completed during 1986. The new, eleventh, series was introduced in April 1987 with release of the CPI for the March quarter 1987. A major change adopted for the eleventh series was in the treatment of home ownership costs. For the new series it was decided that prices of houses should no longer be represented directly in the CPI, but housing mortgage interest charges are now included. It was also decided that consumer credit charges should be included for the new series.

7. Publications of statistics about the structure and operation of Australian transport businesses from the first transport industry survey, which collected data in respect of 1983-84, were released in 1985-86.

8. A construction industry survey, collecting data in respect of 1984-85, was conducted in 1985-86. Data were obtained from a sample of private sector businesses and all public sector organisations engaged in construction activity. For the first time, name and address information supplied by the Australian Taxation Office was used to improve the coverage of businesses included in the collection.

9. A retail census was conducted in 1986-87 in respect of the 1985-86 financial year. The approach adopted to reduce substantially the cost and respondent burden was to require only a sample of retailers to provide more detailed information, with the remaining retailers being asked to provide basic information only. The census results will be released progressively during 1987-88.

10. Finalisation of questionnaires and operating procedures for the first ABS economic survey of the services industries occurred during 1986-87. The survey, to be conducted for reference year 1986-87, will obtain details about major tourism and personal services industries and represents a significant extension of the ABS's program of integrated economic censuses and surveys. It is proposed to conduct a second survey, concentrating on the business and technical services industries, for reference year 1987-88.

11. Also, the ABS has commenced a review of its economic statistics collection strategy. Aspects which will be covered include an examination of the appropriateness and relevance of current statistical output, the likely impact of technological change on the collection and processing of economic statistics, the possible increased use of administrative data, and the potential for reducing respondent load in economic statistics collections.

12. During 1985-86 the newly developed *Australian Standard Classification of Occupations* was used for the first time. It was introduced in the labour force survey and the survey of employee earnings and hours, and was used in the population census. As a result, significant improvements are expected in the statistics relating to the occupation of the workforce.

13. Work continued during 1985-86 on the development of a full survey of labour costs through pilot testing aimed at determining the feasibility of collecting a wide range of data using alternative collection methodologies. During 1986-87 the ABS successfully conducted a survey of major labour costs incurred by private sector employers in 1985-86. Information was collected about the cost to employers of employees' earnings, payroll tax, workers' compensation and superannuation. The collection of additional labour costs information is planned, so that estimates of costs per hour worked and per hour paid for can be constructed. Public sector employers will be included in future ABS labour costs surveys.

14. A household energy survey was conducted during 1985-86. It provided information on ownership of domestic appliances, levels of household consumption of reticulated gas and electricity, and usage patterns for major domestic appliances. In addition, first results from the 1984 Household Expenditure Survey were released. Further, a survey of income, alternative working arrangements and accommodation costs was conducted in 1986-87.

15. In March 1987 the Bureau published the results of a detailed research project which investigated the effects of government benefits and taxes on the income of Australian households. The results relate to the distribution of household income in 1984 and are based primarily on information collected in the ABS's 1984 Household Expenditure Survey.

16. To complement those statistical series available in seasonally adjusted form, in 1986-87 the ABS introduced trend estimates for certain main indicator statistical series. These trend series are produced by removing the regular seasonal and trading-day effects, and by damping the effects of remaining irregular influences to provide a more reliable measure of longer term trends. This innovation has been received very enthusiastically by users.

17. During 1985-86 some important developments occurred in disseminating statistics using electronic media, in keeping with ABS plans to extend the use of the latest electronic methodology for the dissemination of statistics. In April 1986 the Bureau began to provide, on a trial basis, main economic indicator statistics through VIATEL, the national videotex service. This was followed in June by the introduction of AUSSTATS, an on-line service using CSIRONET, CSIRO's public access computer network. In 1986-87, the ABS introduced its TELESTATS service for the supply of overseas trade statistics to regular users; TELESTATS uses Telecom's Telememo facility to transmit the information. All these innovations have proved highly successful.

18. A major project aimed at improving the performance of ABS statistical forms is currently underway, following a review by the Communication Research Institute of Australia. This involves the development of standards and guidelines, the use of modern technology for forms development, and the evaluation of forms performance to assess their impact on respondents and the quality of data that is supplied.

19. The ABS has developed its first corporate plan which is being implemented in 1987-88. In formulating the plan, ABS management has recognised that the future of the Bureau, like that of any other government agency, will be affected to some extent by the external environment within which all government agencies operate. But it is also appreciated that, to a much larger extent, the future of an organisation such as the ABS depends upon its capacity and willingness to define its mission, set out its objectives and create the conditions in which those objectives can be achieved.

20. As in earlier years, and in accordance with ESCAP Resolution 246(XLII), paragraph 3, Australia has continued to meet requests for training assistance by international organisations and countries in the ESCAP region.

## 2. ABS CORPORATE PLAN

### (a) Introduction

21. The ABS has embarked on a process of strategic management, and the first corporate plan has been produced. It was developed after considerable senior management discussion and debate, and after the views of the Australian Statistics Advisory Council, whose members represent a wide range of interests, were obtained.

22. The ABS has embarked upon strategic management because ABS management wants to influence what the ABS does and how it operates in the future. Specifically, the Bureau's first corporate plan:

- Gives the ABS a way to identify and cope with change.
- Gives the ABS a chance to shape its own future.
- Provides a framework for the operational plans in the ABS forward work program.
- Gives the ABS something to check progress against.
- Gives the ABS a vehicle for changing its directions deliberately in future if needed.
- Helps to give everybody in the ABS a better understanding of the organisation's role, and their role within it.

### (b) Structure of the corporate plan

23. The model which has been used for the ABS Corporate Plan includes:

- An Introduction and Situation Analysis.
- A Mission Statement, which tries to encapsulate in a few words the purpose of the ABS as an organisation.
- A statement of ABS Corporate Ethos, which lists the issues which are believed to be fundamental to the ABS carrying out its mission.
- A statement of objectives and strategies, which identifies the main things the ABS is going to address (objectives) and the main directions for change which the ABS intends to pursue (strategies).

## (c) Situation analysis

24. As a first step in the process of change, senior ABS management has on a number of occasions discussed what it sees as the key issues confronting the ABS as it seeks to develop a responsive statistical service. These issues, which have also been considered at several meetings of the Advisory Council, are as follows:

. What is the role of the ABS in providing statistical services to:

  - the Commonwealth and State Governments and their agencies,
  - the private sector,
  - community organisations,
  - research bodies, and
  - individual citizens who wish to inform themselves about the Australian economy and the Australian society?

. How far should the ABS extend its activities into analysis of the data it collects?

. What can be done to ensure the widest possible dissemination of ABS information? Are the existing mechanisms adequate?

. How can the ABS take maximum advantage of advancing technology in collecting, compiling, analysing and disseminating statistics?

. What is the role of the ABS in fostering statistical standards, including standard classifications?

25. It has been concluded that the ABS program of collections must be sensitive to the real needs of decision makers both in the public and private sectors, and capable of speedy modification to respond to new needs as they emerge; it is believed that delivery of the required information must be efficient and effective; and it is considered that the ABS can best achieve the goal of producing accurate, timely and impartial statistical information when the ABS analyses that information and publishes the results of that analysis. This does not, of course, relieve the ABS of the obligation to assist those (both within government and outside) who wish to undertake independent analysis of ABS data.

26. The ABS wants to be, and be seen to be, a high quality, professional organisation in the statistical world - both within Australia and internationally. This means that the Bureau needs to be at the forefront of statistical research activity, methodological development and technological developments in areas of particular relevance to national statistical agencies.

27. These are ambitious objectives, which it is realised will only be achieved under the right conditions. These are:

. A strategic management approach.

. A commitment to the participation of staff in the processes of defining the role of the ABS and in considering how that role should be carried out.

. Effective administrative processes.

. Responsiveness to governmental initiatives for the improved efficiency of the Public Service.

. A recognition that, in the final analysis, the success of the ABS in achieving its objectives will depend on establishing the conditions in which the skills, energies and enthusiasm of the staff of the organisation at all levels are used to maximum advantage.

## (d) Mission statement

28. The mission of the ABS is to assist and encourage informed decision-making, research and discussion within governments and the community by providing a high-quality, user-oriented and dynamic statistical service; this includes actively co-ordinating statistical activities across government agencies and promoting the use of statistical standards.

## (e) Corporate ethos

29. In fulfilling its mission the ABS adheres to the following fundamental corporate beliefs:

. People are recognised as the key to superior performance and achievement. Accordingly, the ABS seeks to foster their professional, personal and social well-being.

. The ABS recognises that the provision of an effective and cost-efficient statistical service to the government and the community involves a continuing awareness of the needs of users for statistical information in a changing economic and social environment; the ABS seeks to maintain a reasonable balance in its output and to respond appropriately to such changes.

. The ABS gives due consideration to the burden placed on respondents and maintains their trust by ensuring in its release of information that the legislative requirements for confidentiality are met.

. The ABS remains objective and independent in the presentation of statistics and will maintain high standards of quality in the information provided.

- The ABS makes available to all of its users the full range of statistical information resulting from its activities.

- The ABS strives to achieve a high level of effectiveness and efficiency in fulfilling its mission.

- The ABS strives to attain recognition as a high quality, professional organisation by participation in national and international forums and by provision of professional advice and consultancy.

## (f) Objectives

30. ABS objectives are to:

- Ensure that the statistical service is balanced, timely and relevant to the current and evolving needs of its users.

- Produce a high quality product.

- Extend and improve its statistical service to users.

- Co-ordinate the statistical activities of Federal agencies and, within the terms of legislative agreements with State governments and in conjunction with State government co-ordinating bodies, fulfil a similar role for State agencies.

- Develop, maintain, implement and promote the use of standard classifications, frameworks and definitions to help ensure the compatibility and comparability of data derived from different statistical systems.

- Ensure an appropriate balance between the benefits resulting from collecting information and the costs incurred both by respondents (government agencies, businesses and households) and by the ABS.

- Promote its services to those involved in investigating, advising, deciding upon and implementing economic and social policies, through the maintenance of active and on-going personal contact between its senior executive staff and Ministers, senior government officials, academics and other community leaders.

- Foster the development of its staff to meet their needs and those of the organisation, with the main aims of increasing job satisfaction, improving productivity and enhancing career paths.

- Continue to look for more cost-effective ways of undertaking its activities and for improvements in its productivity.

31. The objectives of the corporate plan will be achieved through action based on a range of detailed strategies.

32. The corporate plan was distributed to all ABS staff in August 1987, and presentations, including a special video introduction, were made by senior managers to all staff. These presentations and ensuing discussions are an essential part of the process of involving all staff as fully as possible in the strategic management process. Comments and suggestions from staff will be given careful consideration in the updating and improvement of the first plan during the first part of 1988.

## 3. DISSEMINATION OF STATISTICS

### (a) Broad strategy

33. Given the vast amount of information available, the number of users of statistics, and the diversity of their requirements, the ABS exploits all major avenues for the dissemination of statistics and releases data in many forms including publications, microfiche, computer-readable media and, more recently, on-line electronic access, although publications are the traditional medium for release of official statistics. In addition, the ABS's inquiry services are heavily used, and information intermediaries in various fields are also important in the overall dissemination activity.

34. As the national statistical organisation the ABS has a broad role, and every effort is made to meet the information requirements not only of Commonwealth, State and Territory governments but also of the community at large. In releasing statistics, the ABS follows the long established principle that data should be made available as soon as practicable and should be equally accessible to all users.

35. In most fields, more detailed statistics than those included in publications are available by approaching the ABS through its Central Information Service or other contacts as shown in the publication concerned.

36. Taking advantage of technological developments in the telecommunications field the ABS has begun to use electronic means of data dissemination, as described later. This has enabled statistics to be made available more widely and more quickly and has also provided data in forms which facilitate analysis by users on their own computers.

37. However, even with an array of measures such as these the ABS cannot in practice meet the needs of all users of statistics directly. Various information intermediaries therefore play an important role in disseminating statistics. These include all branches of the media, libraries (general and specialised), commercial information networks, and business, academic and other research services. Recognising this fact, the ABS has taken positive steps to facilitate the provision of services by such organisations.

38. Particular statistical dissemination activities are discussed in further detail below.

## (b) Publications

39. Generally speaking, release of statistics is accomplished by the process of including the main results in a publication (often a preliminary or summary publication for maximum timeliness). Further detail may or may not be published in hard-copy form, depending on the extent of public interest in such data and alternative means of making the statistics available to specialist clients.

40. Once preliminary statistics have been published, more detailed data may be available to individual users on request, either immediately or when further processing of results has occurred.

41. Each year about 530 titles (monthly, quarterly, annual and irregular) are released involving some 1 650 separate issues. About half the titles emanate from Central Office, the remainder being fairly evenly spread among State Offices. Publications range in size from a few pages containing monthly or quarterly key indicator series, to major volumes such as the Australia and State Year Books. All publications are listed and described in the annual ABS *Catalogue of Publications*.

42. Approximately 46 000 clients are on the ABS's mailing lists to receive publications on a regular basis. Of these, 60 per cent are in the business sector, 18 per cent in Commonwealth, State and local government, and 7 per cent in educational institutions, leaving 15 per cent in other categories.

43. While the majority of statistical publications present the results of ongoing collections and are issued regularly, there is also a steady stream of other titles reflecting changes in statistical activity. An example of the latter is the series of publications containing the results of surveys of special topics conducted as part of the ABS's regular program of household surveys.

44. Continuous efforts are made to improve the value of publications to users, particularly in terms of presentation of results. These include the incorporation of more informative summaries of main features and greater use of graphs and charts. Statistical series are seasonally adjusted where appropriate and a recent innovation in some publications has been the provision of smoothed seasonally adjusted series in order to convey a clearer picture of underlying trends.

45. Proceeds from sales of Bureau publications yield about $650 000 each year. However, a number of initiatives have recently been taken in regard to the ABS's pricing policy. The policy changes have two basic objectives:

. Through application of the user pays principle, to induce users to carefully consider their demands on the ABS.

. To generate revenue to meet the government's budgetary requirements.

46. The main policy changes, to operate from 1 January 1988, are summarised below:

. All publications (with the exception of a few selected directories, promotional material, etc.) will be priced. (Currently, publications of 25 pages or below, representing about 80 per cent of the ABS's print run, are free.)

. Prices will be lifted towards market-based levels, representing an approximate three-fold increase in the prices of currently priced publications. The minimum price will be $2 for a publication containing 1-4 pages.

. The prices of all other statistical products will rise substantially to reflect more economic levels. For example, it is expected that the minimum price of magnetic tapes will be $300 and floppy disks $50.

. Charging for statistical services is being reviewed, and the minimum time limit beyond which charges will be levied for the use of ABS staff resources will be reduced from 2 hours to 15 minutes.

. The categories of clients with a free entitlement will be progressively reduced; in the first instance, Federal Government agencies (including Australian diplomatic missions) and foreign government authorities and diplomatic and trade missions will no longer have a free entitlement.

47. The ABS is continuing to recognise its "public good" commitment and will thus allow free distribution of standard products to libraries, the news media and parliamentarians. It is also planned to produce a small "daily" containing the main features from that day's publication releases; this will be free of charge.

48. The new pricing policy is expected to not only substantially rationalise the demands placed on the ABS, but also result in a progressive rationalisation of our output in response to users' needs. In particular, the form of presentation, level of detail in the tables and text, and extent of main features and analysis of results will change over time.

## (c) Inquiry services

49. Each publication dealing with a particular subject matter provides the name and telephone number of an officer, from the area responsible for the statistics, who is able to discuss the statistics and provide further information. This avenue for inquiries is used extensively and helps to maintain contact between users of the statistics and ABS staff responsible for their production.

50. In addition, the ABS gives wide publicity in publications and elsewhere to its Central Information Service, which operates in each of its offices. This service provides a contact point for general inquiries about the availability of statistics or dissemination services and can satisfy many requests for information without reference to specialist areas of the ABS.

51. During 1985-86 the service handled about 280 000 inquiries Australia-wide, and in 1986-87, 312 000 inquiries. Of these about 70 per cent were received by telephone, 26 per cent by personal visit and the rest by mail. Of the total inquiries 75 per cent were of a simple nature, requiring for example the provision of a publication or a few readily available figures. The other 25 per cent involved a more detailed response such as arranging for a special extraction of data, co-ordinating a response crossing a range of statistical fields, or arranging a subscription to ABS publications or other customised data services.

52. The subject fields covered by inquiries in 1985-86 were broadly as follows:

| | per cent |
|---|---|
| Price indexes | 24 |
| Population census and other demography | 19 |
| Foreign trade | 9 |
| Labour market | 8 |
| Manufacturing and agriculture | 5 |
| Other | 35 |

53. Based on a recent analysis, clients of the Central Information Service fall into the following categories:

| | per cent |
|---|---|
| Business | 47 |
| Federal, State and local government | 16 |
| Tertiary education | 17 |
| Other education (including students) | 6 |
| Other | 14 |

54. The number of inquiries received by the service has been increasing steadily each year and can be expected to increase substantially when the statistics from the 1986 Census of Population and Housing become available.

## (d) Information on microfiche

55. For many years extensive use has been made of microfiche to store data for reference purposes and to disseminate detailed statistics which cannot be provided economically in publication form. Microfiche is also a means of providing a hard-copy version of much of the data made available on magnetic tape. Over a 12-month period about 265 000 copies of microfiche are dispatched on a regular basis to about 2 000 clients on the Bureau's mailing lists.

56. Microfiche has also been used to record and store historical statistical publications from as far back as early colonial days. Copies of these microfiche are made available to libraries and researchers.

57. Current publications are copied onto microfiche as a matter of routine and some are offered for sale in this form.

## (e) 'Dial-a-statistic'

58. A telephone recorded message service is provided from the larger ABS Offices. In the Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide Offices the message covers a small number of the most frequently sought series, including the Consumer Price Index (CPI). In Canberra the message features the CPI and also provides information about forthcoming data releases. Australia-wide, the service received 28 000 calls in 1985-86 and 33 000 calls in 1986-87.

## (f) Electronic media

59. With advances in telecommunications networks and increasing community access to both large and small computers, there has been increasing pressure to provide access to statistics in forms which make the data amenable to access, storage, and manipulation by computer. Growing numbers of users require immediate access to newly released statistics and the freedom to transfer and manipulate data from large databases on demand. Some present and likely future developments in the use of electronic media are reviewed briefly below.

*VIATEL*

60. On 15 April 1986 the ABS began to provide information on VIATEL, the national videotex service. The ABS service has the following components:

. Current economic, social and population statistics (140 frames) updated at the time the corresponding publications are released.

. Indexes to enable users to readily locate information (90 frames).

. Service information (addresses, telephone numbers etc for each of the eight ABS Offices - 20 frames).

. Release dates of forthcoming publications (15 frames).

. A messaging service which allows subscribers to make inquiries electronically; also to provide comments and to suggest additional information for inclusion in the service.

61. Use of the service has exceeded expectations, with the number of accesses to individual frames of information, including index frames, averaging over 6 500 per week. As well as meeting the particular needs of users requiring instant access to main statistics immediately upon release, dissemination by this means has effectively complemented the existing range of ABS services. Plans are currently being developed to extend the service through the provision of sub-databases containing sets of material relating to each of the States and Territories.

*AUSSTATS on-line data service*

62. In June 1986 the ABS introduced its AUSSTATS on-line data service using CSIRONET (the CSIRO's public access computer network), and this service continues to attract a growing number of customers. The service comprises a time series database and supporting software, the latter being identical to that used in the ABS for storing, retrieving, manipulating and presenting time series data. The service has the following features:

. The database is updated daily at the time statistics are released. Series cover the full time span of available data (up to 30 years in some cases).

. Users may access the database through a permanent link to CSIRONET, by a dial-up connection using the telephone network, or via networks linked to CSIRONET (the last-mentioned may include networks operated in Australia by information intermediaries as well as international networks).

. Users may transfer data to their own computer systems.

Charges depend on use of the facility and are intended to cover CSIRONET charges and ABS costs related directly to the maintenance of the service.

63. The database for the service presently comprises over 4 000 series, most of which are drawn from publications, although they cover a longer time span than the published data. However, AUSSTATS has the potential to provide ready access to a far wider range of data than it is practicable to provide in hard-copy form and work has commenced on the task of progressively expanding the database content to 40 000 general interest series over the next twelve months. In addition, series which are of interest to specific customers can be provided for their exclusive use over an agreed period. This latter service is provided on a full cost recovery basis. The possibility of other government departments utilising AUSSTATS for the dissemination of their own data is being considered.

*TELESTATS electronic mail service*

64. The ABS launched its TELESTATS service in September 1986. This service uses Telecom's Telememo electronic mail system to automatically deliver previously requested, tailored information to subscribers' electronic mail boxes. Currently, the information provided is drawn from the ABS's database of monthly foreign trade statistics. Subscribers may request, for example, monthly returns showing trade in a customer-specified range of commodities.

65. The TELESTATS service will be progressively extended to provide a more broadly-based statistical dissemination medium covering a wide range of subject fields. Ultimately, it is planned that all material (ie both text and tables) published in hard-copy form will also be made available electronically through TELESTATS. The service has already proved to be a valuable supplement to the VIATEL and AUSSTATS services.

*Magnetic tape services*

66. A growing volume of data has been made available on magnetic tape in recent years. Currently the ABS has 20 standard tape releases, not including data made available on tape on an ad hoc basis. About 320 clients subscribe to these services and each year receive about 1 300 copies of standard tape releases.

67. Recent additions to these services include unidentifiable sample unit-record data from several household surveys. Each tape is accompanied by documentation containing the technical and other information needed to enable it to be used effectively.

*Data for use on personal computers*

68. As already indicated, the facility to transfer data to personal computers has been incorporated in the AUSSTATS service. The ABS has also developed systems for providing certain data on floppy disk in formats which can be read by the majority of personal computer systems. Initial floppy disk services were made available to the public during 1986-87. The ABS is also considering making 1986 Population Census data available on CD-ROM (Compact Disk - Read Only Memory).

## (g) Conclusion

69. In summary, while traditional methods of disseminating information will remain important, increasing use will be made of electronic means of providing access to statistics. The latter has the potential to greatly expand the amount of detailed information which can be made readily available, and the ways in which it can be used. Thus the needs of the community can be better served and the intrinsic value of the national statistical service enhanced.

## 4. TRAINING ASSISTANCE

### (a) Current Policy

70. With overseas training/consultation advice, the ABS's pragmatic policy is that, following a request, assistance will be provided as long as it is short term, ie 6 to 8 weeks maximum, and the travel and per diem allowances are met by the country receiving the assistance or another source, such as UNDP, SPC etc. Salary costs will be met by the ABS. Of course assistance can only be provided if an appropriate person is available.

71. With training in Australia, mainly on-the-job experience has been provided although some overseas visitors have attended training courses such as the National Statistical Systems course. In general we have a passive policy, ie, to wait for requests from countries for this assistance.

### (b) Performance

72. During 1985-86 and 1986-87 the ABS provided considerable assistance to countries within the Asia/Pacific region. It is summarised as follows:

- Conducting or preparing training courses held in various countries and organised by agencies such as SPC, ESCAP, SIAP or other UN agencies - 5 occasions.

- Consultancy assignments in various countries - 5 occasions.

- In-house training for overseas statisticians - 5 occasions.

73. Most of the assistance has been provided to countries within the Pacific region, but on three occasions to Papua New Guinea and once to a country in Asia.

## 5. ECONOMIC STATISTICS

### (a) National accounts

74. Two new annual publications have been introduced, covering estimates of capital stock and State accounts, which extend the range of national accounting data available in two areas of particular interest to users.

75. Three significant conceptual changes were incorporated in national income and expenditure publications. The first was the introduction of current cost estimates of depreciation. The second was the reclassification of transactions involving finance leases to accord with the Australian Accounting Standard 17 "Accounting for leases" whereby the ownership of assets acquired under finance leases is attributed to the lessee. The third change was the reclassification of repair and maintenance expenditure on roads from "capital expenditure" to "government final consumption expenditure".

76. In addition, more comprehensive estimates of expenditure on alterations and additions to dwellings have been developed, and significant adjustments have been made to the income aggregates for gross operating surplus of companies and unincorporated enterprises to make adequate allowance for understatement of income as reported for tax purposes.

### (b) International accounts

77. Major changes to the classification and presentation of balance of payments and foreign investment statistics have been implemented over the last eighteen months or so to make the statistics more useful in the current economic environment in Australia. Various other improvements in the quality and detail of the statistics continue to be progressively introduced.

78. There have also been significant changes in the coverage, definitions and estimation methodology for foreign investment statistics following a comprehensive review a few years ago and the introduction of several new collections. Data are now published on Australia's external debt and foreign investment position and various improvements have been made to the measurement of income and capital flows.

79. The scope, content and timing of balance of payments and foreign investment publications have been systematically reviewed in the light of these developments and changing user requirements. Various initiatives have been taken over the last twelve months or so to enhance the usefulness of existing publications, including the release of constant price data, together with associated implicit price deflators and terms of trade data, and two new balance of payments microfiche publications have been released to meet user needs for detailed

and historical series. In addition, monthly and quarterly balance of payments data are now disseminated electronically on VIATEL and AUSSTATS. Similarly, foreign debt statistics are made available each quarter on VIATEL as well as in printed publications.

80. Based on a survey of shareholdings at 30 June 1985, a range of studies on foreign ownership and control of selected industries and activities have been completed. Results have been published for the mining, banking and private sector construction industries, as well as for imports, research and experimental development and mineral and petroleum exploration.

(c) Trade

81. Work continued towards the adoption of the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System for the collection and presentation of detailed import and export statistics from 1 January 1988.

82. An electronic mail service, TELESTATS, using a system on the public telephone network for delivery of foreign trade statistics with content and format tailored to users' requirements, has been introduced.

(d) Prices

83. Work has been completed on reviewing the composition and weighting of the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The review used information from the 1984 Household Expenditure Survey in determining new weights for the CPI.

84. The new series of the CPI, the 11th series, was introduced with the release of the CPI for March quarter 1987. It incorporates two important changes:

- The expenditure class "House purchase, including alterations" in the Home ownership sub-group of the Index has been replaced by a new expenditure class "Mortgage interest charges".

- A new expenditure class for consumer credit charges has been introduced in the Household equipment and operation group of the Index.

85. The practical effect of these changes is that movements in average interest rates payable by consumers, both on housing mortgages and on consumer credit, are now taken into account in determining the CPI. There is no longer a separate expenditure class for house purchase (which in previous series of the CPI measured changes in prices of new houses). Changes in prices of houses and land will influence the price indicator for the

"Mortgage interest charges" expenditure class. This is because the mortgage interest rates will be applied to a base period debt figure, the real value of which will be maintained by revaluing it quarterly in line with changes in prices of new and established houses and of vacant land.

## (e) Financial institutions

86. A feasibility study was commenced in late 1986 into the compilation of quarterly flow of funds and sector balance sheet statistics to supplement national income and expenditure statistics. (An expert in these fields from Statistics Canada has been engaged to undertake the study.) The study has identified a need to modify and extend some collections of financial statistics, particularly banking statistics, and statistics of the financial assets and liabilities of the non-financial corporate sector.

## (f) Agriculture

87. The scope of the annual agricultural commodity census has been reduced so that about 25 per cent of the smaller farmers will no longer need to supply detailed data each year. However, this will not significantly affect the provision of comprehensive statistics of the agricultural sector.

88. As a result of this change in strategy, an agricultural finance survey has been reintroduced on an annual basis from 1986-87 onwards. (It was last conducted for 1980-81.)

## (g) Manufacturing

89. A review of the collection strategy for manufacturing censuses has been undertaken, principally in response to criticism of the considerable load placed on manufacturers by the requirement to complete census forms. This review has led to reductions in the extent of information sought from individual businesses and improvements to the collection forms used in the census.

90. Investigations have been conducted into the use of laser printing technology to produce "tailored" manufacturing census collection forms and the requirements for mail handling equipment and services within the ABS.

## (h) Distribution and services industries

91. A census of all retail establishments in Australia has been conducted for the reference year 1985-86; the previous census was conducted with respect to 1979-80. For the first time in a retail census only a sample of retailers was required to provide the more detailed statistics, while the remaining retailers were asked to report only a limited range of information. This reduced both the overall cost of conducting the census and the form-filling workload for most small retailers.

92. A survey of major tourism and personal services industries is being conducted in respect of 1986-87. A second survey, concentrating mainly on business and technical services industries, will be undertaken in respect of 1987-88.

## (i) Construction

93. A new quarterly engineering construction survey has been introduced to provide a measure of all private and public engineering construction being undertaken in Australia.

94. Results of the 1984-85 Construction Industry Survey were published, providing both structural and commodity statistics for the public and private sectors. A number of evaluation studies of this Survey have been undertaken.

## (j) Transport and tourism

95. The dissemination of statistics from the 1985 Survey of Motor Vehicle Use and associated motor vehicle census, in the form of publications, microfiche and special tabulations requested by users has been completed.

96. Statistics from the first transport industry survey conducted in respect of 1983-84 have been published. They include much-needed information about the structure and operations of Australian transport businesses. Also released were results from a survey of non-transport businesses (eg. retailers, wholesalers and manufacturers) engaged in transport activity during 1983-84.

97. Following requests by users, the scope of the quarterly survey of tourist accommodation has been extended to include long-term caravan parks, collection of hotel and motel guest arrivals data has been commenced and a "star" grading classification has been introduced for hotels and motels. An investigation has commenced into the feasibility of expanding the scope of tourist accommodation statistics to include holiday flats and units.

## (k) Business surveys

98. A quarterly publication on company profits has been introduced. Collection of data on the value of new assets acquired by businesses under finance lease arrangements has been commenced, and statistics are expected to be published in late 1987.

## (l) Science and technology

99. Results have been published from a comprehensive Research and Development Survey for 1984-85, and from a smaller scale R & D Survey for 1985-86. In addition, results have been published from a survey of computing needs in small businesses in South Australia.

## (m) Integration, classification and development

100. An information paper has been published on the conceptual and operational framework for the integration of economic statistics in Australia.

101. A reference manual entitled *Standards for Statistical Units in Australian Integrated Economic Statistics* has been published. The manual specifies the concepts, standard definitions and working rules for identifying and recording (on the ABS Register of Businesses) establishments, enterprises and other classes of transactor-type statistical units from, or about, which information is collected by the ABS in its program of economic data collections.

102. The 1983 edition of the *Australian Standard Industrial Classification* (ASIC) is being reviewed and updated with the objective of implementing a revised ASIC in 1989. Particular attention is being given to updating the classification in respect of technology-based manufacturing and of service industries.

103. The *Australian Standard Commodity Classification* is also being reviewed and updated. This classification enables comparable commodity statistics of imports, exports and domestic production to be compiled. Australia will adopt, from January 1988, the international Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System for describing goods involved in international trade. The international classification will provide the basis for the classification of domestic production of goods.

## 6. DEMOGRAPHIC, LABOUR AND SOCIAL STATISTICS

### (a) Population census

104. The eleventh national census of population and housing was conducted on 30 June 1986 after four years of planning and development. Approximately 38 000 temporary field staff were recruited and trained to deliver and collect census forms throughout the country. For the first time, the external territories of Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands were included in the census.

105. The census gained widespread public acceptance. From the outset there was extensive consultation with the public, culminating in a census awareness campaign launched in February 1986 to coincide with the commencement of recruiting for temporary field staff. The awareness campaign reached its peak in the week prior to 30 June 1986 thus providing maximum support for census field operations.

106. As in previous censuses, particular attention was given to the enumeration of Aboriginals and migrants. Special census field officers were appointed to inform Aboriginal communities and organisations about the census, and to establish suitable enumeration arrangements where required. For example, special census forms completed by interviewers (rather than by the respondents themselves) were used to enumerate the Aboriginal population in some remote areas.

107. Measures taken to assist persons with language difficulties included the use of bi-lingual census collectors, the preparation and distribution of explanatory brochures printed in different languages, and the provision of a telephone interpreter service. This service was available at the cost of a local call from anywhere in Australia.

108. Statistics produced from the census are being released progressively, commencing with results for the smaller States and Territories. First results from the census were released on 9 April 1987. Since then, other information in increasing detail and geographic coverage has become available.

109. As for previous censuses, output from the 1986 Census will be released for a wide range of geographic areas and be available in various forms: magnetic tape; microfiche; printed reports; and statistical and analytical publications. For the first time census statistics for specified areas will be provided on floppy disk for use on microcomputers, and the possibility of release of an extensive range of data on CD-ROM (ie data stored on compact disk in read-only format) is being explored. These new methods of releasing data will increase user access to census statistics - particularly access by local government authorities, whose use of microcomputing facilities is increasing rapidly.

110. A one per cent sample of unidentifiable unit records relating to persons, families and households is again to be made available for use by researchers. This will enable them to manipulate census data to meet their specific requirements.

111. The 1986 Census data are supported by an extensive array of information papers and maps; of particular note are the collection district outline maps and the comprehensive census dictionary which provides definitions of concepts and terminology used in the census.

112. Compared with the 1981 Census, more comprehensive 1986 statistics will be available on families, language, ethnic background and education. With the adoption of the *Australian Standard Classification of Occupations*, improvements will also be evident in statistics relating to the occupation of the workforce. Most census output will continue to be based on the actual location of the population on census night but, compared with the 1981 Census, there will be a greater range of statistics available on the basis of the place of usual residence of the population.

113. In February 1987 the eleventh Asian and Pacific Population Census Conference was jointly hosted in Sydney and Canberra by the ABS and the Conference's sponsor, the East-West Center, Hawaii. The Conference is an important forum for the exchange of information on the development of methods and technology employed in census operations and the eleventh session was attended by representatives from 19 countries and three international agencies.

114. During the year, investigations into alternative methods of collecting and processing census data were commenced with the aim of making future census operations more cost-effective. In particular, the results of tests conducted in 1987 will help to determine whether respondent-marked forms suitable for processing using optical mark recognition technology should be adopted for the next census.

## (b) Demography

*115. Australian Demographic Trends 1986*, which provides a comprehensive statistical overview of the demographic trends evident in shaping Australia's population growth, was published in 1986.

116. A survey on family formation was conducted in September 1986. This survey provided information on the pattern of family formation, including marriage history and birth expectations, which will be used in the compilation of population projections.

117. Methodologies have been developed for the annual estimation of both small area population estimates and marital status estimates by age and sex. The first of these estimates will be released in early 1988 and will be based on the results of the 1986 Census.

## (c) Labour

118. One of the Bureau's most important ongoing collections in the area of social and manpower statistics is the monthly population survey. Besides providing regular employment and unemployment data, in the period under review the additional topics covered in these surveys included: persons not in the labour force; discouraged job-seekers; migrants; weekly earnings of employees and non-wage benefits received; labour mobility; labour force experience; educational attainment; apprentices; attendance at educational institutions; transition from education to work; trade union membership; persons who had re-entered the labour force in the last twelve months; persons who had retired; and retirement intentions.

119. From March 1986, the ABS has published trend estimates of major labour force statistical series, in addition to seasonally adjusted and unadjusted estimates. In addition, seasonally adjusted and trend labour force estimates for Australian States were also released.

120. In conjunction with the former Department of Employment and Industrial Relations the occupation structure of the *Australian Standard Classification of Occupations* (ASCO) was completed. Labour force estimates, classified by occupation, have been based on ASCO since August 1986.

121. A recent achievement was the conduct of a survey of major labour costs to collect data from the private sector in respect of 1985-86 regarding the cost to employers of employee earnings, payroll tax, workers' compensation and superannuation. This survey represents considerable progress towards providing information on labour "on-costs", the lack of which has been identified as a major deficiency in labour market statistics. Investigations are proceeding with a view to collecting additional data so that estimates of costs per hour worked and costs per hour paid for can be calculated. It is planned to include public sector employers in future surveys.

122. *A Guide to Labour Statistics*, a companion volume to *Labour Statistics, Australia*, was released in 1986. It provides information on the concepts, sources and methods of collection of labour statistics, as well as details concerning the comparability of labour data available from various sources.

## (d) Social

123. A major analytical study was undertaken of the effects of government direct and indirect taxes and benefits on household income. The primary source of information was the 1984 Household Expenditure Survey.

124. Results were also released from a May 1984 survey of health insurance cover held by employed wage and salary earners in the eight Australian capital cities, and unidentified unit record data from a 1982 families survey were made available to users on magnetic tape. Data were also released from surveys of health, child care, telephone connections, health insurance, health risk factors, smoking, alcohol consumption, crime and crime prevention.

125. Significant development work was undertaken on two major national surveys while, at the same time, several other surveys at the national and State levels were in their field collection stage. Details are as follows:

- Continuation of development work for a national survey of disability and ageing, and a survey of housing, scheduled to be conducted in 1988.

- Development work for a national survey of child care (conducted in June 1987).

- Collection and preliminary processing of data from a national survey of income and its distribution (1986).

- Conduct of a survey on voluntary and unpaid work (NSW).

- Conduct of a pilot test for a time use survey (NSW).

- Conduct of a survey on domiciliary services (Victoria).

- Conduct of a survey on legal service usage (Queensland).

- Conduct of a survey on the use of alcohol, tobacco and analgesics (NT).

126. For several years the ABS has undertaken a wide range of social surveys, encompassing many social issues. Because of the wealth of statistical information now available a microcomputer-based directory of social statistics on floppy disk - DIRECT - has been developed. DIRECT became available in July 1987 and will enable users to identify the survey information available on specific topics, to define their needs in tabular form and to place an order for the tables they require. Future editions of the directory will include information on other social data sources as well as surveys.

127. Two new State publications were released as part of a program of social reports, and progress was made on two significant social reports at the national level. These are:

- Publication of a social report on women in Victoria.

- Publication of a social report on low income households in South Australia.

- Development of a national social report on crime and justice in Australia (as a joint Bicentennial project with the Australian Institute of Criminology).

- Development of a national social report on children.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Committee on Statistics

Seventh Session
24 ~ 30 November 1987
Bangkok, Thailand

# COUNTRY REPORT ON STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES

# IN BRUNEI

# REVIEW OF 1986/87 STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENT IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

## 1. Introduction

In Brunei Darussalam, the main statistical organization responsible for most of the Government statistical activities is the Statistics Section of the Economic Planning Unit, which is under the Ministry of Finance. This arrangement originated from the need for statistics to provide the backup for economic planning. Although statistics units exist in some other Government Departments, the Economic Planning Unit remains central and still assists some in the processing of their data as well as giving them technical assistance when requested. During the last two years this Statistical Section continued to engage in the compilation and processing of the following statistics at national level:-

a) Immigration Statistics,
b) Banking and Financial Statistics
c) Prices Statistics for monthly Consumer Price Index,
d) Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
e) Trade Statistics on Imports and Exports
f) Processing of Educational Statistics.
g) Processing of Health and Medical Statistics
h) Processing of the Labour returns
i) National Account Statistics
j) Population Survey and Population Estimate.
k) National Households Income and Expenditure Survey
l) Energy and Industrial Statistics.

In addition to the above mentioned statistical activities , new activities on statistical development have been initiated by the Economic Planning Unit. This brief Report centres, mainly on the aspect of national surveys and additional application of computer technology in the field of Statistics.

## 2. Population Survey.

In August 1986, the Statistical Section of the Economic Planning Unit carried out a nationwide population and demographic survey. The objective of the survey was to estimate the growth rate of the population, to assess the social and demographic changes in the country and to provide statistical estimations on various demographic and social data for planning purposes. The sampling size is sufficiently large to estimate selected population and demographic characteristics at National and at District level. The survey was successfully carried out, especially on the aspect of fertility and mortality. The services of the Regional Advisor on population and demography is highly appreciated in this respect and it is hoped that such services will continue to be available in future survey activities.

3. Household Income and Expenditure Survey.

National Household Income and Expenditure survey was started in April 1987. The Survey has been going on for the last eight months and is scheduled to end in March 1988. The main objective of the Survey is to derive new weighting for new series of consumer price index and collection of household sector data for the purpose of compiling the national accounts. The Statistical Section of the Economic Planning Unit requested the ESCAP for an Advisor to advise in the planning and execution of the survey. His first visit to Brunei Darussalam was in August 1986 and the last mission was in June 1987. The Survey is now going on well and according to the schedule.

4. Establishment Survey

The Economic Planning Unit had carried out its first economic census of Business Undertakings in the year 1978. Similar census is likely to be undertaken in 1988. However, annual survey need to be conducted in between the censuses to estimate current level of National Income. One of the problems commonly arising in this type of survey is lack of timely receipt of response from the respondents. To get higher response, the Unit has to send official reminders, emphasising the legal requirement of the survey. In March 1987, the Statistical Section of the Economic Planning Unit engaged the services of a UN Consultant to prepare the statistics of external transactions account for the country, as well as the related national aggregates.

5. Balance of Payment Statistics

Collection of balance of payments statistics within the Banking institution was initiated in 1980 with six months pilot trial prior to its full implementation. All transaction data for balance of payments statistics are now being sent to the Economic Planning Unit for processing. Information from Government financial transaction and transaction of various sources are also being collected subject to the existing Departmental rules and transaction confidentiality. On the whole, information needed has been available since 1980 with additional details still required from various sources. In 1986 and 1987, we engaged the services of two advisors on Balance of Payment to assess and evaluate the present system of data collection. Their mission was to assess the total coverage, to train and guide the National Accounts Section staff in the proper and systematic methods of collecting, compiling and analysing the balance of payments data.

## 6. Development Of Users and Producers Of Statistics

During the National Population and Demographic Survey conducted in August 1986, an Interdepartmental Coordinating Committee was set up. Among its functions was to consider topics and types of statistics to be included in the survey. Topics and statistical informations came from various feedback from the users who were consulted either formally or otherwise. Cost effectiveness and the relevance of the users need of the survey are among the criteria for the topics to be selected. Promotion of relation between Users and Producers is now becoming significant in our statistical services. Formulation of statistics collected by our statistical services is always based on the common request of the users. On many occasions, our computer output format need reformating to cater for the needs of the users. Information in computer file were made available to other public users. On the whole, demand for data on certain area of statistics by users became heavier, nevertheless, there is also little demand on some statistics produced. In the light of such situation, dialogue between users and producers need to be developed and encouraged further. Our Statistical Section has now planned to hold an internal course on users and producers of statistics and hopes to implement this programme in the first quarter 1988.

## 7. National Household Capability Programme

National Household Capability Programme has been considered by our National statistical services as a very useful programme to improve our statistical development. Recently, we already indicated our interest to participate in this programme. We hope our statistical staff will gain and further develop their skill through participation in this programme.

## 8. Data Processing and Computer Services

The Computer Services of the Economic Planning Unit processes Government statistical data and also provides computing services, including system development and programming, to several Government Departments. Four mainframe computers were acquired by the Economic Planning Unit for the use of several Government Departments. The system applications were developed jointly by local staff and consultants. Highly skilled computer staff are still needed for the expansion and effective use of computer systems.

## 9. Use Of Computer In Areas Of Statistics

The application of Computer technology in the area of statistics is well accepted in Brunei Darussalam. The active role of statisticians in the use of computer fourth generation language and general software packages are crucial in the improvement and development of statistical services. Training of statistical personnel in computer is now being emphasised. During the last two years the Unit has sent participants to the software training organised by SIAP and 1986 computer courses held at the Bureau Of Census in USA. We hope such useful training in computer will be continued in future. We would like to see that Computer training be given to our staff, not necessarily in the area of data processing but in the control and communication, as well as management of data processing. Internally, we also conduct in-house training which was found to be effective, especially to the lower level statistical staff in the use of statistical packages. We are also collaborating with experts from local institutions to get them involved in our computer training programmes.

## 10. Microcomputer Section

To cope with the expanding statistical activities at the Economic Planning Unit, the current mainframe activities were supported by newly established Microcomputer Section with the introduction of more powerful and more versatile hardware and software. To-date we have already installed several microcomputers and this section is now becoming more active in the development of new systems, such as processing of monthly Consumer Price Index, processing of housing and agricultural statistics, processing of National Establishment Survey for the National Accounts Section. Data transfer from our mainframe computer to microcomputer can be carried out using specially acquired software .

The visit of the Regional Advisor on data preparation and processing of census and survey gave us the confidence in our capability to handle the processing of survey data, especially, in the recent use of fourth generation languages and packages such as CENTS-4, SPSS and CONCOR for the microcomputer. Through ESCAP Regional Advisor ESCAP/POP Population Projection Package is now available in our microcomputers. Such package can provide good additional support to the existing statistical softwares. Various other packages have been installed with our new microcomputer system, such as database management file, editing and maintenance data file. Besides, we also have spread sheet packages, tabulation packages, statistical projection and statistical analysis packages. The use of mainframe computer is still very useful mainly because of its capability for mass data entry system and the efficient role played by well trained data entry operators on the mainframe computer. The move towards an integrated processing between mainframe and microcomputers can provide a better solution for effective use of computer resources.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Committee on Statistics

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# COUNTRY REPORT ON STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES

# IN CHINA

# DEVELOPMENT AND PROBLEMS IN STATISTICAL WORK OF CHINA DURING THE LAST TWO YEARS

For the 7th Session of the Committee on Statistics
24-30 November 1987, Bangkok

Notable development has been achieved in statistical work of China since the sixth session of the Committee on Statistics held in Bangkok in November of 1985. Along with the policy of reforming the national economy and opening the country to the outside world which was adopted by the Chinese Government, statistical agencies have focused their attention on effective organization of statistical activities with the aim to establishing an "open" statistics system and providing quality services.

## I. Providing Services to the Policy-making of the Governments and to the Public

The State Statistical Bureau has supplied useful statistical information to the governments in their policy-making process by preparing and providing over 360 statistical reports each year. Some of these statistical reports have been highly appreciated and appraised by government leaders. Meanwhile, on the average there is one piece of important statistical information released every day through newspapers, radio or television broadcasting or other mass media. In this way, the public are kept abreast of the developments as well as problems in the reform and in the economic construction of the country.

To provide the public both at home and abroad with more statistical information, in addition to continued publication of Statistical Yearbook of China and Statistical Communique, the State Statistical Bureau has added to the list of its publications some new items, including Monthly Bulletin of Statistics of China, Yearbook of Urban Statistics of China, and Statistical News and Information of China. Statistical information and consultancy services have become available. Statistical bureaus at provincial, city and county levels also strengthened the dissemination and publication of statistical information under their own jurisdiction.

## II. Conduct of Important Statistical Surveys.

During the past two years, the State Statistical Bureau has concentrated its resources and conducted several important censuses and surveys, in addition to its regular statistical

programmes, to meet the demands of policy-making by the government in the course of the reform of the country's economic system. Through China's second industrial census which started at the end of 1985 and has been completed in 1987, about 640 million records of data were collected from some 360,000 enterprises. Other examples include urban and rural housing census (1986), the one-percent population sample survey (1987), the sample survey on the disabled (1987), the sample survey on the aged population (1987), a survey on children's conditions in nine provinces and autonomous regions (1987), an in-depth fertility survey in five provinces and mulicipalities (1987), and the continuous on-going household surveys which focus on the income and expenditure of urban and rural households. Data from above-mentioned censuses and surveys are reliable and have played an important role in the formulation of government policies.

Meanwhile, work on the compilation of 1987 input-output tables of China has started in 1987, and the State Statistical Bureau is also engaged in the preparation for the country's fourth population census to be held in 1990. For these two tasks, appropriate working units have to be established and necessary human and financial resources as well as data processing equipment have to be acquired, which imposed some difficulties to the statistical agencies.

## III. Strengthening of Statistics in Rural Areas

With the introduction of rural economic reform, new economic system has been set up in rural China, which is mainly in the form of household-based production and management. The old statistical reporting channel which consisted of production teams, brigades and communes no longer existed, and the statistical reporting units changed from the 6 million production teams to over 180 million rural households. At the same time, the content of rural statistics in the past, which only reflected agricultural production conditions and results, had to be substituted by more comprehensive statistics covering all economic and social aspects of rural areas. In face with this changing situation and increasing demand, it has become an urgent issue to reorganize China's rural statistics.

Taking the experience of Hebei Province, the State Statistical Bureau began in 1986 to set up rural township statistical stations of various forms in 28 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities. By now, some 20,000 townships have had statistical stations, accounting for about 30 percent of the total number of townships in China. The major responsibility of these township statistical stations is to organize and coordinate rural statistical activities to ensure the implementation of surveys and

other statistical tasks. In August of 1987, a national conference on the building up of rural statistical information network was convened by the State Statistical Bureau to further promote the development of rural statistical information system.

## IV. Reform in Statistical System and Methodology

Development has been made in the reform of China's national account statistics system. Efforts have been made to integrate the advantages of national accounting systems of western countries into China's economic accounting system. The State Statistical Bureau started to calculate the value added of service sectors and to estimate gross national product of the country. The government also established a central Office for Standards of National Economic Accounting, which has the responsibility of study and coordination on issues concerning the standardization of national economic accounts.

Another area of development is in the statistical methodology, in particular the expanded application of sampling techniques in the collection of economic and social statistics. . A nation-wide survey network in both urban and rural areas has been set up and further strengthened under the direct management of the State Statistical Bureau. Under the framework of this network, rural sample survey teams have been set up in 857 counties to undertake the rural household survey covering a total number of 67,000 rural households and the crop survey covering 18,000 groups of rural households; while urban sample survey teams have been set up in 144 cities and 80 county towns to undertake the urban household survey covering 22,000 urban households and the retail price survey covering over 14,000 survey units(retail shops, etc.). This survey network has played a very important role in the collection of statistical information.

## V. Statistical Legislation

The first Statistics Law of the People's Republic of China was adopted and came into effect at the end of 1983. At the beginning of 1987, the government further issued Regulations on the Implementation of the Statistics Law. These documents provided legal authority to statistical agencies for the undertaking of statistical activities. Statistical agencies have tried their best to use the rights given to them by the Statistics Law to ensure the reliability of statistics and to correct the tendency in over-reporting, under-reporting or refusal in providing statistical data. For this reason, the State Statistical Bureau has attached great importance to the implementation of statistics law and regulations and to the statistical legislation at local

government levels.

However, China's statistical development is still lagging behind the requirement of the governments, and what we have achieved is only initiative if compared with other advanced countries in the ESCAP region. Many problems remained to be solved, among which the following two are most prominent:

1. Data processing capacity remains very weak.

At present, data processing in statistical agencies are in general still at the stage of semi-manual tabulation. This can be illustrated by:

a) the insufficient computer data processing capability in comparison with the large volume of data to be processed. There are more than 3,000 statistical offices at and above county levels in China, and only a small proportion of them have computers with small capacity and low speed.

b) the poor infrastructure of communications. There are neither exclusive lines nor communication network for the transmission of statistical information. The backwardness in information transmission techniques has affected the timeliness of statistical information.

c) the impotence in the application of new technology and in software development. This, coupled with the inferior quality of operators and maintenance personnel, has impaired the full use of hardware equipment.

2. The quality of statistical personnel is yet to be improved.

At present, statistical agencies of governments at various levels have employed a total of over 60,000 people. About 21 percent of them have had university or equivalent education, while the remaining 79 percent have had only secondary education. In addition, there are another 2,000,000 statistical personnel working in statistical agencies of other specialized government departments and of enterprises and institutions. The educational and professional background of these 2,000,000 people is even worse. Only 3 percent of them have university or equivalent education and 20 percent have secondary education.

The Chinese Government has decided to provide relevant training courses to those working in the field of statistics who have not received training in statistics. In recent years, some development has been made in the training of statisticians in all possible forms, including a programme of TV/correspondence col-

lege in statistics, and the conduct of various kinds of short-term courses. However, as China is a large country with a low level of economic development, the input in education and training is limited. This has resulted in the scarcity of teachers and teaching facilities, and outdated teaching materials are still being used. Gigantic efforts are required to fundamentally improve the quality of statistical personnel in China.

In order to keep pace with the modernization process of the country and to meet the needs of economic reform and opening to the outside world, statistical agencies will endeavour to solve these two problems. Meanwhile, we warmly welcome the opportunity of cooperation with other countries to further promote China's statistical development.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
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# COUNTRY REPORT ON STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES

# IN COOK ISLANDS

## ONGOING STATISTICAL PROJECTS OF THE COOK ISLANDS STATISTICS OFFICE

The Cook Islands Statistics Office compiles regular Statistical publications on:

- Births, Deaths and Marriages
- International and Internal Migrations
- Employment and Wages
- Consumer Price Index
- Income Analysis
- Turnover Tax Analysis
- Hotel/Motel Occupancy
- Census of Population and Dwellings
- Household Expenditure Survey

The above ongoing statistical series have been produced by the Cook Islands Statistical Office. In addition to that workload the Statistics Office has continued and infact upgraded its staff training programme.

Over the past years staff have participated at the following listed national and international courses:

BASIC SOAP
INTERMEDIATE SOAP
IIPS DEMOGRAPHY COURSE - BOMBAY
NHSC PROGRAM COURSE - NEW DELHI
ISPC - US BUREAU OF CENSUS
SIAP - STATISTICAL INSTITUTE OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

In addition to the ongoing statistical series and the staff development program, the offices resources have been used for the following list of recent current, and future statistical developments.

## STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENTS SINCE NOVEMBER 1985

Household Expenditure Survey.

The office has taken advantage of the opportunities provided by the National Household Survey Capability Program in sending three staff members so far to the NHSCP course in New Delhi. The knowledge gained has been used practically in carrying out the 1986 Household Expenditure Survey.

The Household Expenditure Survey was conducted on the following basis: 10% sample for Rarotonga, for the islands of Aitutaki, Atiu and Mangaia a 20% sample was used.

The survey was a success and data from the survey is currently being used together with data from other sources to carry out a revision of the weights for the Rarotonga Consumer Price Index. The survey will also provide data on the distribution of income and expenditure on the different islands. Data will also provide information in respect of cash and credit sales and subsistence production. In addition, data from the survey will be useful in establishing benchmarks for the introduction of a new Southern Group exluding Rarotonga C.P.I.

A considerable number of developments and changes were incorporated into the 1986 Household Expenditure Survey. The latest survey was far more comprehensives than previous similar surveys. The scope was widened to include all local and expatriate households and more information was collected including details of subsistence production. These refinements brought with them a number of difficult conceptual issues which had to be resolved prior to the processing and publication of the survey results.

1. Different reference periods were used for different items. Detailed information on dialy purchase by all household members was collected over a two weeks period for each household while information on items purchased infrequently (such as consumer durables, annual licences and insurance premiums) were collected in respect of a full 12 month period. Some respondents had difficulty recalling purchases made months ago.

2. Some difficulties were experienced with data on income. In the case of wages and salaries the amounts shown did not always relate to a 12 month period. Income data supplied in respect of shorter periods had to be adjusted on the basis of local knowledge at the processing stage.

3. Some problems were experienced involving home produced items consumed by the household. Households were asked to record the quantity and estimated local retail value of each item consumed. There was some disparity in the valuations of the subsistence production consumed. If quantity measures had been more exact, it might have been possible to revolve all produce centrally using certain fixed prices. But for many items such as taro, it is not easy to obtain meaningful quantity measures. The retail price of taro is in no way a reflection of its true value as the vast majority is produced for subsistence rather than for retail sale. In the final analysis, it was thought best to

accept the quantities and values provided by the respondents despite these limitations. The valuation of subsistence production is an area which requires more work on our part.

4. Similar problems were experienced in the valuation of handicraft production. What valuation do you assign to a kikau broom when few are sold and if they are sold they are purchased at tourist prices. Alternatively we could value handicraft items on the basis of the cost of labour and material inputs. Either way the valuations we assign will only be approximations.

## CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING

The 1986 Census of Population and Dwellings was conducted by the Statistics Office on the 1st December 1986. This is the fourth to be conducted by the Statistics Department. Census activities began in the Cook Islands in 1902, following the annexation of the Cook Islands by New Zealand. The second was in 1906 and then every fifth year thereafter.

The scope of these earlier censuses was very limited. Those censuses were in fact, head counts. Questions on age or sex were not put. The main interest was to know the number of Maoris and Europeans on each island. While the Maoris were simply counted, the European's names, residential status, relationship to the head of household etc, were also collected. Gradually questions on sex, age, marital status, religion, etc were added onto the schedules.. The 1966 census conducted after the Cook Islands assumed Self-Governing status was by far the most complete census taken to that date and covered housing also. Since then (1966) the Census of Population and Dwellings have been conducted simultaneously.

Like the past censuses, the 1986 was also a defacto census which covered all persons found present in the islands and on the inter-island vessels were enumerated only if they landed on the shore. Thus Cook Islanders living or holidaying temporarily abroad were excluded, while foreigners living or holidaying temporarily in the Cook Islands were included.

Results of all censuses up to 1961 were processed manually. The 1966 and the 1971 censuses were processed with the help of the New Zealand Computer Services. For various reasons the final results of the 1971 census was not available before March 1976 almost five years after the field work was conducted. This unpleasant experience of computer processing was one of the factors which influenced the decision to process the 1976 census data manually. In the 1981 Census, the Cook Islands once again moved back into computer processing using a microcomputer assisted by the United

Nations Funds for Population Activities. Processing was done in the Cook Islands assisted by a consultant. It was during this processing that the Cook Islands really built up its experience using the micro as a means.

The most recent census (1986) results will follow along the 1981 format. However due to the damages done to Rarotonga especially by Cyclone Sally earlier this year, there is a slight delay in producing more results before this meeting and that the Statistics Officer has only produced an area count. During the 1986 census preparations additional topics were raised and added to the 1981 census questionnaires. These topics were found to be very necessary to the country's economic development plans. In order to get a better a description of dwellings or living quarters of household members, a question on the ways of collecting and storing water was included. Also included was a question related to agricultural services and this centered mainly on livestock. There were also questions on fishing activities together with fishing capabilities, that is, the ways and means of fishing at household levels for household consumption with the intention of taking a measurement of commercial catch.

In addition, as energy consumption is an issue for small island nations, the qeustionnaire also put out questions in order to obtain more information of Energy Driven Applicances.

In the Personal Questionnaire, a question on migration for a shorter time-frame was considered and entered. This shorter time-frame was for periods absent from usual residence for a duration of six months or more during the last five years.

The topics of employment by unit of participation, that is the involvement of each member of the household who are fifteen years old and over. The primary objective here was to take an account of those household members with primary occupation, domestic and or subsistence grower and those of the family who were full-time student. Members of households engaged in craftwork were also recorded. The questionnaire took into account the involvement of those who had secondary employment. An example is the person has principal occupation as a police officer while also an entertainer.

Land Rights in the Cook Islands is a very exciting and sensitive issue. This is mainly due to the fact that many persons have rights to land but are temporarily absent and therefore causing some dent in the economic development as a whole for the Cook Islands. The Cook Islands Land Registry Office has a complete record of persons who has a right to the land, but this record is not fashioned in a way where it can be readily available for analysis. The census questions were put in order to pick-up information regarding land ownership by type of which selected by lease, occupation right and family land. Questions related to

fertility issues were also put.

The Cook Islands Census Office is proud to say that the experience gained in the last two censuses has provided a tremendous amount of experience and that the efforts made and the involvement of the indigenous is much higher than from overseas. We can claim that the Cook Islands was the first to have its census processed by a microcomputer in the small Pacific nations and raised our flags. However, even there is still plenty of room to be improved upon, especially in the training of personnel.

I feel that organizations like ESCAP and others in the field of helping less developed nations like the Cook Islands can assist us in the following ways.

1. In some standard census questionnaire design. Formatted in such a way that the small island nations need not go into this exercise without the extra strain as has been experienced in the past.

2. That the small island nations need not be overburdened when it comes to seeking funds from donor agencies.

3. That more and more training in the use of micro-processing be made available and a program designed to be intergrated with the countries present programmes.

ECONOMIC DATA USERS COMMITTEE
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We have in the Cook Islands recently formed an Economic Data Users Committee. The committees terms of reference includes the following items:

1. Identify indicators which are sensitive to changes in the state of the economy.

2. Review the statistics compiled for the indicators periodically.

3. Analyse the current, medium and long term performance of the economy on the basis of the indicators.

4. Discuss, issues raised by the indicators with representatives from related sectors of the economy.

5. Recommend government policies which are best to achieve certain national goals which can be measured by economic indicators.

6. Monitor the effects of economic growth on employment and income.

7. Release statements to the press and publish reports periodically.

My office looks forward to the feedback we will receive on the range of economic statistics we already produce and hopes the committee will be able to assist us in refining and endorsing our future statistical development.

As Statistician, for the Cook Islands Government, I have been appointed coordinator of the new committee, with my office fulfilling the Secretariat function. The Minister of Economic Development is Chairman of the committee and the position of Deputy Chairman has been filled by the Financial Secretary.

## NATIONAL ACOUNTS

The Cook Islands Statistical Office has secured the assistance of the Asian Development Bank to further develop, upgrade and improve national accounts data systems, so that more timely relevant and reliable National Accounts data will be produced for planning and policy making purposes. Training is being provided to our statistical office staff and to users of the data as part of the technical assistance project. The acquisition of computer equipment as part of this project will enhance the entire offices data processing capabilities.

The first three months of technical assistance have produced very promising results. While it was recognised at the outset that there were some serious data shortfalls there are however many data sources which can be used for national accounts purposes. Some of these data sources are being processed regularly others have now either been processed specifically for national accounts or will be available for use in phase II of the technical assistance project which commences in December 1987. At this stage of the project the most important developments stem from the cooperation of the Inland Revenue Department. While working stringently within the constraints of the Inland Revenue office has provided access to whatever information could be supplied while maintaining confidentiality. In particular, the access to the corporate tax records has been used to set up a new tax-base Business Register incorporating up-to-date industry codes. Several problems will be addressed in the later part of the project. For example just two of the major ones are:

1. The valuation and measurement of own account production of foodstuffs and handicrafts.

2. The measurement and identification of monetary flows between the Cook Islands and the rest of the world.

## CURRENT STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENTS

### Agricultural Census

The Cook Islands Statistics Office as joint venture, with the Department of Agriculture will conduct a Census of Agriculture in 1988. The Statistics Office wil be mainly involved with technical aspects of the project and with data processing whilst the Agriculture department will be responsible for the field work and data collection.

## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Results of the 1986 Household Expenditure Survey for Rarotonga are currently being used in the re-weighting of the consumer price index. In the future, it is proposed to use the results of the Household Expenditure Surveys which aere conducted on the islands of Aitutaki, Mangaia and Atiu to construct consumer price indices for the outer islands. This indice may take the form of a single southern group or individual islands indexes.

## PLANNED STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENTS

### International Imports and Exports Statistics

Substantial processing cost rises coupled with the disadvantages of query resolution and lack of understanding of the local conditions make it imperative for my office to relocate the data processing of trade statistics within my office as soon as it is practicable. Up till the present EDP of trade statistics has been carried out by EDP, in Suva, Fiji. The Statistics Office is contemplating of processing the import Statistics in the Cook Islands.

## HOUSEHOLD FISHING SURVEY

The collection and analysis of a Household Fishing Survey may be undertaken during the next two years subject to user requirements being more clearly and directly established.

## TOURISM SURVEY

A survey to assess the contribution of tourism to the economy is considered to be a priority within the next couple of years given the large increase in recent years of this industries contribution to the economy.

## INDUSTRY SURVEY

In order to provide explicit pictures of the economic trends in the Cook Islandds, the Statistics Office is contemplating an industry survey of 100% coverage in the very near future.

## FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

As in the past years, it is and still is the prime objective of the statistics office to develop the staff capabilities to the extent that it becomes 'self-reliant'. Every effort is to be made to secure adequate funding from both the local and or overseas funding to further the achievement of this objective.

The Cook Islands Government is grateful for this the first opportunity they have had to send a representative to attend this ESCAP Committee of Statistics meeting.

My government always supports meetings like this one as they benefit not only the further development of statistical systems in the Cook Islands but also our sub-region overall.

SUPPLEMENT TO STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COOK ISLANDS FROM NOV. '85

Comments on Statistical Development in Small Countries - a note circulated by the United Kingdom delegation at the 24th Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission in New York.

We appreciate the concern shown by the United Kingdom in looking at Statistical developments in Small Countries, in particular in the Pacific.

We concede that the small islands in the Pacific by now should demonstrate some degree of self reliance. However, in many respects, the development of statistical systems has not formed part of each countries development plan. Many of these small countries have recently attained their political inter-dependancy, and so statistical developments need to be determined by the Small Countries, so self reliance can eventually be attained.

Whilst under the financial and administrative support of larger countries around the Pacific Rim - for example Cook Islands relationship with New Zealand, American Samoa relationship with United States, Papua New Guinea with Australia, New Caledonia with France, we were receiving technical assistance from United Nations Agencies namely UNFPA, ESCAP, EPOC, UNDP, FAO, SPEC and the SPC and other agencies. These agencies including larger countries around the Pacific have had to come a long way to understand, appreciate the political, social, economic environmental and also the geographical features of these islands. Each of these small islands has its own political, social, economic and geographical features which cannot be matched against each other. The lifestyle differs, the peoples and races differ and above all their economic capabilities vary from country to country.

In this context, we submit that:

1. The creation of a new agency with the Pacific that will provide similar services as to those agencies which already exist in the Pacific, is not an immediate requirement.

2. Existing agencies should play a more active role in the development of statistical capabilities. They should be encouraged by being supported by nations concerned with Pacific development.

3. The concept of a user pays arrangement for technical assistance to a small islands statistical development is not to be encouraged and does not fit in to our social and economic environment.

4. The larger nations supporting the Pacific Islands should actively take part in the development of timely, qualitative and quantitative statistics in order that Small Countries can become self reliant in the future.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Committee on Statistics

Seventh Session
24 ~ 30 November 1987
Bangkok, Thailand

# COUNTRY REPORT ON STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES

# IN HONG KONG

Seventh Session of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics

Statement on Statistical Activities and Development

Hong Kong

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Seventh Session of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics

Statement on Statistical Activities and Development

Hong Kong

## 1. Introduction

1.1 This statement covers those activities of the Hong Kong Census and Statistics Department which involve new developments or which are felt to be of special interest. Hong Kong accords a high priority to the development of statistical services and over the years much effort has been made to this end. The principles enshrined in the ESCAP Resolution 246 (XLII) have long been recognised in Hong Kong as the guiding policies of statistical development. This report describes the progress made since 1985 in pursuance of the recommendations promulgated in the Resolution.

1.2 Section A (paragraphs 2 to 7) describes the major statistical developments achieved in the past two years. These activities are a reflection of the high priority which Hong Kong accords to the improvements and strengthening of statistical services (recommendation (a)). Improvements have been made in accordance with priorities for data collection and analysis in each economic and social sector, determined on the basis of information uses (recommendation (b)).

1.3 Section B describes major developments in respect of statistical capability. Paragraph 9 highlights the utilisation of various training outlets to provide appropriately qualified statistical manpower, and the special attention accorded to training in computers (recommendation (c)). In developing various statistical systems, Hong Kong follows international guidelines and standards as much as possible (recommendation (d)). Examples include the 1991 Population Census which accords with the 1990 World Population and Housing Census Programme recommended by the United Nations (paragraphs 2.8 to 2.9); the continual adoption of the UN's Standard International Trade Classification for presenting trade statistics as Hong Kong changes to the Harmonised System Commodity Description and Coding System for trade declaration purposes (paragraph 3); and the compilation of a standard industrial classification for Hong Kong which closely follows the International Standard Industrial Classification (paragraph 4.4). Paragraph 10 describes the improvement of statistical infrastructure in respect of data processing (recommendation (e)) and paragraph 11 describes the machinery to promote greater interaction between producers and users of statistics (recommendation (f)).

## 2. Population Census and By-Census

### (a) 1986 Population By-Census

2.1 It is an established practice in Hong Kong to undertake a full-scale population census every ten years and a sample by-census in between two full censuses. The last Population By-census which was based on a one-in-seven sample was conducted in 1986 to collect up-to-date benchmark information on the demographic, social and economic characteristics of the population.

2.2 Planning for the 1986 By-census started in early 1983. A pilot census was conducted in March 1985 to test the various aspects of the operation, based on which the sample design and the operational procedures were revised.

2.3 A major improvement in the 1986 By-census was the computerization of the frame of addresses of living quarters. The computerised register enabled such work as sample selection, work allotment to enumerators and printing of assignment lists and householder letters to be prepared by computer, thus saving a great deal of time and manual resources.

2.4 Field work for the By-census was carried out during the period from 7th to 16th March 1986. Nearly 4,000 temporary enumeration staff, mainly post-secondary students, were engaged for the operation. The co-operation of the public in the By-census was extremely good and an almost full response rate was obtained.

2.5 Data preparation using the key-to-disc method began in late March 1986, and by late July all census data were input and edited. Most of the tabulations were produced by the software package CENTS4 running on an ICL 2988 computer, while the more complicated tabulations were produced by tailor-made COBOL programs.

2.6 A preliminary count of the population was released in May 1986. About a hundred summary tabulations with simple cross-classifications were produced in August 1986 from which five reports giving summary results were issued. The main set of By-census tabulations was completed in April 1987 with some five hundred tables produced. Three series of reports were published to show summary tables at various district and sub-district levels. Two other reports namely, the Graphic Guide (comprising statistical charts) and the Social Atlas (comprising census maps) are being prepared for publication. The main report, which contains detailed tables and analyses of the By-census results, will be published in early 1988.

2.7 On the basis of the 1986 By-census results and the recent demographic trends in Hong Kong, the Government has prepared a new set of population projections by age and sex for 1987 - 2006. Other popultion-related projections such as the labour force and household and employment projections have also been produced.

(b) 1991 Population Census

2.8 Preliminary planning for the 1991 Census has commenced. It is proposed that the 1991 Census, as in the last full census, should have a two-phase design. The first phase would be a 100 per cent enumeration using a short questionnaire on basic demographic characteristics while the second phase would be a sample enumeration using a long questionnaire on detailed socio-economic characteristics. Cost-precision analysis is being undertaken to study the sample design.

2.9 Proposals on the content of the 1991 Census are being prepared in consultation with Government departments and non-government organisations. The feasibility of using the householder method for collecting data in the census will be examined through a pre-test to be conducted in late 1988. Alternative means of data input to the conventional key-to-disc method will be explored. In particular, the cost-effectiveness of using optical character reading devices will be studied.

3. Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System

(a) Hong Kong Harmonized System

3.1 Hong Kong will implement the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS) developed by the Customs Co-operation Council (CCC) for trade declaration purposes as from 1 January 1988. Since Hong Kong adopted the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) developed by the United Nations Statistical Office and therefore has had little experience in using a tariff nomenclature for statistical reporting, only a partial application of the HS will be implemented in 1988.

3.2 The Hong Kong Harmonized System (HKHS) has been drawn up after wide consultation with users in both the Government and the private sector and with the assistance of a UK consultant who was a former deputy director of the CCC. The HKHS adopts all the 4-digit HS headings and takes the form of an 8-digit coding system, representing some 5,500 commodity groups.

(b) Preparation and Planning

3.3 The computer system for the processing of trade statistics is being modified to cope with the change-over to the HKHS. While detailed statistics using the HKHS will be produced, it is also planned to continue to compile trade statistics using the SITC Rev. 2, by means of a conversion program incorporated into the modified computer system.

3.4 The necessary legislative amendments for implementing the HKHS have been prepared. As the implementation of the HKHS will affect the whole external trade community and in view of the huge volume of trade declarations involved, special efforts have been made regarding

publicity and training activities. A publicity programme is being mounted to promote traders' awareness of the HKHS. Furthermore, a series of seminars for importers and exporters are being conducted in November and December 1987.

3.5 Plans are in hand to implement the HS in full a few years after the adoption of the partial HS, subject to the availability of resources. Simultaneously, the classification system for presenting trade statistics will be changed over to SITC Revision 3, which is closely correlated with the full HS.

## 4. Re-design of Central Register of Establishments

### (a) Introduction

4.1 A computerized Central Register of Establishments which was first constructed in 1980, is being maintained. It contains some 310,000 records of establishments in all major economic sectors and provides an up-to-date frame of business undertakings for the conduct of all establishment-type censuses and surveys of the Department. The information contained in each record includes name and address of establishment, geographical code, industry, employment size, ownership and quarterly payroll.

### (b) The Re-design of the Central Register

4.2 Because of changing users' requirements over time, steps were taken to re-design the Register in 1982. As some surveys conducted by the Department use company while others reckon establishment as a unit of enquiry, the Register will be re-organized into a hierarchical file from which two survey frames - one on companies and the other on establishments - can be constructed for survey purposes. New data items will be added to the Register, such as the operating status and past selection history (which will be useful for controlling respondents' reporting burden in establishment surveys). Information in the new register will also be updated by processes other than those adopted at present.

4.3 Re-development of the computer system design and programming has been underway since 1985. In drawing up the framework for the re-design, wide consultation was conducted with both users within the Department and in other relevant Government departments. It is expected that the re-designed Register will become operational in early 1988.

4.4 Opportunity has also been taken in the exercise to standardize the classification systems adopted in different surveys. The purpose is to enhance the comparability of data collected from these surveys. One of the end-products is the compilation of a Hong Kong Standard Industrial Classification (HSIC), which contains some 900 6-digit codes for industry groupings. The structure of the HSIC follows closely the United Nations' International Standard Industrial Classification, with modifications introduced to industry codes below the major division level in order to cater for Hong Kong's industrial structure.

(c) Re-design of Survey of Employment, Vacancies and Payroll

4.5 To tie in with the redesign of the Central Register, a plan has been drawn up to modify the Survey of Employment, Vacancies and Payroll, which serves to update the register. The survey provides useful quarterly statistics for monitoring short-term changes of the economy and annual statistics on the structure of the economy in terms of employment and its changes over time.

4.6 It is planned to modify the survey to enable it to support the new data requirements of the Central Register. Opportunity has also been taken to introduce a number of new features to the survey system for the purposes of producing more detailed employment and payroll statistics and of streamlining some of the operational procedures.

4.7 Under the new design, a detailed breakdown of employment statistics by paid and unpaid workers will be available. Moreover, statistics on regular and irregular payroll outlays will be collected. This additional information will be useful for studying the well-being of workers. The new series will be available from the first quarter of 1988.

5. The Standardized Law & Order Statistical System/Integrated Law & Order Statistical System

(a) The Standardized System

5.1 Statistics on law and order have long been collected by major branches of the criminal justice system. However, these statistical systems have evolved in isolation and have resulted in different crime classifications and counting rules, and thus incompatible statistics.

5.2 As a first step to rectify the situation, the Government implemented a Standardized Law and Order Statistical System (SLOSS) in 1986. Under the system, statistics on offenders based on the same classification scheme and counting rules are available from the Police, the Correctional Services Department, the Social Welfare Department and the Judiciary. As these statistics are maintained on computer, efficient and economical data production is possible.

(b) The Need for Integration

5.3 The statistics produced from the SLOSS provide basic information on the characteristics of crimes and offenders as well as the pattern of sentences handed down by courts. As there is no linkage of records of different departments, discrepancies due to errors are found among statistics produced by different parties. The lack of matching of individuals' records over time also hampers the production of data on recidivism.

5.4 While SLOSS was being designed, the Government further decided to develop the SLOSS into an Integrated Law and Order Statistical System (ILOSS). The ILOSS will enable a thorough study of the Law & Order System for better understanding of the criminal law enforcement process, and facilitate planning, programme co-ordination and policy

formulation with the provision of more accurate and comprehensive data. Under the ILOSS compatible and consistent data will be collected in various stages of the law enforcement process. Duplication will be eliminated and statistical information of common interest shared by the law enforcement departments. Data from the ILOSS will enable more in-depth analysis of the characteristics of crimes. It will also provide data on recidivists for studying the development of criminal behaviour with a view to monitoring the penal system, appraising the effectiveness of existing treatment programs and assessing the feasibility of new correctional programs.

(c) The Integrated System

5.5 Very broadly, the ILOSS will link up records of offences and offenders starting from the report of a crime and later on the arrest of an offender, through court proceedings and to the moment when the offender has concluded a non-custodial or custodial sentence. By means of personal identification numbers, records of subsequent criminal activities of the individuals will be linked up so that information on the criminal careers of offenders will also be made readily available.

5.6 Every year, there will be some 30,000 new records on various stages of the criminal justice process added to the ILOSS database. Thorough inter-departmental record checks will be carried out to ensure data integrity. It is planned that the data will be stored in a mini-computer system with remote terminals at the Statistical Units of the Police and the Judiciary. Fourth Generation Language and user-friendly packages will be used for the computer system. With this approach to computer system design, database maintenance and statistics production will be mainly undertaken by statistical personnel with a view to facilitating efficient dissemination of data for analysis and research.

## 6. The New Consumer Price Index

(a) Background

6.1 In order to take account of changes in the socio-economic characteristics of the population, in consumers' tastes and incomes and in the products and services available in the market, it is necessary to revise the Consumer Price Index (CPI) periodically so as to ensure that it reflects the current situation. For this purpose, a Household Expenditure Survey (HES) was conducted from October 1984 to September 1985 to collect up-to-date information on the consumption patterns of households in Hong Kong. Based on the results of the survey, a new CPI series was compiled starting from October 1985. The base period of this new CPI series is October 1984 to September 1985. The new series has replaced the previous 1979-80-based CPI series which was discontinued after March 1987.

(b) Methodology

6.2 In the new CPI series, 3 indexes are compiled and published monthly as in the previous series. These are the CPI(A), CPI(B) and the Hang Seng CPI. They refer to households with average monthly expenditures

of HK$2,000-$6,499, HK$6,500-$9,999 and HK$10,000-$24,999 respectively during the base period. To maintain comparability with the previous 1979-80 based series, the new CPI(A) covers about 50% of urban households, CPI(B) the next 30% and Hang Seng CPI a further 10%, leaving about 10% of households at the top and bottom of the expenditure scale not covered by the indexes. CPI(A) and CPI(B) are produced and published by the Census and Statistics Department and the Hang Seng CPI by the Hang Seng Bank Ltd.

6.3 The CPI is basically a Laspeyres type base-weighted index which measures the change in the price of a constant basket of goods and services in a specified time period. Based on the results of the 1984/85 HES, the basket of goods and services for compiling the new CPI series was updated and some 70 items which had become less important were replaced by new items that had become more popular.

6.4 Computation of the CPIs in the Department was computerized in early 1987 following the installation of a micro-computer system. Some savings in resources were achieved and the monthly CPIs are produced more efficiently.

## 7. National Income Statistics

7.1 The published estimates of gross domestic product (G.D.P.) of Hong Kong are compiled from both expenditure and production approaches. The data series of the expenditure estimates goes back to as early as 1961 whereas the production estimates are available only from 1980 onwards. The annual expenditure estimates are available at both current and constant market price (the base year being 1980) but the annual production estimates are available at current prices only. A series of crude estimates compiled from the income approach is also available for the period 1970 - 1980 but, with the full availability in recent years of the estimates from the production approach, the data series has been discontinued.

7.2 Major developments have taken place over the past 10 years in data sources and methods for the compilation of the G.D.P. estimates. In particular, a comprehensive Programme of Annual Economic Surveys had been commenced to collect data from establishments in various sectors of the economy which, apart from serving other purposes, provide the necessary data input for the compilation of the production-based G.D.P. estimates. The availability of data from the Programme also contributes to significant enhancements in the quality and coverage of the expenditure-based estimates. Major revisions have been introduced in the past to the G.D.P. estimates as a result of newly available data sources and refined estimation methods and the latest of such revision was made in 1987. Having undergone several comprehensive revisions, the present set of G.D.P. estimates of Hong Kong is more complete and accurate than previously. Nevertheless, continuous efforts will be made to achieve further improvements.

## Section B Development of Statistical Capabilities

### 8. Household Survey Capability - General Household Survey

#### (a) Background

8.1 The General Household Survey (GHS) has been conducted by the Census and Statistics Department on a continuous basis since August 1981. The survey covers a quarterly sample of about 14,000 households or some 50,000 persons, selected scientifically to represent the land-based, civilian, non-institutional population in Hong Kong. The primary objective of the GHS is to collect statistics on employment, unemployment and underemployment.

8.2 It is important that the statistics on employment, unemployment and underemployment be produced as quickly and as accurately as possible for monitoring the development of the economy. It is also imperative that the comparability of the data over time and with other countries be maintained as far as possible. Without affecting the quality of data and increasing unduly respondents' reporting burden, continued efforts are being made to enhance the usefulness of the survey by collecting additional data items in the GHS and to improve the efficiency of the survey operation. These requirements are the major considerations for introducing a number of changes to the GHS system that has taken place since the last meeting of the Committee on Statistics.

#### (b) Developments

8.3 The GHS questionnaire was revised in April 1987 to include a question on usual hours of work to be asked of all persons working less than 35 hours per week to enable an estimate to be made of the quantum of visible underemployment. This approach follows the concept of "time lost' which measures the difference between the hours usually worked and the hours actually worked during the reference period.

8.4 Starting from April 1987, a micro-computer system has been installed to replace the manual count procedure in compiling the provisional estimates of labour force participation rates, unemployment and underemployment rates. With the aid of the micro-computer, it is possible to produce more accurate provisional estimates of the key labour force statistics with seasonal adjustment. In addition, it permits the computation of the sampling errors of these estimates.

8.5 The master sample for the GHS which was drawn from the 20% sample of the 1981 Population Census was exhausted by the end of 1985. New samples for the survey had been selected from a computerized frame of living quarters that was created in September 1985 for the 1986 By-census. A systematic, replicated sampling design with a 50% overlap of samples between adjacent quarters was adopted. Ten replicates were selected in each monthly sample to facilitate the estimation of sampling errors. The sample design had the feature that households used for other household surveys were not selected again, in order to minimize respondents' reporting burden.

8.6 An experimental survey has been undertaken to provide data for assessing the feasibility of applying the combined personal and telephone interviewing method for data collection in the GHS. The purpose of this study is to explore the use of a more cost-effective mode of data collection for the GHS, with a view to achieving financial savings without significantly affecting the quality of the data.

8.7 The delineation of enumerators' assignment blocks has been computerized starting from March 1987. This has resulted in a more objective distribution of workload among over 50 field staff. Each assignment block so delineated has taken into account different travelling and interviewing time required for different types of living quarters in different areas as well as the number of working days available for individual field staff in each month.

## 9. Training of Statistical Staff

### (a) Introduction

9.1 In Hong Kong, the two universities run courses leading to a first degree in which statistics feature to a greater or lesser extent. Post-graduate studies in the subject are also available. The Hong Kong Polytechnic offers a three-year full-time diploma course in mathematics, statistics and computing and various evening courses, which prepare students for the professional examinations offered by the UK Institute of Statisticians.

### (b) Training of Statisticians and Sub-professionals

9.2 For professional statisticians, training by the Government Statistical Service aims at supplementing the academic training of professionals with more practical skills and knowledge. To this end, in-house courses were organized during the past two years to develop basic statistical skills in sampling theory and data processing. In addition, professional officers were sent on overseas courses to acquire knowledge in specific areas of subject matter and statistical theory. Courses attended included the training offered by the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), the US Bureau of the Census and the Bureau of Labour Statistics and the program in survey research techniques at the University of Michigan, U.S.A.

9.3 For sub-professional officers, the Department has introduced a trainee rank known as the Student Statistical Officer. Officers in this rank undergo on-the-job as well as formal training in statistical theory and methods in order to qualify as Statistical Officers. To prepare trainees in this rank for the Ordinary Certificate of Statistics Examination of the Institute of Statisticians, the Department organizes a part-time day release course jointly with the Hong Kong Polytechnic. This training arrangement has helped to ensure a sufficient supply of statistical staff at the supporting level. Newly appointed Statistical Officers attend a basic social and economic statistics course aimed at equipping them with basic knowledge of the major official statistics.

To provide sufficient manpower at the sub-professional level to carry out duties requiring a higher level of statistical knowledge, staff are sponsored to study selective advanced courses at the Hong Kong Polytechnic on a part-time day release basis.

9.4 The Department has benefited from the training program organized by the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific. Sub-professional staff are selected to attend the General Course organized by the Institute, whilst statisticians attend the statistical software demonstration and training courses.

(c) Training in end-user computing

9.5 The Department recognizes that statistical staff should be trained to undertake end-user computing. Training courses are held from time to time on the use of various statistical packages available in the Department. In particular, with the assistance of the SIAP a country course on SPSS[X] was organized in 1985. It is intended to organize a similar course on the statistical package SAS next year. To provide sufficient manpower for developing statistical systems on micro-computer, in-house training courses on micro-computer packages (e.g. Lotus 1-2-3 and dBASE III Plus) have been developed in 1986/7 for statistical staff. Courses on these packages at the appreciation level are also conducted. Statistical staff also attended a course on the analysis and design of statistical information systems, which was organized in 1987 with the support of professional programmers in the Polytechnic.

10. Statistical Data Processing

(a) Government Information Systems

10.1 It is believed that statisticians have an important role to play in the setting up of information systems in the Government for administrative and planning purposes. Apart from conducting surveys, administrative records are another important source of official statistics. By advising on the design to facilitate regular updating and easy information retrieval, the use of consistent and standardized definitions, the inclusion of relevant data, the measures necessary to safeguard confidentiality, statisticians have contributed a lot to improving the usefulness of information systems in the Government.

10.2 Over the past years, computerized information systems have been developed with the assistance of statisticians. These include the re-designed Central Register of Establishments and the Integrated Law and Order Statistical System, maintained in the ICL mainframe and in a mini-computer system respectively. A number of other medium-to-small information systems have also been developed in other Government departments, on micro-computers which are becoming increasingly popular. These include, for example, the register of teachers kept by the Education Department; the central register of street sleepers and the central waiting list for admission to Institutions for the Elderly by the Social Welfare Department; and the cancer register and the methadone register kept by the Medical & Health Department.

(b) Installation of the New Mini-computer

10.3 The Department will install an in-house mini-computer system in early 1988. Initially, the mini-computer system will have a CPU of core memory of 8 MB, hard disks of total capacity of around 900 MB, tape drives, 17 terminals, 3 printers, a plotter as well as a terminal server to support interface with IBM compatible micro-computers. The software SAS (Statistical Analysis System), COBOL compiler and BASIC compiler will be installed to support development of new medium-to-small statistical data processing systems by professional computer staff and to provide on-line analysis facilities for end-users. Existing productive statistical systems will however continue to run on the central bureau ICL mainframe computer in the Government Data Processing Agency.

(c) Decentralization of Computing Functions

10.4 Since 1985, steps have been taken in the Census and Statistics Department to decentralize computing functions through the acquisition of micro-computer systems for Statistical Units so that their data processing needs which arise from small statistical systems can be met more expeditiously. At present, 8 micro-computer systems comprising 10 stand-alone micro-computers have been installed in the Department. Application development and maintenance are undertaken by end-users and the facilities are now supporting a number of statistical systems such as the compilation of the unit value indexes of trade statistics, compilation of the Consumer Price Indexes, production of preliminary estimates of selective labour force statistics, population projections, compilation of Gross Domestic Product estimates etc. Efforts will continue to be made to acquire more micro-computer facilities to meet the data processing needs of small statistical applications. It is expected that 7 more stand-alone micro-computer systems will be installed in various sections of the Department before March 1988.

(d) Use of Statistical Software Packages

10.5 The Department continues to encourage the use of statistical packages as far as possible for the implementation of projects. At present, coding work arising from the use of user-friendly statistical packages are taken up by statistical staff in the user sections and the implementation of such package programs are handled by statistical staff in the Data Processing Branch of the Department. It is hoped that this strategy will enhance productivity and partially relieve the growing demand for analysts/programmers. Popular packages in use include SPSS[x], CENTSAID, X-11 ARIMA, CLUSTERS and some packages developed by the Department. Efforts will continue to be made to acquire useful statistical packages developed by international organizations and to convert them to computers accessible by the Department.

## 11. Relationship Between Producers and Users

### (a) Dialogue Through Participation

11.1 The Government statistical service in Hong Kong concentrates on serving the statistical needs of the Government. Emphasis on relevance of statistical work for Government use suggests a responsibility on the part of statisticians to become knowledgeable of users' needs. It is also a duty of Government Statisticians to ensure that relevant statistics and analysis are brought to bear on policy issues as appropriate and to promote the use of statistics.

11.2 While the conduct of major statistical activities such as undertaking population censuses and the compilation of national income statistics are centralized in the Department, statistical posts are established in other Government departments and policy branches. The Census and Statistics Department is responsible for providing personnel to fill these posts. This has proved to be an effective means of developing a close relationship with users. Working side by side with the administrators in these departments, statisticians are well positioned to assist them with their problems and to analyse their information needs so as to provide services tailored to the particular needs of the organizations. The Statisticians also function as an effective link between the Department and the users, digesting and supplying official statistics for users' benefit and channelling information about the statistical needs of user departments back to the central office which can thus be kept up-to-date on the overall statistical requirements within the Government.

11.3 Within the Census and Statistics Department, staff are available to provide professional services to other Government offices especially those without the benefit of a Statistical Unit, through conducting ad hoc surveys, reviewing statistical systems, interpreting statistics and undertaking data analysis for special purposes. In short, the Department advises Government on all statistical matters. The availability of resources within the Department to respond to requests for statistical support from users has opened up opportunities for assessing statistical needs within the Government and for promoting the application of statistics to problem solving.

11.4 Government statisticians are often represented on inter-deparmental committees and working groups. Through this involvement, statisticians give advice on the use and interpretation of statistics and become increasingly aware of the information needs of policy makers and how available data are used. At a working level, statisticians are members of multi-disciplinary teams charged with the responsibilities of undertaking economic forecasts, regional population projections, criminological research, etc. Through these organizations they interact with statistical users who are professionals in various fields, such as economists, town planners and psychologists.

(b) Promotion of the Use of Official Statistics

11.5 To promote better understanding of statistics among users, the Department regularly conducts statistics courses for other grades who make and execute policies, e.g. administrative officers, social workers, postal controllers and managers of urban services. The courses' duration range from one to ten hours, depending on the level of detail. Through the courses, users are exposed to the multitude of official statistics available and get a change to appreciate how statistical tools can be applied in their specialized field of work. For users outside Government, the Department regularly conducts short courses in collaboration with the university to put managers and planners in closer touch with available statistics and their uses.

11.6 For the general user, statistical publications are advertised through such media as press releases, pamphlets, book exhibitions and public talks. Special promotion exercises have been mounted to market directly to traders, manufacturers and professionals in various trades and services by distributing mail pamphlets using the names and addresses of establishments on the Central Register, which is maintained for serving as a sampling frame for establishment surveys. This approach has been found to be successful in promoting such publications as the Annual Digest of Statistics.

(c) Feedback from Users

11.7 To advise the Department on important statistical plans and proposals, a Statistics Advisory Board has been set up which comprises members from both the public and private sectors. The Board meets half-yearly to discuss statistical programs and constitutes one of the channels through which users' statistical requirements are sought. The Board represents an important feedback channel from major users of statistics collated by the Department.

11.8 Other communications with users, especially the more articulate ones who already use statistics extensively, are maintained through consultation meetings. It is a regular practice for the Department, in designing a statistical survey or system, to consult users on their information needs. Dialogues are held, for example, with economists through financial institutions, with businessmen through trade organizations, with academics through universities and educational institutions, with social workers through the Hong Kong Council of Social Service, etc. as and when feedback is needed for reviewing and designing a statistical system.

11.9 For the non-Government sector, it is more difficult to know the needs of users. In the past, mail questionnaire surveys for subscribers to statistical publications (such as the Monthly Digest) have been conducted and publications sale figures have been analysed. The design of these approaches precludes detailed information on how the data are actually used. Moreover, the methods can cover only those who are aware of and using statistics and does not throw light on the needs and practices of potential clients who have yet to be won over.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Committee on Statistics

Seventh Session
24 ~ 30 November 1987
Bangkok, Thailand

# COUNTRY REPORT ON STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES

# IN INDIA

# COUNTRY STATEMENT ON STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES IN INDIA

At the sixth session of the Committee on Statistics of ESCAP, India had presented a Country Statement reviewing the statistical activities and programmes in various fields of official statistics for the period May 1983 - April 1985. The present statement gives a brief of the main developments which have taken place since the sixth session.

## National Statistical System

2. The National Advisory Board on Statistics (NABS), an apex body, set up in 1982 to provide an overall perspective to the development of statistical system and to suggest priorities for development of statistics in the country to meet the requirements of planning and policy making has held periodical meetings to advise on matters of current interest. The fifth and sixth meetings of the Board held in October 1985 and July 1987 respectively, reviewed the status of implementation of the recommendations of the Committee to Review the National Statistical System and considered (i) proposal for holding a national seminar on social statistics, (ii) modified work programme to provide data series of unorganised segments of the economy on a quinquennial basis, and (iii) procedure to be followed for review by the NABS of statistical schemes included in the Seventh Five Year Plan. As a result of its recommendation the second national seminar on social statistics is proposed to be held in February 1988.

## Conference of Central and State Statistical Organisations

3. The seventh session of the Conference of Central and State Statistical Organisations (COCSSO) was held during 19-23 December 1985. The Conference provides a

forum for exchange of views and experience in filling up gaps in the data base and suggesting remedial measures for appropriate action by the concerned authorities. Besides reviewing the progress of action taken on the earlier recommendations of the Conference and considering the reports of two working groups, viz., (i) for development of indicators/indices for tracking the progress of the new 20-point programme, and (ii) for evolving an acceptable methodology for identification of the poor, the Conference discussed some newly emerging areas of statistics pertaining to women, children, youth, elderly and disabled persons, environment statistics and remote sensing techniques for data collection. Some of the other items discussed were statistical organisations for micro-level planning, indicators for human settlement and estimation of district income as well as estimation of rural and urban incomes. The Conference has provided the needed guidelines for compilation of data in these fields which would be of help in strengthening the data base for planning and policy making. The progress of implementation of recommendations of the Conference is reviewed periodically by a Standing Committee.

Population and Vital Statistics

4. The Expert Committee on Population Projections has worked out the projections for all-India and states/union territories for the years 1985, 1990, 1995 and 2000. These projections provide break up by age, sex and rural/urban areas.

5. To generate awareness about the importance and usefulness of civil registration, the year 1986 was observed as the year of Good Civil Registration System. A 12-point programme was drawn up for the purpose and implemented throughout the country.

6. A workshop was organised in May 1986 to identify the problems involved in the collection and compilation of 'cause of death' statistics required for planning various health infrastructural facilities in the country.

7. Under the auspices of ILO, the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) has undertaken case studies on internal migration in three states of Bihar, Kerala and Uttar Pradesh. Individual reports of the case studies which provide information on various determinants and the implications of migration for rural and urban development and the role of population distribution in national development have been prepared. A consolidated report of the three case studies is under preparation.

Labour and Employment Statistics

8. A survey is proposed to be launched to ascertain the activity status of job seekers among the people registered with the employment exchanges. The preliminary work including the sampling design for the survey has been finalised. The field work is likely to commence in January 1988. The results of the survey are likely to provide the extent of over-estimation in the figures of unemployed persons based on the information available from the records of employment exchanges.

9. The results of the third quinquennial household survey on employment and unemployment and consumer expenditure conducted in 1983 by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) were released. The field work of the fourth quinquennial survey on these subjects has since commenced.

10. With a view to capturing the true picture of women's work and employment within and outside the household, an intensive survey called the "Time Allocation Survey"

was conducted in four states of Bihar, Kerala, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh. The survey has brought into focus the need for some changes in the methodology of collecting employment statistics by the NSSO to cover appropriately the contribution made by women to the economy of the household which was found to be quite significant, according to the survey.

11. The CSO, in collaboration with the ILO, organised a workshop on "Measurement of Female Labour Force" at New Delhi in April 1987. A wide range of topics relating to measurement of female participation such as alternative methodology to get a complete profile on women's activity, attempts made in various censuses to collect data on women's contribution to family occupation and recent experiences of NSSO in measurement of female labour force, were covered in the Workshop.

Agriculture and Allied Statistics

12. The detailed all-India report on third agricultural census 1980-81 was finalised. The fourth agricultural census with agricultural year 1985-86 as the reference year is in progress; so also is the input survey conducted as part of the census with reference year 1986-87.

13. At present, agriculture and live-stock censuses are conducted as two separate operations. At the instance of the Conference of Central and State Statistical Organisations a working group has been constituted to examine the feasibility of integration of the two censuses and to suggest the modus operandi of integration. The report of the group is expected to be available shortly.

14. A scheme has been drawn up to strengthen the data base for inland fisheries resources in eight hydro-biological regions selected in the first phase for the purpose.

15. Minor irrigation works are spread out far and wide throughout the country. In order to take stock of their contribution and their potential, a census of minor irrigation structures is contemplated.

16. A national symposium on 'Sample Survey in Indian Agricultural Problems and Prospects' was held in September 1987 to take stock of the achievements in the application of sample survey techniques in the country towards strengthening the data base for micro-level planning for agricultural development and problems arising out of the process of data so generated.

Rural Development Statistics

17. Concurrent evaluation surveys of on-going programmes of rural development like Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), National Rural Employment Programme (NREP), Training Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM) are necessary if they are to be effective. A Technical Committee has been set up to identify the data requirements and to determine the coverage, methodology and sampling design for collecting the same through such surveys.

Industrial Statistics

18. Summary results of Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) in the expanded form for the factory sector as well as the census sector upto and including ASI 1983-84 have been released. The summary results of ASI 1984-85 are likely to be released shortly.

19. The base year of the Index of Industrial Production has been shifted from 1970 to 1980-81. The revised pattern of weights has been adopted to make the index reflect changes

that have taken place in the industrial structure. For the first time, a few items from the small scale sector, whose contribution to industrial output has since become significant, have been included for compilation of the index.

## Economic Census & Surveys

20. The Economic Census and Surveys Scheme envisages organising periodically a census of non-agricultural entrepreneurial activities in urban and rural areas of the country followed by detailed sample surveys of unorganised segments of non-agricultural economy in a phased manner over the period between the two censuses. So far two censuses have been carried out, one in 1977 and the other in 1980 conducted along with the house-listing operations of the 1981 population census. The field work of three follow-up surveys of 1980 economic census have been completed. Reports based on the first survey conducted in 1983-84, which covered all enterprises in the sectors of transport, hotels & restaurants, storage & warehousing and services have been released. The data processing work relating to the other two follow-up surveys. one on unorganised manufacturing and the other on trade, carried out in 1984-85 and 1985-86 respectively, is in progress.

## Tourist Statistics

21. A repeat survey of foreign tourists, normally held once in five years, with an extended scope and coverage including tourist from Pakistan and Bangladesh, hitherto not covered, has commenced.

22. A survey of domestic tourists, sponsored by the Department of Tourism, has been undertaken by the NSSO during 1987-88 for gathering information on the volume of domestic tourists the pattern of their movement and

main motivation forces inducing them to undertake the travel.

23. Surveys to assess the potential for development of tourism in various parts of the country is in progress since 1986. The North Eastern Region, Himachal Pradesh, Goa, and Jammu & Kashmir were covered during the past two years.

Price Statistics

24. On the basis of data collected in the family living survey relating to the urban non-manual employees conducted in 1982-83 in 59 centres, a revised series of consumer price index numbers for urban non-manual employees with base 1984-85 = 100 has been introduced from October 1987. The test indices of the working class consumer price index numbers with revised base 1982 = 100 adopting a new weighting diagram drawn from data collected in the Working Class Family Income and Expenditure Survey conducted in 1981-82 have also been prepared. The compilation of this series of indices on regular basis will commence as soon as the usual process of consultations with the users is completed.

National Accounts and Related Aggregates

25. Annual issues of National Accounts Statistics were brought out covering period upto 1984-85. Besides the usual appendix giving time series data on macro-economic aggregates from 1950-51 onwards, these publications include special appendices on gross financial savings and liabilities of the household sector for the period 1970-71 to 1984-85 (at current prices) and gross domestic fixed capital formation, change in stock and capital formation by industry of use for the period 1970-71 to 1984-85 at current and

constant (1970-71) prices. A brochure containing estimates of state domestic product at factor cost, sector-wise for 1970-71 to 1985-86 was also released. In addition, a brochure giving state-wise and crop-wise estimates of value of output from agriculture for the years 1960-61 to 1980-81 was published.

26. Work relating to changing the base year of the constant price estimates of national accounts from 1970-71 to 1980-81 is nearing completion and the revised series with 1980-81 base is expected to be released in early January 1988. The task of construction of input output transaction tables for 1983-84 is in progress.

27. A Technical Group for recommending methodology for the estimation of income for sub-regions of state, viz., district, rural/urban has been set up at the instance of the COCSSO. The Group is likely to report in early 1988.

28. India continued to participate in the U.N. sponsored International Comparison Project Phase V. The scrutiny and tabulation of all-India prices of consumer goods, services, construction items, etc., required for this phase were completed and forwarded to the U.N. Statistical Office and ESCAP Secretariat.

Financial Statistics

29. The major thrust of work in this field in recent years has been towards providing the data base on the key parameters with minimum time lag by resorting to computerisation. The Department of Statistical Analysis and Computer Services of the Reserve Bank of India opened three regional offices at New Delhi, Madras and Calcutta for coordinating the collection of data and for their expeditious transmission to the headquarters.

30. A new publication has been introduced giving quick estimates of credit provided by the banking system side by side giving sector-wise percentage distribution for December 1985. The results of the biennial survey of ownership pattern of deposits for March 1984 and those of survey of investment for March 1986 were finalised. Studies on finances of large public limited companies for 1985-86 and those of both public and private limited companies for 1984-85 were completed.

31. The preparation of both short-term and long-term forecasts of currency requirements is now a regular feature. This exercise has been extended to other economic indicators such as aggregate deposits, bank credit, money supply, index of industrial production and wholesale price index numbers.

32. Concerted efforts continued to be made not only to bring down the time lag in publication of balance of payment statistics, but also introducing refinements by conducting periodically census of foreign liabilities and assets.

Health Statistics

33. With a view to having a continuous monitoring system for achieving a comprehensive data base on nutritional status of people living in the rural and urban areas of the country and to know the usefulness of various types of nutritional intervention programmes, a nutritional surveilliance system has been evolved in the Indian Council of Medical Research.

Education Statistics

34. Educational statistics has been suffering from

considerable time lag primarily due to delays in processing of large volume of data which has to be collected from numerous institutions throughout the country. A pilot project to computerise data in one of the states was undertaken in which pre-coded forms were used for the collection of data at block and institutional levels. Encouraged by the results of the project, it has been decided to extend computerisation of educational statistics to other states and union territories.

35. An all-India Conference on Educational Statistics was convened in May 1987 to discuss various issues relating to collection and compilation of educational statistics.

Cultural Statistics

36. India is endowed with rich cultural heritage and its preservation and development is considered essential for the promotion of welfare of the community. Realising the importance of the role of statistics in this regard, the Department of Culture in the Ministry of Human Resources Development has constituted an Advisory Committee on Cultural Statistics to recommend ways and means for the development of cultural statistics.

Other Social Statistics

37. A National Seminar on Social Statistics was organised in 1975 to discuss about the data gaps in various segments of social statistics and to suggest steps required to fill in these gaps. To take stock of the developments which have taken place since then, a second seminar on social statistics is proposed to be held in February 1988.

Environmental Statistics

38. Environmental statistics are of recent origin

in our country. They comprise collection and analysis of data pertaining to a great number of resource elements both natural and man-made. A Working Group has been constituted to identify the major areas of environmental concern on which data need to be collected, determine parameters relating to various resource elements, assigning priorities and suggesting methodology for compilation of data on these parameters.

National Sample Survey

39. National Sample Survey Organisation have conducted the following surveys :-

i) 41st round dealing with non-directory trading establishments and own-account trading enterprises (July 1985-June 1986);

ii) 42nd round dealing with social consumption and problems of the aged and ex-armed forces personnel (July 1986 - June 1987).

40. The 43rd round of survey which started from 1 July 1987 is devoted to consumer expenditure and employment and unemployment. An enquiry on travel habits of the general population has been integrated with this round. The next round will be devoted to the survey on tribals, housing conditions, and current construction activities.

41. Till recently, the results of the national sample surveys were used to be available with considerable time-lag mainly due to processing delays of voluminous data collected on a variety of subjects throughout the country. With the installation of direct data entry system in its various processing centres and close monitoring of their performance, the results are now available with reduced time lag of 15-18 months of completion of the field work

and this is likely to be reduced further to 12-15 months in future.

Statistical Standards

42. A revised National Industrial Classification 1987 (NIC-87) was issued to replace its earlier version of 1970, incorporating additions/modifications of items brought in the wake of the change in the industrial structure of the country.

43. India has been closely associated with the work of Harmonisation of International Economic Classification being carried out under the auspices of the U.N. Statistical Commission and the Economic Commission for Europe. The Common Product Nomenclature which provides a national standard classification of all transportable goods according to industry of origin is being revised in a manner that would enable correlation of production data with foreign trade data as also with the data on other aspects of the economy.

Data Processing

44. With increasing reliance on computer, the data processing work in the Computer Centre of the Department of Statistics has grown considerably in recent years. Steps were taken to streamline the data processing system with a view to reducing the time-lag between the completion of the field work and production of final tables by suitably decentralising the computer scrutiny and correction of errors therefrom.

45. A Working Group is engaged for processing socio-economic data collected under the national sample surveys.

46. An Expert Group has been constituted to recommend an appropriate computer system to replace the existing Borroughs-3845 system in the Computer Centre keeping in view its life span in the context of existing levels of developments of computer technology and the nature and volume of work-load expected in the years to come.

National Informatics Centre

47. National Informatics Centre (NIC) set up in March 1975 as a constituent unit under the Department of Electronics to play a promotional role in creating appropriate computer-based information system, has been charged with the responsibility for providing informatics services to Central and State Government Departments/ Ministries to support decision making.

48. In the first phase of NIC, a large main frame computer, CDC Cyber 170/730, was installed at NIC head-quarters at New Delhi. Besides, a large number of local terminals and about 20 mini-computer terminals were provided in the main government buildings in Delhi, all connected to the Cyber system to form the NIC Network (NICNET). NICNET is now being extended to cover all the State capitals as well as the districts for the planning and monitoring of Plan schemes and for providing a quick information system linking the State governments and the Central government. As a part of this programme, four super computers, NES S-1000, were installed at Delhi, Pune, Bhubaneswar and Hyderabad.

49. The nation-wide informatics net-work will use satellite communication for connecting the district and State centres to all regional centres in the country.

Training

50. Under the U.N. National Household Survey Capability Programme, the CSO has been organising training

courses on 'Sampling and Household Survey Methodology' and 'Electronic Data Processing'. During the period December 1985 - December 1987, four courses each of 16 weeks' duration, two on sampling and household survey methodology and two on electronic data processing, were conducted for the benefit of 77 participants from 22 countries of the ESCAP region.

51. In order to improve and update the professional skill and competence of Indian Statistical Service officers and senior and middle level statistical personnel working in Central and State Governments and public sector undertakings, the CSO regularly conducts training courses in official statistics and related methodology. It also conducts courses in national and international statistical systems for students of Indian Statistical Institute and participants of the International Statistical Education Centre, Calcutta.

52. A refresher training programme in computer appreciation and applications has also been started for the senior officers of the Indian Statistical Service.

Implementation of Recommendations made in ESCAP Resolution 246 (XLII)

53. In India, statistical development programmes are drawn up and implemented as an integral part of the Five Year Plans. The schemes are formulated after a series of consultations amongst constituent government agencies and priorities accorded keeping in view the overall national requirements, State and local needs.

54. Arrangements for training at supervisory, intermediate and lower levels exist in CSO, State Directorates of Economics and Statistics, and lower administrative units as well as in respective Central/ State Government Departments to cater to their special needs. Training in computers, including statistical software and microcomputers, normally constitute a part of training in statistics.

55. The Indian Statistical Service exists at national level and several States have constituted cadres for statistical personnel.

56. National Standard Classification conform to the International Standard Classification to the extent feasible. Guidelines produced by U.N. agencies are, by and large, followed.

57. The Collection of Statistics Act, 1953, provides legislative support to the collection of data in specified fields. Administrative records are being gradually made to suit both operational needs of the respective organisations and the statistical requirements for development planning. Dissemination of statistics is being promoted amongst users and potential users by means of participation in conferences, seminars, dialogue with users, issuing of hand-outs, sale of statistical publications at subsidised price and via other publicity means.

58. As would be observed in the earlier part of this paper, a Conference of Central and State Statistical Organisations provides for exchange of views and experience in filling up gaps in data base and suggesting remedial measures for appropriate action by the concerned agencies. The user agencies are adequately represented at the Conference.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Committee on Statistics

Seventh Session
24 ~ 30 November 1987
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# COUNTRY REPORT ON STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES

# IN IRAN

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# CURRENT ISSUES IN INDONESIA'S STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

INDONESIA

COUNTRY PAPER

Presented

To the 7 th Session of the Committee on Statistics

## INTRODUCTION

This paper is prepared for the ESCAP Committee Meeting on Statistics, held in Bangkok, Thailand in November 1987. It is distributed as Indonesia's country paper.

The paper is divided into three sections. The first section contains an overview of the statistical programs and activities of CBS. The second section deals with current activities conducted by CBS, and the third is on the forthcoming major activities.

### Statistical System in Indonesia

The statistical system in Indonesia is basically centralized, with CBS as the agency to coordinate all statistical activities in the country. The CBS has the responsibility to conduct various censuses and surveys as well as to collect current statistics of various pertinent subjects.

Secondary data are obtained from the appropriate government

institutions. In this case statistics are usually derived from administrative records. Statistics derived from corresponding government institutions are usually discussed with and communicated to CBS prior to release.

## OVERVIEW OF CBS PROGRAM

### Integrated Survey

The objective of long term statistical development is to achieve a national integrated statistical system. CBS programs for data gathering are generally oriented to the needs of data users; especially for government plannings and technical departments and decision makers. CBS views all of its activities in the context of an integrated statistical system. The system governs the determination of types of statistics to be collected, construction of concept and definition, classification, the methods to be adopted, and the coordination on data collections to be conducted by CBS and other government institutions.

In the early 1980's, CBS started to integrate its surveys directly conducted by the agencies by using the integrated statistical system approach. The surveys are integrated in terms of design of questionnaires, design of their sampling scheme and the schedule of field operation. Indonesia's long established National Socio-economic survey (SUSENAS) is one example of the integrated survey. Basic items which are commonly collected in socio-economic survey, such as demographic characteristics of

household, are collected. But at the same time information on the economic activity of household such as agriculture, manufacturing, trade, etc. are also covered. To be able to cover more detailed questions of the household, a sub-sample of household selected from among sample household is taken.

For this purpose, an integrated sampling frame, which could fulfill various objectives, is needed. The proper time for constructing this master sampling frame was during census implementation; initiated during the population census and updated when other censuses are to be taken. Through the 1980 Population Census, the 1983 Agriculture Census and the 1985 Intercensal Population Survey, an integrated sampling frame for household survey was constructed. Meanwhile, through the 1986 Economic Census, an integrated sampling frame for establishment surveys was also successfully constructed.

Any specific data which is required by government institutions, which are not covered in the CBS surveys, are expected to be collected by the corresponding institutions. The types of statistics to be collected are discussed with and communicated to CBS to avoid possible duplication and to guarantee comparability and validity. Schedule of the field operations is also coordinated, so as not to confuse respondents and to avoid overburden of CBS field officers.

Standardization

The main objective of having standard classifications, concepts and definitions, is to be able to get a comparable data over times, not only nationally but also internationally. In rendering services to the development of statistics for other departments/institutions, CBS advises other institutions to use the standardized classifications, concepts, and definitions, so that results for their surveys can be comparable to other statistics collected by CBS and other institutions.

CBS has been attempting to formulate standard concepts and definitions for major statistics. For characteristics related to social condition and population the standards have been finalized and adopted. Standard definition and classification for agricultural sectors is still in finalization stage. For other economic sectors, formulation of standards are still in the initial stage.

The Indonesian industrial classification, which is an extended form of ISIC, has also been finalized. From 4 digits ISIC, it is expanded into 5 digits, considering the Indonesian economic conditions. This 5 digits classification formulated by CBS is now widely used by government institutions. From the 5 digits industrial classification, an 8 digits commodity classification has been prepared. A conversion table from the Indonesian version of commodity classification to CCCN and SITC is also being prepared.

In constructing standards classifications, concepts and definitions, CBS consults with other concerned government

institutions. In this way, the final form of the standard can be accepted and used by all institutions.

Along the line of standardization, CBS also attempted to designate one base period of all indices which are computed by CBS and used for constructing GDP. The effort of standardization in this field of indices involves not only fixing the base period, but also scrutinizing methods to be adopted with appropriate data from each sectors.

Partner in Statistics

Based on CBS experiences in Indonesia, the biggest cost component in the implementation of any survey or censuse, is for training of interviewers. Many interviewers are from outside CBS regular staff and hired to work on project basis. The amount of money spend for training of the interviewers has been enormous. This situation give choices to CBS , whether to strengthen its field staff by employing more regular personnel or hiring workers on projects basis as partner in statistical work (Mitra Statistik). CBS decided to chose the second option. These Mitra Statistik can be selected from local people who have shown satisfactory achievement and cooperation during the implementation of previous surveys or censuses. Having these Mitra Statistik as partners to do the interviewing and other data gathering related activities, some concepts, definitions, classifications, etc., which have been explained and discussed during previous training, do not necessarily have to be repeated

every time CBS conduct a survey. Thus, the period and cost of training can be significantly reduced. These Mitra Statistik could consist of local primary school teachers, village administrative staff or sub district administrative staffs.

Besides, Mitra Statistik will indirectly act as CBS PR man in the community. Through these Mitra Statistik, it is expected that respondent will be more cooperative in future surveys, enhance their statistical mindedness and be aware of current statistical activities implemented in the community.

Major Activities

Data produced by CBS is oriented to the need of data users. To be able to achieve this objective data users including representative from government institutions, university professors or research institutions, private organizations or research unit of government departments are invited to join in the preliminary discussions on the preparatory stage of a census or survey. Their data need are considered, and discussed in the meeting. If it is in line with the objective of the survey and considered as urgently needed by the institution concerned then these particular data are incorporated in the questionnaires.

Another way that assists other institutions in fulfilling their data needs is by doing special processing from the existing data. As long as their needs do not reveal individual information, CBS can provide their requirements.

The coordinating function of CBS is also implemented by assisting other government institutions in designing a survey, drafting their corresponding questionnaires, sampling designs, tabulation plans, as well as training of interviewers and planning of data processing. Some surveys, such as Contraceptive Prevalence Survey, which was conducted in collaboration with the National Family Planning Coordination Board (BKKBN), National Health Survey with the Department of Health, survey on foreign capital investment with Bank Indonesia (Central Bank), are examples of data gathering done by or in cooperation with CBS to respond to specific data needs of government departments/institutions.

Data from CBS surveys or censuses are generally analyzed by CBS in cooperation with local universities or individual researchers inclined to extensively utilize CBS census and survey findings.

National Household Surveys

In the household surveys, attempts to incorporate various household information has been attempted. Sample households were selected from enumeration districts/areas, listed in the master sampling frame.

The household survey has been conducted periodically with different topics of interest or modules added up to the core demographic information regularly collected in the National Household Sample Surveys. The modules are :

a. Consumption/expenditures and income of household.

b. Labor Force and economic activity of household

c. Housing environment, and other socio-economic characteristics of household.

In addition to SUSENAS, the Intercensal Population Survey was conducted in between population censuses. The second intercensal population survey was conducted in 1985. Detailed information on demographic characteristics of household, their socio-economic condition, family planning, migration, health, housing and environment were covered. Results of this survey have been published. Tapes edited from data collected thru intercensal surveys were made available to as selected audience.

In preparation for the 1990 Population Census, several pilot studies have been conducted. Pilot studies on the formulation and mapping of enumeration areas, which later on will be used for construction of census frame, are now being carried out.

Economic Statistics

Besides the current program in the field of data collection on economic activities, two censuses have been conducted in relation to economic statistics. -- The agricultural census and the economic census.

We have 3 types of censuses in Indonesia. Every type of census will be undertaken once in every 10 years. Population census will be undertaken in year ending with zero, while agriculture census and economic census will be undertaken in year ending with 3 and 6 respectively.

The field operation for listing of establishment for economic census was done in January 1986. The data collection was done on both complete enumeration and on sample basis. The complete census included large, medium and small manufacturing industries, and all other incorporated establishments, with activities in mining, electricity, gas and water, construction, trade, transport and communication, banking and services sectors. The data collection for small-scale and cottage industries is conducted on a sample basis from the sampling frame. The field operation of the complete census was conducted in April 1986 for some sectors and in October 1986 for other sectors, while the sample census was conducted in October 1986. In particular the enumeration of the sample of cottage industries was conducted in October 1987. Results of economic census for some sectors have been published by CBS.

The current economic statistics includes mining, manufacturing, electricity, gas and water, construction, trade, transport and communication, financial institutions. Data collection for these activities has been regularly carried out by CBS either monthly, quarterly or annually. Publications of these economic statistics are all available and have been regularly disseminated to pertinent users.

Cross-sectoral Data

Data on national accounts, which consists of data on GDP by sectors, is an indicator of the economic growth of the country, and also shows the structural change in the economy. The latest publication of national account data is the National Income of Indonesia, 1985-1986. The publication provides data of GDP by sectors in current as well as constant 1983 prices. Includes also is on estimate of the terms of trade.

Data on regional income have also been compiled by CBS, either in cooperation with local universities or provincial planning board. Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) at provincial level for years 1978-1984 have been published, with 1975 as base year. A forthcoming publication containing figures of GRDP estimates from 27 provinces in Indonesia for period of 1983 up to 1985, with 1983 base period, is still under preparation.

In addition to national and regional account data, an Input-output (I-O) table and a Social Accounting Matrix (SAM) of Indonesia have also been constructed by CBS. I-O tables of Indonesia for 1971, 1975, 1980 and 1983 have been published. Also SAM of Indonesia for 1975 and 1980. The 1983 I-O table was an updated version of I-O 1980. It is constructed by using the coefficient of I-O 1980, applied to some actual data of 1983. The I-O table for 1985 and the SAM for 1985 are now being compiled, and it is planned to be finalized in February 1988.

THE FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES

Demand for more accurate data with detailed breakdown by smaller area is rising. Resources available for statistical activity are always limited. Therefore an effort has been made to get more reliable, accurate and up to date data, through improvement of survey design, field work organization and data validation. An Effort to bridge the gap between CBS as producer of data and users was done through intensified dissemination and publicity, including release of data analysis.

CBS has attempted to set up a long term plan in the development of statistics and duely documented in planning our Sigmaplan.

Currently we are preparing our second cost of living surveys. The weighting diagram for the computation of CPI indices, which was obtained from the cost of living survey carried out in 1977/1978, is considered no longer represent the actual consumption pattern of Indonesian people. Besides, the 17 cities selected in the survey no longer represent the major centers in Indonesia. A new weighting diagram and basket of commodities for the computation of CPI indices is therefore urgently needed.

The forthcoming cost of living survey will be carried out in July 1988 up to June 1989, so that a new base period, i.e., 1988/1989, can be obtained. This survey will cover 27 cities in Indonesia. Round I of the survey will be undertaken in January 1989, covering the period July to December 1988, while round II will be undertaken in July 1989, covering the period January to

June 1989. Two stage sampling is going to be applied; the first stage comprises the selection of census block and second is the selection of household in the selected block by using systematic sampling or random start. Enumeration will be carried out through direct interview as well as the utilization of a diary book for keeping record of household consumption expenditure. One month of the duration of enumeration period is divided into 4 periods, i.e. -- Monday up to Sunday, so that variation among weeks can also be obtained. It is expected that by April 1990, the new weighting diagram and basket of commodities will be ready to be used in the computation of CPI indices.

With the expanding needs for more sound statistical presentation, program to enhance the need for personnal capabilities is implemented through training for personnel, to be undertaken locally or outside the country. This part of activities may be considered as CBS device to embark on a sound human investment program which will eventually strengthen our personnel capability. The new graduates from degree programs as well as training schemes will enhance our performance at the central as well as at regional offices.

The increasing demand of statistical data from users and the dynamic of our nature of works, form a new challenge to CBS, to expand its organizational structure. The current organizational set up was formulated in 1980 and in lieu of the emerging development it is no longer considered sufficient to cope with the demand for services. It is expected that within the next 2 years, a new organizational structure of CBS will be finalized.

The increasing demand of statistical data from users, mainly at provincial and regional level, has encouraged CBS to undertaken its surveys with an expanded coverage. Data processing can no longer be handled only in the central office. Installation of computer facilities to provincial offices has become inevitable. Preparation is now in progress to install mini computers for bigger provinces and personal computers in other provinces.

Improved quality of statistics shall be disseminated to users, mostly in the form of publication. Better design of the publication and improvement on timeliness will enhance CBS services to our data users. To achieve this objective, CBS now is embarking on a program to expand its printing facilities by acquiring new and modern printing machines.

Conventional method of disseminating CBS publications in the past has proven to be less effective to make CBS data reach wider audiences. The distribution of publications therefore has to be managed professionally. At present some of CBS publications are distributed free of charge to various government institutions, international institutions, etc., while the rest are sold at the CBS bookstore. Now we are attempting to expand our dissemitation outlet thru cooperation with private publishers. Meanwhile CBS has also participated in several book exhibitions, conducted by the Indonesian Publishers Association. Advertising new publications thru leading newspapers has also been attempted.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Committee on Statistics

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# COUNTRY REPORT ON STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES

# IN IRAN

In the Name of Allah

The Compassionate and the Merciful

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Islamic Republic of Iran is located in the south-west Asia. With an area of 1,648,000 square kilometres, it is the sixteenth largest country of the world. It is divided into 24 Ostans(provinces), which are subdivided into several Shahrestans. Each Shahrestan consists of several cities and villages. Wherever a municipality has been established is considered a city and places without municipalities are villages. Cities and villages are the smallest administrative divisions of the country.

According to the 1986 Census of Population and Housing, the population of the country is 51 million persons (21st in global order). About 54.2 percent of the total population live in urban areas and 45.8 percent live in the rural areas of the country. Some 99.5 percent of the population are Moselems and the formal language is Farsi (persian).

## 2. PERSENT STATISTICAL SYSTEM OF THE COUNTRY

According to regulations, the statistical system of the country must be centralized. But, due to the wide extent of statistics and diversified activities of ministries and government organizations, a number of institutions conduct statistical surveys independently, besides the Statistical Centre of Iran, which is the major statistical organization of the country. The SCI provides

the afore-mentioned institutions with technical and scientific statistical assistance.

## 2.1. Statistical Centre of Iran

The Statistical Centre of Iran was established in 1965 as the central statistical organization of the country responsible for designing and execution of censuses of population and housing, manufacturing, agriculture, etc. The Centre also conducts large-scale sample surveys in different fields.

## 2.2. Other Organizations

Economic Statistics Dept. of Bank Markazi (Central Bank) of the Islamic Republic of Iran was established in 1965 to conduct statistical sample surveys on prices, construction, industries, private services and other surveys related to economic activities.

Other important statistical institutions of the country consist of the General Department of Labour and Manpower in the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs; statistics departments of ministries of Jihad-e-Sazandegi (Construction Crusade), Agriculture, Health and Medical Training, etc. Most of the public and private institutions also have statistical units which are engaged in registration rather than collection of statistics.

# 3. MAJOR STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES OF THE COUNTRY IN 1986-87

In the Islamic Republic of Iran, as in most other countries, the greatest part of required statistical data are collected from the results of sample surveys as well as registers and records.

enjoyed close cooperation of different ministries and availed itself of such facilities as transportation media, training space, telecommunication instruments, supplied by other organizations. The final census results have already started to appear only a year from the census enumeration.

The census post enumeration survey was conducted immediately after the conclusion of the census enumeration to assess the quality of the census execution.

### 3.1.2. Socio-Economic Census of Nomadic Tribes

The second stage of this census was conducted in all the tribal areas of the country in the summer of 1987 by the Statistical Centre of Iran. The first stage of this census had been conducted in 1985 and provided frame-work information such as the list of tribes and general information. Detailed socio-economic information on nomadic tribes will be published after processing the information collected from the second stage of the census.

### 3.1.3. General Census of Agriculture

The first agricultural census was conducted in all the villages of the country in 1973. The frame obtained from this census served as the basis of sample surveys. The SCI resumed a series of studies in 1984 to make preparations for the next census of agriculture and conducted the pilot agricultural census in certain Ostan (provinces) in 1985. Currently, the SCI is engaged in a wide range of activities to conduct the census in 1988. This census will cover all rural, tribal, and urban areas of the country.

Major statistical activities performed in the country by the Statistical Centre of Iran and other organizations during 1986 and 1987 are as follows:

## 3.1. Statistical activities performed by the Statistical Centre of Iran during 1986 and 1987

During this period, the SCI conducted two large censuses: the General Census of Population and Housing and the Socio-Economic Census of Nomadic Tribes, and made preparations for a general census of agriculture to be conducted in 1988. It also conducted several sample surveys and made important statistical studies. These activities are discussed below in more detail.

### 3.1.1. General Census of Population and Housing

Four population censuses have been conducted so far in Iran in 1956, 1966, 1976, and 1986. The last census was implemented by the SCI in October 1986 despite difficulties and problems caused by the imposed war. The preliminary results appeared soon after. The pilot census had been executed in some shahrestans (urban agglomerations) in 1983. Preparations for the census enumeration, including urban household enumeration, revision and updating of rural maps, delimitation of enumeration districts, allocation of budget, and determination of census executive organization, were made in 1984 and 1985. The census taking lasted 15 days and 40,000 students of teachers training courses who were especially trained for this purpose did the enumeration. Under directives issued by high-ranking executive authorities of the country and according to the existing rules and regulations, the Statistical Centre of Iran

### 3.1.4. Sample Surveys

Major sample surveys conducted by the SCI during 1986 and 1987 are as follows:

- Urban Household Expenditure and Income Survey;
- Rural Household Expenditure and Income Survey;
- Retail Price Survey of Consumer Goods and Services in Rural Areas;
- Survey of Farm-Gate Prices and Cost of Agricultural Services in Rural Areas;
- Survey of Household Socio-Economic Characteristics;
- Survey of Tenant Households in Tehran City;
- Agricultural Sample Survey.

### 3.1.5. Collection and Dissemination of Registers

- Statistics on Livestock Slaughtered in Slaughterhouses of the Country;
- Statistics on Distribution of Imported Chilled and Frozen Meat;
- Summary Information on Construction Permits;
- Collection of information for such publications as the Statistical Yearbook; A Statistical Reflection of the Islamic Republic of Iran; Quarterly Statistical Bulletin; and Summary Basic Data of the Country.

### 3.1.6. Other Activities

- Survey of pisciculture establishments;
- Census of chicken farms;
- Census of breeding chicken farms;

- Census of layer chicken farms;
- Survey of cold storage establishments;
- Calculation of national accounts;
- Survey of municipalities expenditure and income;
- Survey of urban and rural sample household characteristics on the basis of household expenditure and income survey results;
- Survey of housing cooperatives;
- Survey of paint manufacturing establishments;
- Survey of cement manufacturing establishments;
- Survey of glass manufacturing establishments;
- Survey of prices of construction material, wages, and rent of machinery hired for use in development projects;
- Survey of mines;
- Preparation of a dictionary of statistical definitions and concepts;
- Classification of educational courses and fields of study on the basis of UNESCO recommendations (for use in the General Census of Population and Housing);
- Classification of activities and occupations on the basis of international recommendations (for use in the General Census of Population and Housing);
- Survey of large-scale manufacturing establishments: This is one of the most important statistical surveys regularly conducted by the SCI. During this survey enumeration, information is collected for establishments with 10 to 49 employees and those with 50 employees and over.

## 3.2. Statistical Activities of Other Institutions During 1986 and 1987

- Bank Markazi (Central Bank) of the Islamic Republic of Iran conducted surveys of household expenditure and income, prices, new construction, and industries.

- Ministry of labour and Socail Affairs conducted the statistical survey of "Issuing labour identity cards for employees of state establishments." The results of the plan for determining basic characteristics of urban establishments, which had been carried out in 1985, were also published in 1986.

- Ministry of Agriculture conducted an agricultural sample survey (Survey of Cultivation Progress) at different stages of cultivating, attending, and harvesting.

In the meantime, sample survey of production costs of agricultural commodities and sample survey of rice production were also carried out.

## 4. STEPS TAKEN IN CONNECTION WITH THE RESOLUTIONS REACHED AT THE SIXTH SESSION OF STATISTICS COMMITTEE.

- As regards the relationship between statistical producers and users, the Statistical Centre of Iran has taken major steps which have been discussed in detail in a separate report along with some recommendations. This report has been circulated at the present session.

- As regards rapid publication of data, the SCI publishes the latest available information in its Quarterly Statistical Bulletin.

The results of statistical surveys appear in separate reports. Copies of each report are sent to different authorities, decision makers, universities, and research institutions together with a sheet containing a very short summary of contents. These summaries play an important role in rapid circulation of information and promotion of interest in survey results. Having prepared the results of each survey, the SCI convenes a seminar to present the findings to statistical users and interested individuals. Final results of the 1986 Census of Population and Housing started to appear a year after the enumeration due to painstaking efforts and consideration of necessary provisions. This is an indication of the Centre's intention to publish the results as soon as possible.

- As regards inclination towards decentralization in subject-matter statistics, the Centre has paid more attention to census enumeration. After the 1986 Census of Population and Housing and the 1987 Socio-Economic Census of Nomadic Tribes, censuses of agriculture, construction, and manufacturing are expected to be carried out in coming years. It is evident that the results obtained from these censuses may serve as statistical frames for sample surveys undertaken by other relevant organizations.

- Censuses conducted by the SCI during 1986 and 1987 provide information on the smallest geographical level. These censuses have not necessarily been accompanied by sampling.

- As regards information on internal migration, the 1986 Census of Population and Housing provides inclusive data.

- During its 1986 Census enumeration, the SCI proved very successful in publicity and public relation programmes. A variety of short amusing T.V. programmes were broadcast every evening and

questionnaire items, census objectives, and application of census results were briefly explained. Objectives and significance of census enumeration were also discussed in comprehensive serious T.V. programmes. Prior to and during the census enumeration, several articles about census taking were published in newspapers and magazines throughout the country and live broadcasts were on the radio and T.V. as well. Displaying posters and distributing brochures advertising census objectives were among other publicity activities of the SCI.

- The SCI conducts the periodic survey of Household Socio-Economic Charateristics four times every year. This survey provides comprehensive data on households. The same sample households are visited and interviewed 13 times during 3 successive years and changes in their social and economic characteristics are recorded.

- As regards statistical data required by ESCAP for publication in statistical reports, the SCI takes quick action to collect latest available information requested by ESCAP as soon as possible.

- As regards national accounts, further activities have been performed in the Islamic Republic of Iran and the results have been published as of 1985.

- In addition to the Survey of Wholesale and Retail Prices, which has been conducted regularly since several years ago, new surveys have also been carried out on prices of construction material, rent of construction machinery, and wages paid in construction sector.

- Surveys of transportation, energy, and construction are among economic statistics which have been recently considered for proper action and necessary investigations.

- As regards computer utilization, wider use of computers has become quite common in recent years. The Islamic Republic of Iran has been inclined to make the utmost use and increase the output of available facilities rather than to obtain new sets lest it may lead to further dependency on foreign technology.

- As regards collection of information on statistical needs, the first phase of this activity was performed in the Islamic Republic of Iran in 1982. The second phase of data collection on statistical needs and possibilities will be carried out in 1988. The performance of this new survey will establish a constant dynamic relationship between statistical producers and users.

- Efforts have been taken to standardize statistical definitions and concepts used inside the country according to international definitions and concepts. Besides, international classifications of different fields of action were adopted with a view to domestic conditions.

- As regards government information system (G.I.S.), an attempt was made to follow previous plans and to strengthen statistical network of executive organizations of the country and to develop registers production system in this way. The SCI cooperates with different institutions in this respect and provides them with technical and scientific advice.

- As regards the international cost programme (I.C.P.) the SCI participated in phase V of this project and met data requirements of this project through conduction of statistical surveys and collection of registers from different courses.

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# COUNTRY REPORT ON STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES IN JAPAN

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## Introduction

1. This paper describes major statistical activities of the Government of Japan since 1985. In Section 1, an overview of statistical surveys conducted by the Government of Japan in fiscal 1985 and 1986 are given. Section 2 describes main features of the major surveys other than the monthly and annual ones, conducted in the last two years. In addition, modification of a regular survey is also described. Section 3 outlines the major events concerning the activities to compile secondary statistics. Section 4 gives summary on the Medium- and Long-Term Plan for the Government Statistical Activities, which was formulated in October 1985 by the Statistics Council in response to the request of the Director-General of the Management and Coordination Agency. The Plan is intended to give a framework for the statistical activities of the Government of Japan for about 10 years since the formulation of the Plan. Section 5 gives a summary of the international cooperation in which the Government of Japan was involved in the last two years. Section 6 deals with other matters which may be of interest to the Statistical Committee. The section discusses a) the Japanese practices in data processing, and b) relationship between statistical producers and users, both of which are the topics suggested by ESCAP. In addition, the section describes the revision of the Japanese Standard Occupational Classification and the 46th Session of the International Statistical Institute held in September 1987 in Tokyo.

## I. An Overview of Statistical Surveys in Japan

2. The statistical system of the Japanese Government is decentralized. Each ministry or agency has a unit in charge of the compilation of statistics, and produces statistics for its own policy purposes. In order to coordinate the statistical activities of the Government, there are two fundamental laws concerning government statistics: the Statistics Law and the Statistical Reports Coordination Law. Both of them were established in order to consolidate and improve the statistical system of the government by implementing various measures such as protecting confidentiality of the respondents, elimination of redundancy of censuses and surveys, and reducing the burdens on the respondents.

3. Under these laws, the statistical surveys of the government are classified into three categories: "designated statistics", "notified statistics", and "approved statistical reports". Designated statistics are those government statistics, both national and local, which are designated by the Director-General (Minister of State) of the Management and Coordination Agency (MCA) according to the Statistics Law. These statistics concern subjects which are highly important in policy planning and decision making. All the private and the juridical persons are legally required to respond to the censuses and the surveys to produce designated statistics, if

they are asked to do so. In return, the responses are kept in strict confidence. Surveys to produce government statistics other than designated statistics are either notified statistical surveys stipulated by the Statistics Law or approved statistical surveys stipulated by the Statistical Reports Coordination Law. Approval for executing these two types of surveys can be obtained from the Director-General of MCA following a more simplified clearance procedure than designated statistics.

4. There are 137 designated statistical surveys, out of which 63 remain to be active, as the rest of them were either one-time surveys or already abolished. In fiscal 1985 and 1986, the numbers of designated statistical surveys actually conducted were 49 and 51 respectively. The number fluctuates from year to year because some designated statistical surveys are conducted at an interval longer than a year.

Number of designated statistical surveys conducted in fiscal 1985 and 1986

| Ministry or Agency | Fiscal year 1985 | 1986 |
|---|---|---|
| Management and Coordination Agency | 6 | 7 |
| Ministry of Finance | 2 | 2 |
| Ministry of Education | 2 | 3 |
| Ministry of Health and Welfare | 5 | 4 |
| Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries | 7 | 7 |
| Ministry of International Trade and Industry | 15 | 16 |
| Ministry of Transport | 7 | 7 |
| Ministry of Labour | 3 | 3 |
| Ministry of Construction | 2 | 2 |
| Total | 49 | 51 |

5. Statistical surveys of the national government other than the designated ones are in general classified as approved statistical surveys. The ministries or agencies which intend to conduct a statistical survey other than the designated one are required to obtain an approval of the Director-General of MCA prior to the execution of the survey. The numbers of approved statistical surveys conducted in fiscal 1985 and 1986 are given in the following table.

Number of approved statistical surveys conducted in fiscal 1985 and 1986

| Ministry or Agency | Fiscal year 1985 | 1986 |
|---|---|---|
| Fair Trade Commission | 2 | 1 |
| Management and Coordination Agency | 18 | 10 |
| Hokkaido Development Agency | 1 | - |
| Defense Facilities Administration Agency | 1 | 1 |
| Economic Planning Agency | 7 | 7 |
| Science and Technology Agency | 4 | 2 |
| National Land Agency | 2 | 2 |
| Ministry of Finance | 4 | 2 |
| Ministry of Education | 6 | 6 |
| Ministry of Health and Welfare | 31 | 33 |
| Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries | 38 | 42 |
| Ministry of International Trade and Industries | 45 | 47 |
| Ministry of Transport | 20 | 15 |
| Ministry of Posts and Telecommunication | 2 | - |
| Ministry of Labour | 29 | 30 |
| Ministry of Construction | 17 | 9 |
| Joint Administration | 6 | 6 |
| Total | 233 | 213 |

6. Statistical surveys conducted by the prefectural or municipal governments are in general classified as notified statistical surveys. The surveys of the national government inquiring the prefectural or municipal governments also fall into this category. For such surveys, the responsible organizations are required to notify the Director-General of the Management and Coordination Agency, when they plan to initiate, modify or discontinue such surveys. The numbers of such notifications in fiscal 1985 and 1986 are given in the following table.

Number of notifications in fiscal 1985 and 1986

| | | Fiscal year 1985 | 1986 |
|---|---|---|---|
| National Government | Initiation | 6 | 9 |
| | Modification | 25 | 19 |
| | Discontinuation | 2 | 10 |
| Prefectural Governments | Initiation | 59 | 69 |
| | Modification | 37 | 35 |
| | Discontinuation | 1 | 2 |

/ Municipal

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Municipal Governments | Initiation | 22 | 31 |
| | Modification | 12 | 13 |
| | Discontinuation | - | - |
| Others | Initiation | - | - |
| | Modification | 3 | 4 |
| | Discontinuation | - | - |

7. The total amount of the budget for statistical surveys of all ministries and agencies in fiscal 1987 was 16,018,656 thousand yen. It decreased by 21.3% compared to fiscal 1986. In fiscal 1986, the Establishment Census was conducted with a budget of 5,504 million yen, but in fiscal 1987 there was no censuses or surveys of an equivalent scale.

Budgets for statistical surveys for fiscal 1986 and 1987

(thousand yen)

| Ministry or Agency | F.Y.1986 | F.Y.1987 |
|---|---|---|
| Total amount of budget | 20,365,694 | 16,018,656 |
| National Personnel Authority | 43,293 | 48,551 |
| Management and Coordination Agency | 8,502,499 | 4,425,312 |
| Hokkaido Development Agency | 6,000 | 5,828 |
| Defense Agency | 110 | 87 |
| Economic Planning Agency | 203,953 | 206,105 |
| Science and Technology Agency | 1,427 | 1,427 |
| Environment Agency | 58,588 | 53,373 |
| National Land Agency | 19,890 | 23,675 |
| Ministry of Justice | 40,728 | 40,728 |
| Ministry of Finance | 552,065 | 516,983 |
| Ministry of Education | 196,722 | 191,946 |
| Ministry of Health and Welfare | 1,769,358 | 1,959,734 |
| Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries | 2,866,457 | 2,993,302 |
| Ministry of International Trade and Industry | 4,056,807 | 3,240,183 |
| Ministry of Transport | 442,580 | 488,174 |
| Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications | 2,844 | 18,854 |
| Ministry of Labour | 1,229,357 | 1,258,251 |
| Ministry of Construction | 373,016 | 546,143 |

## II. Execution of Major Statistical Surveys

### (1) The Establishment Census

8. The Establishment Census was conducted by the Statistics Bureau, Management and Coordination Agency as of 1 July 1986. It was conducted for the first time in 1947, followed by the second one in 1948. Since then, it was conducted every three years until 1981. The 1986 Census was conducted 5 years after the previous one. The Establishment Census aims at collecting the fundamental data on establishments, such as their geographical distribution, industrial characteristics, the number of persons employed, etc. The Establishment Census is one of the most important data sources for economic policy planning and regional analyses. It also provides the directory of establishments which is used as the sample frame of various sample surveys on establishments.

9. The Establishment Cenus covers all the establishments in all sectors of industries except agriculture, forestry, hunting and fishing. An establishment is defined in principle as a business unit based in one site under a single management. If a management operates business at different sites, the business unit at each site is regarded as an establishment. If two or more managements operate business at one site, the business unit of each management is regarded as an establishment. There are, however, some exceptional treatments for some industries due to their particular ways of operating business. According to the 1986 results, there were 6,710 thousand establishments in Japan.

10. The topics investigated by the Establishment Census are limited to the most fundamental ones. They are mostly the same every time, although some changes are incorporated in order to meet the new demands from users of statistics. The questions asked in the 1986 Establishment Census are as follows:

(i) Survey A (for all the private establishments)
- Name of establishment
- Telephone number
- Location of establishment
- Legal organization
- Head or branch office
- Date of inception
- Nature of business of the establishment and type of operation
- Number of persons by sex engaged in the establishment
- Type of establishment

[For headquarter establishments of companies]
- Amount of capital or funds
- Number of regular employees of the company
- Nature of main business activities of the company
- Number of branch offices
- Name of headquarter office
- Telephone number of headquarter office
- Location of the headquarter office

/ (ii) Survey

(ii) Survey B (for sampled private service establishments)
- Name of establishment
- Total salaries paid
- Gross value of all sales

(iii) Survey C (for all the establishments under the management of the national and local governments and Japan National Railways)
- Name of establishment
- Telephone number
- Location of establishment
- Nature of business activities of establishment
- Number of persons engaged in the establishment

11. The main features of the 1986 Census compared with the previous ones are as follows:

(i) More emphasis is placed on compilation of small-area statistics. The codes of the smallest local area units, such as cho, chome and aza, are given to all the establishments so that the statistics for such area units may be compiled;

(ii) For private corporated enterprises, statistics on corporate base rather than on establishment base are also compiled;

(iii) For uses of the Establishment Directory by computers, a machine readable file of the Directory has been created with a more extensive coverage compared with the previous censuses;

(iv) As in the 1981 Census, in order to accelerate the tabulation work, the work of data input was distributed to prefectures. The municipalities took the responsibility of the editing of the questionnaires and the industrial coding, and the prefectures took the responsibility of data input and the first-stage computer editing;

(v) The number of workers is broken down by sex in the 1986 Census for the first time.

(2) The Survey on Time Use and Leisure Activities

12. The Survey on Time Use and Leisure Activities was conducted as of October 1986 by the Statistics Bureau, Management and Coordination Agency. The survey aims at obtaining comprehensive data on the daily life of the people in respect of patterns of time allocation and free-time activities. The survey was started in 1976, and has been conducted every five years.

13. This survey complements the statistics which can be obtained from the traditional surveys focusing on the economic aspects of the people. Statistics on time use and leisure activities give important background information on the economic conditions of the people. The statistics obtained from this survey can be used for many purposes. These statistics make it possible to observe the life styles of various groups of people and preference for certain activities over others, and can give us better interpretations of various social and economic

/ phenomena.

phenomena. For example, in analyzing the recent trend of increased participation of women in the labour force, a deeper insight is obtained by regarding it as change in time budgeting. The statistics also enables us to assess adequacy of leisure facilities observing their utilization. Such use of the statistics will help form public policies which would better match the needs of the people.

14. The topics covered by the survey are as follows:
- Time use in a day;
- Participation in leisure activities in the past year;
- Frequency of participation in leisure activities in the past year;
- Use of facilities for leisure activities in the past year.

In addition, several characteristics of the persons and the households selected for the survey are also collected. The results were released in October 1987.

(3) The Comprehensive Survey on Living Condition of the People

15. In 1986, the Ministry of Health and Welfare initiated a new survey named "The Comprehensive Survey on Living Condition of the People". It aims at obtaining comprehensive data on the living conditions of the households which are needed in formulating and assessing the health and welfare policies. The topics of the survey include income, savings, conditions of health, and the household composition. The survey covers in principle all the households living in Japan with a sample of about 25,000 households. The survey employs a cluster sampling with the enumeration districts as the clusters. Each enumeration district contains about 50 households on the average.

16. The survey has integrated four sample household surveys of smaller scales which had been annually conducted by the same ministry. The four surveys which were terminated since the initiation of the new survey are as follows:

(i) the Basic Survey on Welfare Administration, which investigates the household composition and the living conditions of the elderly households;
(ii) the Survey on Health of the People, which investigates the health conditions of the people;
(iii) the Survey on the Life of the People, which investigates the general living conditions of the people; and
(iv) the Survey on Health and Sanitation, which investigates the attitudes of the people toward health, medicine and sanitation, and the use of the relevant facilities.

The sample size of these surveys were not large enough to produce in satisfactory precision the results broken down by prefecture and those concerning the matters of relatively infrequent occurrences. The new survey, with an appropriate sample size and sampling method, can produce such results with higher reliability. The sample of the new survey is designed to be used as a master sample for other smaller-scale household

/ surveys of

surveys of the same ministry in order to design and conduct such surveys more efficiently.

17. The survey is conducted every three years. In the years in-between, a survey of the same form but with a smaller sample is conducted so that the annual series of data may be obtained at the national level.

(4) The Employment Status Survey

18. The Employment Status Survey was conducted by the Statistics Bureau, Management and Coordination Agency as of 1 October 1987. It aims at providing the detailed data on the structure of employment and unemployment at the regional level as well as at the national level. The Employment Status Survey was conducted every three years since 1956 until 1977. After 1977, the interval of the Employment Status Survey was widened to five years.

19. Compared with the other surveys concerning employment and unemployment, the Employment Status Survey is different on the following points:

(i) The Employment Status Survey gives the data on employment and unemployment at the pefectural level, while the Labour Force Survey gives only the data at the national level;

(ii) The Employment Status Survey provides much more detailed data than the Labour Force Survey or the Population Census. The latter two can provide only limited data, as their emphasis is placed either on quickly reporting the most recent data or on enumerating all the persons;

(iii) The Employment Status Survey gives much more detailed breakdowns and cross-classifications of the tables than the Special Survey on Labour Force.

20. In order to realize these characteristics, a much larger sample is drawn in the Employment Status Survey than the Labour Force Survey, the former being approximately 830 thousand persons 15 years old and over, and the latter being approximately 100 thousand persons. The topics covered by the survey are as follows:

(for persons having a job)

(i) composition and characteristics of households;
(ii) characteristics of the main job;
(iii) characteristics of the secondary job;
(iv) desire for additional job or for changing jobs;
(v) characteristics of the previous job, if any;

(for persons not having a job)

(vi) desire for work;
(vii) characteristics of the previous job, if any.

/ (5) The

(5) The Patient Survey

21. The Patient Survey has been conducted since 1953 by the Statistics and Information Department, Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Health and Welfare, in order to clarify the actual situations of the national structure of injuries and diseases through surveying the number of patients who use medical facilities, names of their injuries and diseases, and clinical departments they consulted, etc. It had been conducted annually until 1983, but in 1984 its sample size was approximately tripled. Since then, the survey interval was extended to three years. In October 1987, the survey was conducted for the first time since the interval was extended, with the sample size further expanded to be about 1.6 times as the 1984 survey.

(6) The National Survey of Prices

22. The National Survey of Prices was conducted in November 1987. It is a quinquennial, large-scale survey on prices. While the Retail Price Survey, which is the data source for CPI, mainly aims at collecting monthly data on prices for consumers, the National Survey of Prices aims at collecting the detailed data on prices in terms of coverage of items and areas in order to provide the data for structural analysis on prices. The latter survey covers not only the prices at the retail level but also those at the wholesale level. The data thus collected are used in planning the government policy on trade and distribution and other economic policies.

23. The survey was initiated in 1967. After that, it was conducted in 1971, 1974, and 1977. The most recent survey was conducted in 1982. The sixth Survey is under preparation to be conducted in November 1987.

24. In the 1987 Survey, many imported goods were selected for price collection in order to observe the effects of the recent appreciation of the exchange rate of yen. In addition, in the classification of "the type of stores", "convenience store" has been made an independent category in order to obtain more precise information on the price differentials by the type of the stores. Convenience stores, most of which are small-scale shops selling food, drinks, household supplies, etc. for 24 hours a day, have recently been increasing in number in Japan.

(7) The Survey of Machine Tools Installation

25. The Survey of Machine Tools Installation is conducted jointly by the Ministry of Health and Welfare, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, and the Ministry of Transport, for the purpose of providing fundamental information for the policy formulation for promotion of the machine industry. It has been conducted with an interval of several years since its first survey in 1952, and the seventh survey was conducted as of



/ 30 September

30 September 1987. Considering the technological development which had taken place since the previous time, the 1987 survey included as new survey items the introduction of flexible manufacturing systems (FMS) which support factory automation and the installation of super-extremity environmental equipment which is essential to the rapidly growing production of electronics goods.

(8) Improvement of the Survey on Motor Vehicle Transport

26. The Survey on Motor Vehicle Transport has been conducted every month since 1 April 1960 by the Ministry of Transport in order to support formulation of economic and transport policies by providing detailed information on the actual situations of motor vehicle transport. Since fiscal 1986, the survey has been improved by including the light motor vehicles (engine displacement less than 600 cc) in its coverage. As the number of such vehicles has increased remarkably in the recent period, inclusion of such vehicles in the coverage of the survey improves the appropriateness of the results.

## III. Compilation of Secondary Statistics

(1) Compilation of the 1985 Input-Output Table

27. In Japan, the Input-Output Tables have been compiled every five years since 1955. The work to compile the 1985 table has been under way since fiscal 1985, as a joint effort of eleven ministries and agencies; namely the Management and Coordination Agency, the Economic Planning Agency, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and Welfare, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, the Ministry of Labour, and the Ministry of Construction. The results are planned to be released in 1988.

(2) Revision of the Base Year of Consumer Price Indexes

28. The base year for CPI has been revised every five years. The ninth revision was made in August 1986. The major points of the revision are as follows:

(i) to revise the index base year from 1980 to 1985;
(ii) to add 45 items to and drop 17 from the list of specifications to reflect the recent changes in the actual consumption patterns;
(iii) to revise the weights used in index calculation according to the 1985 expenditure pattern;
(iv) to include imputed rents of owner-occupied houses in the general index;
(v) to modify the treatment of some seasonal items in the index calculation.

/ IV. Medium-

## IV. Medium- and Long-Term Plan for the Government Statistical Activities

29. In October 1985, the Statistics Council, an advisory body to the Management and Coordination Agency, submitted a report entitled "On Medium- and Long-Term Plans for the Government Statistical Activities" to the Director-General of the Management and Coordination Agency. The report indentifies the problems in the government statistical activities and recommends the countermeasures for the coming decade. The main points of the report are as follows:

(i) To show the time schedules for conducting the major statistical surveys of the government for the coming ten years in order to maintain consistency and avoid redundancy among the surveys;

(ii) To show the guideline for arrangement of the statistics which are needed due to the recent social and economic changes (i.e., statistics on assets, statistics on services and environmental statistics);

(iii) To describe the measures for the development of techniques which would contribute to maintaining the reliability of government statistics and overall efficiency of government statistical services;

(iv) To present the measures for promoting the use of statistics by such measures as encouraging early release of the survey results.

30. Upon the completion of this report, "The Conference to Promote the Medium- and Long-Term Plans for Government Statistical Activities" was set up, consisting of the chiefs of the divisions representing the statistical departments of ministries and agencies. As regards statistics on assets and those on service industries in particular, working groups of interested ministries and agencies for development of statistics on assets and on service industries were set up.

## V. International Cooperation

### (1) Cooperation for the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

31. The Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) which was established in Tokyo in 1970 to provide statistical training for the government officials of the member and associated member countries of the ESCAP. The cooperation of the Japanese Government is provided through the Management and Coordination Agency according to the Agreement between the Government of Japan and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) concerning Assistance for the Establishment and Operation of the Asian Statistical Institute. (The Asian Statistical Institute is the former name of SIAP).

32. For the programmes of the fourth five-year phase of SIAP, starting 1987, the Government of Japan has earmarked the

/ total

total contribution of 2,726 thousand dollars. In addition, the Government also provides the clerical staff and the facilities including the building and the computer system.

33. SIAP provides the following training courses: (1) General Course; (2) ADP Course; (3) Advanced Course/Seminar; (4) Country (or Sub-regional) Course; (5) Statistical Development Programmes supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), etc. In addition, as a new programme of the fourth phase, a micro-computer course is scheduled to start in 1988. The total number of participants who attended the training courses of SIAP since its inception in 1970 reached 2,833 as of 1987.

(2) Other seminars

34. Ministries and agencies of the Japanese Government provide international statistical seminars with the funding of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Since 1986, following training courses were conducted.

(i) Labour statistics seminar (Ministry of Labour)

| | |
|---|---|
| 10 July - 23 August 1986 | 11 participants |
| 18 June - 1 August 1987 | 11 participants |

(ii) Agriculture, forestry and fisheries statistics seminar (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries)

| | |
|---|---|
| 17 July - 13 October 1986 | 16 participants |
| 7 July - 9 September 1987 | 14 participants |

(3) Technical cooperation

35. The Government of Japan has been sending statistical experts to various countries for technical cooperation. For short-term cooperation not exceeding a year, the Management and Coordination Agency has sent three experts to Mexico and three to Sri Lanka since fiscal 1986. For long-term cooperation, three experts of the same agency are currently stationed in Mexico.

(4) Exchange of statistical missions

36. The Statistics Bureau and the Statistics Center of the Management and Coordination Agency exchange statistical missions with the State Statistical Bureau of the People's Republic of China every year since 1980. The purpose of the programme is to exchange the experiences in statistical administration as well as statistical techniques and to promote development in statistics of both countries. Each mission, usually consisting of four senior members of the Statistic Bureau of one country, visits the other country's Statistics Bureau and other governmental offices of its interest. There is also a similar programme to exchange statistical missions between the Management and Coordination Agency and the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Korea.

## VI. Other Matters

### (1) Data processing and statistical tabulation

37. The Government of Japan is making efforts to reduce the deficits of the budget, and the budgets for statistical activities do not grow much in recent years. The size of statistical personnel of the government has also been reduced to streamline the government. Under the circumstances, it is important for the ministries and agencies to improve the efficiency of the work in order to maintain at least the same amount and quality of output or even to improve them for satisfying the increasing demand on statistics. For this purpose, use of computers and office automation equipment as well as new techniques is essential. Although not all ministries and agencies are successful in employing such equipment, there are some agencies which are quite successful. As an example, the achievements of the Statistics Center, Management and Coordination Agency in fiscal 1986 and 1987 are introduced below.

38. Quality Control: In the data processing of the 1985 Population Census, the Statistics Center has been using a new technique of quality control. The technique is applied to the industrial and occupational coding, which is a manual process requiring a large work force. Compared with the traditional quality control technique, more emphasis is placed on a) early detection of the sources of errors by objective data, b) prompt feedback of the findings, and c) enhancing the awareness and capability for quality among the staff. For this purpose, Quality Control Committee, headed by Director-General of the Center, and Quality Control Team have been established, and have forcefully promoted and constantly monitored the progress of the quality control activities. Group activities of the coding clerks for discussing the measures for improvements have been encouraged. With these measures, the rate of coding errors have been reduced. The Center plans to extend the quality control programme to other works of statistical tabulation.

39. Optical Mark Readers: The Optical Mark Readers (OMRs) have been used as the input equipment for the censuses in Japan since the 1965 Census. For the 1980 Census, the OMRs were designed to read the data recorded on both sides of the questionnaires in one pass. This feature was also used for the 1985 Census. Compared with the questionnaires of the 1980, on which up to four persons could be entered, the 1985 questionnaires were designed to have columns for five persons.

40. The development of new input equipment for the 1990 Census is under way. The device has some new features which will improve the efficiency of the data processing including the function to read the images in the columns for verbal response in hand-writing. This function is planned to be used for industrial and occupational coding. A prototype of the new device is expected to be ready by the end of March 1988.

/ 41. Data

41. Data correction by on-line procedures: In the 1980 and earlier Censuses, errors in individual data detected by edit programmes had been mainly corrected by batch procedures using the manually corrected OMR sheets. In the 1985 Census, the OMR correction procedures have been changed to the on-line procedures to increase efficiency and to overcome the reduction of staff available for the tabulation work. Correction of errors is made through display terminals. In the 1980 Census, only a few display terminals were used for data correction, but in the 1985 Census 80 display terminals have been installed for the on-line procedures so that most of the correction procedures can be done on-line quickly and effectively.

42. Examination of statistical tables: The tabulated results need to be examined from various points of view before the official release. There are two types of examination of statistical tables. The first type is the consistency examination within or between tables of the census; such as verification of the total figures, or comparisons of related figures between tables. The second type is the analytical examination; such as comparison with data in the previous census or comparison with data of related statistics.

43. The consistency examination in the 1985 Census has been completely automated. The analytical examination has been carried out by using a data base composed of data of the previous censuses and the related statistics. When any doubtful or extraordinary figures are found, their validity can be verified by referring to summary data or individual data by display terminals. These references in the past censuses were done manually and often time-consuming. The similar examination system has also been introduced into other surveys.

44. Kanji (Chinese characters) printing system: Since the 1970 Census, a kanji (Chinese character) printer has been used, by which predetermined table forms and tabulated data were combined to produce the original copies of the off-set printing. In the 1980 Census, a high speed laser printer was installed. The printer, which prints out 7,000 lines per minute, can handle about 8,000 kanji, kana (Japanese phonography) letters, alphabets and other special codes. Basically, it had two sizes of fonts which can be enlarged as necessary. This system is being employed again for the 1985 Census and other surveys.

## (2) Relationship between statistical producers and users

45. Before conducting an important statistical survey, the Statistics Council is to be consulted by the Director-General of the Management and Coordination Agency prior to its conduct. The Council is one of the most important official organizations for reflecting users' opinions on the production of statistics.

/ The Council

The Council consists of 18 members appointed by the Prime Minister: 7 leading experts in statistics, 7 representatives of the statistical divisions of the central and prefectural governments, and 4 representatives of statistical users. Three of the representatives are from the governmental or semi-governmental organizations, and one is from a private organization.

46. The Statistics Council has also made some proposals on the measures to promote the use of statistics in the Medium- and Long-Term Plans for Government Statistical Activities (cf. Section 4). The suggestions may be summarized as follows:

(i) To tabulate the results of statistical surveys and to publish them as soon as possible;
(ii) To compile the statistical reports in a uniform manner and to provide all the detailed information on the nature of the statistics, in particular that on quality of statistics;
(iii) To provide the statistics which are helpful for users to perform further analyses (e.g. adjustment for continuity in case of a gap in a series, statistics of small areas, correlation and multivariate analyses);
(iv) To promote the use of statistics in various forms (e.g. magnetic tapes, microfilm, statistical database, use of office automation machines, etc.).

47. The Statistics Council also made a recommendation on the release of statistical data in magnetic media to the database distributers. With this recommendation, it has become possible for the ministries and agencies to provide the statistical data on magnetic tapes to the users who intend to store them in the database for distribution to the end users. Prior to the recommendation, only the end users could purchase the statistical data in magnetic tapes from the ministries and agencies. Following the recommendation, the Management and Coordination Agency and the Ministry of International Trade and Industries have determined to release the data, as recommended, through the non-profit organizations. Such decisions are expected to promote the use of statistics by computers.

## (3) The Revision of the Japanese Standard Occupational Classification

48. The Japanese Standard Occupational Classification was originally established in March 1960. After that it was revised in 1970 and in 1979. In 1986, the third revision was done in order to accommodate the occupational changes caused by the technological innovation in recent years. In this revision, the major group "F: Miners, quarrymen, well drillers and related workers" of the former classification was absorbed into "I: Technicians, miners, production and construction workers and labourers" of the new classification. The order of the major groups has been modified. In addition, 78 items of medium and minor groups were newly created and 23 were abolished.

/ New Major

| New Major Groups | Old Major Groups |
|---|---|
| A. Professional, technical and related workers | A. Professional, technical and related workers |
| B. Administrative and managerial workers | B. Administrative and managerial workers |
| C. Clerical and related workers | C. Clerical and related workers |
| D. Sales workers | D. Sales workers |
| E. Service workers | E. Agriculture, animal husbandry and forestry workers, fishermen and hunters |
| F. Protective service workrs | F. Miners, quarrymen, well drillers and related workers (Absorbed into "I" of the new classification) |
| G. Agriculture, animal husbandry and forestry workers, fishermen and hunters | G. Transport and Communication workers |
| H. Transport and Communication workers | H. Technicians, production and related workers and labourers |
| I. Technicians, miners, production and construction workers and labourers | I. Protective service workers |
| J. Workers not classified by occupation | J. Service workers |
| | K. Workers not classified by occupation |

49. The revision of the Japanese Standard Commodity Classification has started in 1987 in order to adopt to the changes in commodities. It will be completed in two years. This revision is the fourth after its establishment in 1987.

(4) The 46th Session of the International Statistical Institute

50. The 46th Session of the International Statistical Institute was held from 8 to 16 September 1987 in Tokyo. This was the third time for the Government of Japan to host the Session: the 19th Session in 1930 and the 32nd Session in 1960, both held in Tokyo. The last Session in the ESCAP region was held in Manila in 1979. The 46th Session was held under the patronage of H.I.H. The Crown Prince of Japan. The Honorary Committee headed by the Prime Minister was established to promote the Session. The National Organizing Committee headed by the Director-General of the Management and Coordination Agency took the responsibility of administrative matters. 744 statisticians, including 73 from ESCAP region and 220 from Japan, participated in the Session.

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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Committee on Statics

Seventh Session
24～30 November 1987
Bangkok, Thailand

# COUNTRY REPORT ON STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES

# IN LAO

other characteristics of the population are needed for the preparation of the short and long term plans. Consequently with assistance provided by U.N.F.P.A , the first ever national population Census was conducted which notably achieved all the planned objectives.

2/ Taking into account the growing needs for statistical data of different local agencies and economic branches as well as those of the international organisations which are undertaking some activities relating to Lao P.D.R, the State Statistical Centre has compiled the statistics on the socio-economic development during the last ten years and presented them in a statistical publication entitled: " 10 Years of Socio-economic Development in the Lao People's Democratic Republic ".

Another Statistical Bulletin of 1986 was also published in which there are statistical data of the year 1984, 1985 and 1986.

3/ In order to have statistics on the movements of the population, in early 1986, a fertility and mortality survey was implemented in sixty representative sample subdistricts. The results of this survey provided the national birth, death and growth rate and enabled the State Statistical Centre to make the population projections up to the year 2000 which are required for the preparation of the second five year plan and long term plan.

4/ In order to establish and improve the institutional framework of statistics at the grass-root levels and to provide the statistical report from the grass-root levels with the fixed systems of data collection and filling in the statistical report forms, the State Statistical Centre has launched an experimen-

tal activity on the report of statistical informations from the grass-root levels by selecting some production undertaking of the ministries and some provinces as the targets for the pilot study. The objectives of this experimental undertaking are:

- to identify the institutional shape of the statistical services at the grass-root levels which will be suitable to the present level of management of local staff and to determine the detail duties of the grass-root levels in providing statistical services and the flow of informations from grass-root levels to the State Statistical Centre.
- to train statistical staff to perform their duties as determined by the state.
- create and devise the systems of statistical data and report forms for the grass-root levels and make them appropriate to their level of management in order to propose to the Council of Ministers to declare their authorized use uniformly in the whole country in the future.
- firmly cooperate statistics and account at the grass-root levels in order to upgrade the quality of statistical data.

This experimental undertaking is a new step in our general endeavours for the development of statistical services in Lao.P.D.R

5/ Concerning the statistical capability building in Lao P.D.R there is a middle level statistical school responsible for generating statistical manpowers for the whole country. We have also sent our cadres to participate in the overseas training and seminars which were organized by the international organisations.

4/ Some ongoing and future activities.

a/ Statistical report procedures should be step by step carried out as routine work by training statistical cadres at central and grass-root levels in the series of statistical forms which have already been pretested.

b/ Conduct some surveys; particularly the surveys on fixed assets, recurring funds, productivity of the use of production equipments and plants.

c/ Improve the vital statistics systems under the assistance of the U.N.F.P.A.

d/ Organize in country short training courses on statistics for the cadres in order to upgrade their professional skill levels.

It can be concluded that statistical activities in Lao P.D.R, despite their short existence, can render sevices to the governing and management activities and also provide data to different sectors for their contribution to the growth of the socio-economic development.

However, Statistics in Lao P.D.R still have a great deal of difficulties to overcome; mainly because of most of the statistical staff, have not yet been properly and fully trained. Therefore, in the tasks of the development of statistical activities, the international co-operation and assistance is indispensable.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Committee on Statistics

Seventh Session
24 ~ 30 November 1987
Bangkok, Thailand

# COUNTRY REPORT ON STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES

# IN MALAYSIA

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Committee on Statistics

Seventh Session
24 – 30 November, 1987
Bangkok.

Item 4(b) of the
Provisional Agenda: National activities, covering also the implementation of the resolution on statistical services in Asia and the Pacific.

## INTRODUCTION

This paper is presented in two parts. Part I describes how the ESCAP Resolution 246(XLII) on statistical services in Asia and the Pacific was used in our developmental efforts. This brief review will also touch upon the major achievements as well as problems and constraints faced. Further elaboration on some of the topics will be made when they are brought up for discussion under other items of the agenda subsequently. Part II of the paper covers the major activities since the last session under the various subject headings and is given in the form of an annotated situation report for ease of reference. In addition, an appendix is given to show the statistical profile of Malaysia in the form of key data.

## PART I – ESCAP RESOLUTION 246(XLII) – STATISTICAL SERVICES IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

2. Each recommendation made by ESCAP under Resolution 246 will be reviewed in this part of the paper and developments so far achieved will be reported under each.

### (a) Improvement and strengthening of statistical services

3. As early as in 1960, high priority was accorded to the improvement and strengthening of statistical services in Malaya by which name the country was known before the formation of Malaysia in 1963. A committee was established in that year "to consider and recommend on the future development of statistical services.....". Based on recommendations of the report of the committee, statistical services expanded in Malaysia. Technical assistance under UNDP and the Colombo Plan was sought and advisory services were obtained. In the first half of 1970s, a concerted input in the form of a 5–year UNDP project for statistical development saw improvements to work in national accounts, sample surveys, data processing, agricultural statistics, population and other fields. More recently in 1983, a World Bank mission at the request of the Malaysian Government undertook a total review of the statistical system in the country and made certain recommendations on the improvement of statistical services.

4. The Department of Statistics as the main statistical organisation has taken steps to upgrade its services to provide information for the effective preparation, implementation and monitoring of economic and social development plans. On the question of timeliness, we have managed to publish our monthly data within three to four weeks after the reference month. This has been made possible by having computerised edits and final tabulations from which plates are directly made for printing. In the case of monthly collections which are more massive like the monthly external trade data, interim data are released within four weeks of the reference month. As our planners and main users are interested in macro-aggregates in the first instance, it is our policy to supply them with preliminary or abridged sets of data as soon as possible after the collection.

5. In the case of data series where the collections are infrequent, current estimates are made. For example, in the inter-censal years, current population estimates are released each year to provide an up-to-date account of the situation.

6. For annual collections where samples are quite large to provide for estimates at state level, replicated sampling is adopted so that data can be collected and tabulated in rounds with a final aggregation towards the end. By this method, we can provide planners with preliminary results right from the first round. To further speed up the process, we provide unvalidated tabulations for each round as the validation cycle usually takes a long time to complete. However, we do check the unvalidated tabulations with the validated ones when they are ready. From past evidence, the errors are quite small and the earlier availability of the unvalidated tabulations is of great help to the planners.

7. Through the process of development, administration and planning have become more sophisticated and there is an increasing demand for data at sub-national or community level. If funds are available, a survey can be designed and the data collecting machinery can be adapted to cater for such a demand. However, the situation gets somewhat complicated when planners request for various types of information to be collected in one operation. The questionnaire then becomes a very lengthy one and the interview will probably take four to five hours to complete in each household. We usually advise the planners to be less ambitious as we do not want to overburden the respondent and receive poor attention and co-operation and, ultimately, data of poor quality.

8. In line with the demand for disaggregated data, we have started the state/district data bank whereby data available for each state and its districts are compiled and published for the convenient use of the public.

9. To streamline our operations, we have divested two major collections to the respective agencies which are in a better position to undertake them. Firstly, the visitor arrival statistics system has been taken over by our Immigration Department which has embarked on a major computerisation programme to monitor the movements of visitors to the country. Secondly, the collection of data on the ownership of companies is now taken over by the Registrar of Companies which has the necessary direct legal powers to enforce the collection. This re-organisation is consistent with the aim of providing adequate, reliable and timely statistics.

(b) Determining priorities for data collection

10. The Chief Statistician as head of the statistical service has under his jurisdiction a pool of statisticians and statistical officers who are stationed in the Department of Statistics as well as in other statistical units in other government departments and ministries. As such, co-ordination of statistical activities is maintained through this pool of statistical personnel. However, there are still some agencies which are involved in data collection of their own but are not served by this pool of statistical personnel. Co-ordination will further improve when the pool is further expanded to serve these agencies as well.

11. In each department or ministry, information uses are identified and priorities are accordingly determined for data collection and analysis. Users especially planners also participate in inter-agency planning groups, steering committees and user committees and work together with our statistical personnel to identify information uses and determine priorities. More will be said on this under the subject of interaction between producers and users of statistics.

(c) Statistical training

12. In Malaysia, statistics is introduced as a subject in secondary schools at higher school certificate or 'A' levels. Although the content taught in secondary schools and universities remains highly theoretical, the inclusion of statistics as a subject in their syllabus is useful to the extent that the public is aware of such a discipline and its relevance and usage in everyday life.

13. After being recruited, personnel in the statistical service avail themselves of further training in the following:–

i) on-the-job training;

ii) in-house training;

iii) local training and educational institutions like the Government Staff Training Centre and universities;

iv) institutions overseas, like SIAP, the Munich Centre for Advanced Training, the IMF in Washington, D.C., the Institute of Social Studies in the Netherlands, the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex, United Kingdom, other foreign universities offering suitable academic courses usually at Master's Degree level and other fellow statistical organisations where attachments for short periods can be arranged.

14. It has been found from experience that statistical personnel requires two types of training. One is a basic course on statistics for primary level as well as some intermediate level staff who do not have any theoretical knowledge on statistics. This is to enable them to have an appreciation of what they are doing and how their work fits into the overall scheme. The other type of training refers to the more advanced courses on specific topics which have been singled out as weak areas in the work of the statisticians. Participants for this type of course are those who already have a good grounding in statistical theory but have been found to be wanting in certain other skills. For example, it has been found that professional staff are generally weak in the evaluation and interpretation of data collected. Although this skill comes mainly from experience, the acquisition of this skill can be greatly accelerated or enhanced if the staff are taught the rudiments.

15. We ourselves are adopting this type of strategy in our in-house training programme which is practically oriented and quite similar to that of SIAP. In fact, we have jointly sponsored two in-country training courses with SIAP and probably two more in future. Although we do send our staff for academic courses at Master's Degree level, we feel that practically oriented courses of short duration would be most cost-effective and relevant.

16. Computer courses are now important in view of the increasing use of computers, both mainframe and microprocessors. However, a distinction should be made between computer training for statisticians and for EDP personnel. Courses arranged for statisticians should focus on a short appreciation of concepts of hardware and software with some basic knowledge of programming. Much of the time should be devoted to the usage of statistical and data base management software. Statisticians should not undergo weeks of training in programming. In this regard, the EDP training course held in New Delhi is not very suitable to statisticians who are not required to do any substantial amount of programming work that is usually undertaken by EDP personnel.

(d) UN guidelines, standards and programmes

17. To maintain comparability over time and between countries, it has been the policy in Malaysia to adhere to the concepts, definitions and standards set by UN and its agencies. For example, our National Accounts system follows the SNA, our external trade the SITC, CCCN and lately HS and so on. Our agricultural statistics are based on the FAO system and our labour force surveys on the ILO standards.

18. However, in the case of capability programmes evolved and promoted by UN like the National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP), Malaysia did not take an active part as it has since the early 1960s built up the statistical infrastructure for the conduct of household sample surveys.

(e) Improvement in the statistical infrastructure

19. More can be done in this area if funds are forthcoming but, unfortunately, in the present economic recession, funds are more limited. We are however lucky that the budget cuts were minimal and we have been able to replace our computer hardware from an ICL to an IBM mainframe. Although we have to undergo a painful and tedious conversion process, the change-over has its advantages in the sense that we can now use a wider range of statistical software available to IBM or IBM-compatible computers. Besides the mainframe, we have also acquired IBM personal computers for the use of our statistical personnel.

20. The use of personal computers or microprocessors has facilitated certain housekeeping jobs like maintaining directories, mailing lists, classifications, etc., as well as other jobs like processing small data sets for purposes of analysis.

21. We are also introducing statistical and data base management software for the main frame so that large data sets can also be manipulated by statisticians through terminals. This will free EDP personnel from ad hoc requests and enable them to concentrate on jobs in the mainstream and allow statisticians more flexibility to obtain more tabulations needed for analysis. In a way, this facility also cuts down wastage because statisticians need not follow the past practice of requesting for an exhaustive set of tabulations in the first instance to find out later that they have very little use for some of them.

22. As our EDP personnel belongs to a common computer service within the government machinery, they are liable to transfers. As such, less dependence on them will facilitate a smoother flow in the production of timely statistics.

23. In terms of equipment for dissemination of data, we have acquired a laser printer, a colour printer, a colour monitor and desktop publishing software for our microcomputers to facilitate the preparation of masters for printing of publications. If a small number of the publication is required, the product can be printed directly from the laser printer. We hope to obtain a scanner in the near future to further enhance our capability.

(f) Interaction between users and producers

24. As indicated before, interaction between producers and users of data especially planners has been established in Malaysia for many years through formal committees such as the Inter-Agency Planning Groups (IAPG) which were initially held to discuss the preparation of the five-year development plans but are now a going concern because of the usefulness of having a dialogue between various government agencies as well as to bring users and producers of data together. Other user committees which have been established are the Steering Committee on Industrial Statistics which involves both private and public bodies, the User Committee for the Population Census, etc.

25. These groups have in their limited ways act as forums whereby users and producers can get together to understand one another better. Users have an opportunity to learn what the data-collecting mechanism involves and how expensive and time-consuming is the exercise of eliciting reasonably precise data from respondents. At the same time, producers can get to know the need for certain types of data for analysis and the need to get them within a stipulated period.

26. Besides user groups, we are also involved in estimation groups where statisticians and planners jointly determine estimates and forecasts of certain subject areas which are of economic and social importance. This form of co-operation has brought out how the skills and knowledge of one profession complement those of the other in providing good current estimates and forecasts.

27. Another good example of the interaction between users and producers of statistics is the supply of monthly economic indicators to the Chief Secretary and the Prime Minister. At the request of the Chief Secretary, the Department of Statistics evolved a concise set of indicators presented in the form of coloured charts and graphs together with summary tables under the various subject headings that briefly depict the economic situation in Malaysia. The format of the monthly indicators has been well-received and has been used as examples for other agencies to follow in the presentation of their progress reports.

## PART II – ANNOTATED SITUATION REPORT

This part of the paper covers the major activities undertaken by the Department of Statistics since the last session of the Committee of Statistics which was held in November, 1985. It is in an annotated format for ease of reference and is not dealt with at great length as other member countries would have also carried out similar activities and would find the items listed easy to follow. The activities are enumerated under the respective subject headings.

### (a) Population and Vital Statistics

1) The report on Population Projections, Malaysia, 1985–2000 has been published.

2) The reports on the Current Population Estimates for Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak, 1986 and 1987, have been published.

3) The Quarterly Review of Malaysian Population Statistics on current levels and trends on population, birth and death rates has been introduced. So far, a total of seven publications have been released.

4) The Vital Statistics 1985 report has been published and that for 1986 is being prepared.

5) The report on the Abridged Life Tables, Peninsular Malaysia, 1981–1984, has been published. The report for 1985 is being printed.

6) The report on the estimates of levels and trends of fertility of administrative districts Peninsular Malaysia, 1970 and 1980, has been published.

7) The monograph on the revised life tables for Peninsular Malaysia, 1970 and 1980 has been published.

8) The report on the revised estimates of the population of Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak, 1970–1980 has been released.

9) The monograph on the demographic estimates of Sabah and Sarawak, 1970–1980, has been issued.

10) The report on internal migration in Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak, 1981-1983, has been published. The reports for 1984 and 1986 are being prepared. The survey was not undertaken in 1985.

11) Planning and preparation for the 1990 Population and Housing Census are being undertaken with the following three main objectives:–

i) improvement in the coverage;

ii) reduction in the costs of conducting a census; and

iii) more timely release of data collected.

(b) Labour and Social Statistics

12) The Social Statistics Bulletins for 1984 and 1985 have been published. The report for 1986 is being prepared.

13) A series of publications under the project known as the State/District Data Bank has been introduced. Data for administrative districts under one state, Melaka, have been published while those for the other states are being prepared. The reference period is 1980–1985/1986.

14) The reports for the 1985 and 1986 Labour Force Survey are being prepared.

(c) Price and Income Statistics

15) The Consumer Price Index for Malaysia (1980 = 100) is produced on a monthly basis four weeks after the month of reference.

16) The Producer Price Index (1978 = 100) is also published on a monthly basis four weeks after the month of reference. The annual publication for 1986 has been released.

17) Two publications on building cost indices, one for civil engineering works and the other for building works, are issued on a monthly basis one month after the month of reference. The data are used by contractors engaged in government construction projects to seek adjustments against unforeseen price fluctuations of certain selected construction materials through a price escalation clause incorporated in their tender documents.

18) The results of the Household Income Survey conducted in 1984 have been given to the main planning body of the government and have been fully utilised by them. Another Household Income Survey is presently being undertaken covering some 80,000 households to provide estimates at state level. Data collected from this survey will be used for the formulation of the Sixth Malaysia Plan (1991–1995).

(d) National Accounts

19) The compilation of the final national accounts for the reference year 1983 for Malaysia is presently being undertaken and is expected to be completed by the end of 1987. Work on the final national accounts for 1985 has also started.

20) The report on the preliminary national accounts for 1978–1985 has been published and the compilation of the preliminary national accounts for 1986 is presently being carried out.

21) The compilation of public sector fixed capital formation for 1985 is being done.

22) The input-output tables for Malaysia for the reference year 1978 have been published. These are the first input-output tables to be published for Malaysia. Earlier compilations for the years 1960, 1965 and 1970 referred to Peninsular Malaysia only.

(e) External Trade and Balance of Payments

23) The external trade monthly data series is released on a regular basis. The interim data are available four weeks and the provisional data eight weeks after the reference month.

24) The annual external trade report for reference year 1986 has been printed and released.

25) Current efforts are focussed on the necessary changes for the conversion to CCCN Harmonised System/SITC Rev.3 that is scheduled to be implemented as from 1st January, 1988.

26) The balance of payments report for 1984 to 1986 was published in September, 1987 and the next report for 1985 to 1987 is scheduled to be compiled and released in May, 1988.

(f) Industrial Statistics

27) The latest data available on the mining, quarrying, manufacturing and construction sectors are for reference year 1985. Detailed information on input and output at the commodity level is included. Data for 1986 are being canvassed.

28) Monthly industrial statistics including the index of industrial production are being published regularly seven weeks after the month of reference.

(g) Agricultural Statistics

29) The Rubber Statistics Handbook for 1985 and the Oil Palm, Cocoa, Coconut and Tea Statistics Handbook for 1985 were published in April and May, 1987 respectively. Most of the data in the publications come from the annual census of about 3,500 estates. Similar publications for the reference year 1986 are being prepared.

30) The monthly releases on rubber and oil palm data continue to be published regularly. The latest release available for rubber is for August, 1987 and that for oil palm is for September, 1987. The former is currently released about six weeks and the latter three weeks after the reference month.

31) The data on yield and area of padi for the main season 1985/1986 and the off-season in 1986 have been collected for the Padi Production Survey and released.

32) Data on the agricultural sector are being compiled with the purpose of providing time-series data pertaining to the sector in a publication.

(h) Census/surveys of selected service industries

33) The Census of Selected Service Industries is an annual census covering establishments in eleven industries, e.g. road haulage, bus transport, stevedoring, tourist agencies, advertising agencies, etc. The report on data for 1985 is being prepared and the returns for 1986 are being edited and coded.

34) The Census of Professional and Institutional Establishments is also an annual census covering establishments of eight selected professional groups e.g. accountants, architects, doctors, surveyors, etc. and two institutional groups, viz., private schools and private hospitals and maternity homes, in the private sector. The report on data for 1985 is being printed and the returns for 1986 are being edited and coded.

(i) Surveys of the corporate sector

35) The results of the Business Expectation Survey for the second half of 1987 were published in September, 1987. The survey covers the top 220 companies in various sectors of the economy and provides useful trends on the performances expected in those sectors.

36) The Financial Survey of Limited Companies for 1985 has been completed and the report is under preparation. Data for 1986 are being collected and processed.

(j) Miscellaneous

37) A publication entitled "Economic Statistics – Time Series" was released in December, 1986. This publication is the first of its kind and includes retrospective data on principal sectors of the economy for the convenience of users. It will be updated at periodic intervals.

38) The Yearbook of Statistics for 1986 was published towards the middle of 1987. It provides comprehensive and up-to-date information on the economic and social characteristics of Malaysia.

39) The Statistics Handbook for 1986 was published in April, 1987. It is a pocket-sized compendium containing summarised data on the economic and social profile of Malaysia and is released on an annual basis.

40) A Monthly Statistical Bulletin is also published every month to provide a monthly series of social and economic data for the reference of interested users.

41) Monthly economic indicators incorporating coloured charts and summary tables on important aspects of the Malaysian economy are specially prepared every month for the use of the Chief Secretary and the Prime Minister.

Department of Statistics,
Kuala Lumpur,
Malaysia.

6th November, 1987.

Appendix

MALAYSIA

## KEY DATA

AREA: 329,757 square kilometres

| | | 1986 | 1987 (a) |
|---|---|---|---|
| POPULATION ('000) | | 16,109 | 16,528 |
| GNP PER CAPITA [ at current prices in Malaysian $ (M$) ] | | 4,088 | 4,220 |
| EXTERNAL TRADE ( M$ million) | — Exports (f.o.b.) | 35,721 | 41,036 |
| | — Imports (c.i.f.) | 27,921 | 31,087 |
| | — Balance of Trade | (+) 7,800 | (+) 9,949 |
| BALANCE OF PAYMENTS ( M$ million) | — Current account | (—) 770 | (+) 1,961 |
| | — Capital account | (+) 3,667 | (+) 198 |
| | — Basic balance | (+) 2,897 | (+) 2,159 |
| | — Overall balance | (+) 4,131 | (+) 1,045 |
| EXCHANGE RATE (equivalent in Malaysian $) — 1 US $ | | 2.60 (End December) | 2.52 (End August) |
| INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION INDEX (1981 = 100) | — Total index | 147.0 | 151.5 |
| | — Manufacturing | 126.1 | 136.2 |
| CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1980 = 100) | | 125.8 | 126.7 |
| LABOUR | — Labour Force ('000) | 6,088.6 | 6,259.0 |
| | — Unemployment rate | 8.5% | 9.1% |

a) Preliminary estimates.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Committee on Statistics

Seventh Session
24 ~ 30 November 1987
Bangkok, Thailand

# COUNTRY REPORT ON STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES

# IN MALDIVES

## Introduction

The Maldives is a Nation of Islands situated about 670 km. South of the Indian subcontinent. Coral reefs, shallow lagoons, white sandy beaches and palm trees are prominent features.

The 1190 islands found in the country are grouped into 26 natural atolls. For administrative purposes these atolls are regrouped into 19 administrative units Male' is the capital.

According to the 1985 census the total population of the country was 180,066 persons and is scattered over 200 islands. Almost quarter of the population live on the capital Island Male'. The people of Maldives are mostly of Aryan origin and speak the local language Dhivehi. Islam is the religion of the state.

The economy of Maldives depends on 3 main sectors namely fishing, Tourism and shipping. Attempts are being made by the government to diversfy and broaden the economic base and plans are being implemented to increase productivity and improve the capabilities for self reliance. While fishing remains the largest employer in the country, tourism ranks as the biggest foreign exchange earner.

## Activities

The Central Statistics office of Maldives is located with in the Ministry of planning and Development. Central Planning became an articulate activity of the government only after 1978. Since then the demand for information and data has been increasing. Censuses have been conducted in the Maldives as early as 1911. However modern type censuses were conducted only in the recent period.

Ministry of Planning and Development conducted the census in March 1985. The 1985 census was done on both dejure and defacto basis. Given the geography of the islands, scattered over a vast area of sea made transportation expenses extremely high. The census also proved that local expertise though few were quite capable of undertaking such large activities. For the first time the data has also been processed electronically at home. Generous funding from UNDP, UNFPA and several other organisations facilitated the operations and processsing.

The economic growth of Maldives have been impressive in recent years. Fishing and tourism sectors have contributed very significantly to rapid growth. Thus the expenditure and income patterns of the people appear to have changed fast. The Ministry of Planning and Development realizing this trend embarked on a household income and expenditure survey this year. The first income and expenditure household survey was conducted in 1980 - 81 and that was limited to only Male'. The last survey was planned and executed by Ministry of Planning and Development. The data is now being fed to the computer. It is

felt that the outcome of the results of this survey will lead to the revision of the weights for the Consumer Price Index and also certain modifications in GDP calculations.

Ministry of Planning and Development also embarked on an establishment survey this year. The primary objective of this survey was to identify the reasons for the labor shortage in the country. Presently Maldives imports labor from regional countries. It is evident that for all newly initiated projects, labour has to be imported.

Ministry of Planning and Development also attempted this year to revise the GDP calculations. This was one of the main recommendations made by the ESCAP mission in April 1986. Data collection for the GDP calculation has been streamlined and documented. It is evident that this will lead to the production of more accurate and reliable figures for GDP than the past series.

We also continued to improve and expand the statistical year book series. The demand for this publication has increased quite significantly. We have also expanded the data base and improved the presentation of this publication in recent years.

Training of statistical personnel still remains high on the priority list. Two important courses were held during this period for officials from various government departments. The first course was on the Introduction of Micro Computer programming and this year a course on National Accounts was organised. Both the courses were conducted with assistence from the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific. We wish to express our profound thanks to SIAP for their timely assistance in providing competent lecturers for these courses.

Ministry of Planning and Development statistical section being the central statistics office of the country has also regularised the imports of micro computers for government use. This step was take to reduce costs and eliminate duplication by having more standard equipment.

With reference to the ESCAP resolution 246 (XLII) we wish to state that the proposed activities were concerns that the government was already aware of and necessary measures were being implemented. In short all efforts have been made to strengthening the National Statistical capability of the country. There has been favourable responses from the regional statistical agencies.

We wish to thank ESCAP for the timely technical assistance missions sent to us during the last two years. We also wish to thank Mr. M.A. Sahib for undertaking the mission to Maldives during April last year. The recommendations of this mission has been closely studied by the government and many of the recommendations have been suceessfuly implemented already. We also thank for the technical guidance and advise provided by Mr. L.C. Lewis and the advisor on data preparation and processing of

census and surveys Mr. Noori Oznever for the mission in Oct.-Nov. 1986.

In short the period 1985-1987 has been a very important phase as, far as the statistical capability building is concerned. During this period we have acquired confidence to handle several activities such as censuses without long term outside assistance. Nonetheless many activities still would need short term assistance in terms of expertise and training for proper implementation.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

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# COUNTRY REPORT ON STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES

# IN NEW ZEALAND

ESCAP COMMITTEE ON STATISTICS

SEVENTH SESSION, NOVEMBER 1987

Summary of Developments in the New Zealand Department of Statistics since the Sixth Session

## GENERAL

Historical difficulties in attracting and retaining staff in the Data Processing, Mathematical Statistics and Economics areas of the department have continued. Contrary to the experience elsewhere in government our problem is not now quite so serious for the first of these but for the others, and especially economists, the situation has significantly worsened.

An issue which has and will continue to have a major impact on the work of the department was a change in the basis of funding.

The Government, in 1986, introduced a policy for most Government departments to fund an increased proportion of their gross expenditure from revenue so as to reduce their net funding. In the Statistics Department over the five years from 1986/87 net funding is being progressively reduced to 75 percent of gross appropriation, thereby requiring the department to produce revenue which will build up to some $10 million (in 1986/87 dollars) in the 1990/91 March year. Any increase in activities or output, which cannot be funded out of the department's net funding will have to be funded out of increased revenue.

From the start of net funding the department's position was that the introduction of enhanced charging for services should not infringe any of the widely accepted principles which have historically applied to official statistical services. Survey respondents are not compensated for the supply of data to the department. Equally, general community value statistics will continue to be provided either free or for the cost of publication to every user. This philosophy is linked, firstly, to the compulsory acquisition of data because of a community need and, secondly, to the role of official community-value statistics in monitoring the welfare and progress of the country and its people and the provision of adequate planning and decision making tools. The approach the department has adopted to achieve the required level of revenue is then to charge the full cost recovery price where the department is requested to provide customised services or user-specific statistics.

Further comment on action being taken to achieve the net funding targets are given in various sections of this statement.

## MARKETING OF STATISTICS

One of the major responses by the Department of Statistics to the net funding requirements has been an increased emphasis on marketing the department's products.

In May 1986, as a short term expedient to raise the revenue required in the 1986/87 year, a charging manual was put together for the current products. This manual has been revised for the 1987/88 year and it is anticipated to change further as the marketing strategy takes shape.

A Marketing Manager was appointed in December 1986 with the main task of analysing the department's marketing position and drafting a marketing strategy. Subsidiary functions include providing a marketing perspective to management decisions, and using commercial skills in the day to day operations of the department.

In October 1986 a market audit study was commissioned to report on how the department was perceived, both in the marketplace and by its own staff. An initial report was received in April 1987, and after extensive discussions a supplementary report was received in August 1987. The material from the study has been used in preparing the marketing strategy and also in the current internal review into departmental operations and structure.

A general marketing strategy was drafted by the end of March 1987 and almost all of its recommendations adopted by management. The strategy identified the major areas in which revenue can be raised, and suggested that a specialised marketing unit be established. The first marketing plan came to fruition on 1 October 1987 when the new Hot Off the Press release service went into production. A series of marketing plans are now being produced for each of the revenue areas identified. The marketing unit is currently being formed and should be operational by the end of December 1987.

A major conclusion of the market audit is that the department is largely unknown in the market. Accordingly, having selected an advertising agency, a corporate awareness campaign is being run from October 1987 to

March 1988 with the aim of making planners and decision makers think of the department first when numeric information is required. Substantial progress has been made in updating the image of the department presented by publicity material and publications. A new logo has been introduced successfully.

## POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS

The 28th New Zealand Census of Population and Dwellings was taken on 4 March 1986. A number of significant operational changes were implemented, including the management of the field enumeration process by the Department of Statistics for the first time in 70 years, and the upgrading of the questionnaire processing operation utilising recent advancements in computer technology.

The management of the field enumeration by staff of this Department was a major operational change after many decades of assistance from the New Zealand Post Office. Some 220 supervisory and managerial staff were successfully recruited, for the various districts of New Zealand. Over 4600 enumerators were subsequently employed to undertake the delivery and collection of questionnaires. This operation was generally well performed and the overall success of the census enumeration phase is a reflection of the dedication and very considerable efforts of these staff.

Three Regional Training Officers were also appointed to ensure that the field staff were properly trained. They were assisted in this task by the production of videos which covered all aspects of the Census field operations.

A conference for the major users of census statistics was also held in November 1985. This provided the Department with the opportunity to outline the content of the 1986 Census questionnaires to users and explain the reasons for the inclusion or exclusion of various questions. It also enabled users to have a further input to the definition of standard output from the census.

Other publicity measures included the development of a teaching kit on a variety of aspects relating to the census. The kit which was prepared in association with the Department of Education was distributed to all schools and received very favourable comment.

To assist the enumeration of the Maori, Pacific Island and other minority ethnic groups, the Department produced a language leaflet in 7 languages. Advertisements in the various languages were also played on radio.

The recruitment of some 340 temporary staff to process the census questionnaires commenced in March 1986 and was finally concluded in May 1987.

The processing system involved the direct data capture of pre-coded question categories while written responses were captured utilising computer-assisted coding.

The development of the computer software which operated the computer-assisted coding and editing system, was a major technical advancement and resulted in a more efficient processing system. A number of International Statistical Offices have subsequently expressed interest in the performance and efficiency of this computer system.

Results from the 1986 Census of Population and Dwellings have been progressively released over the past 18 months. Provisional population and dwelling counts based on verified returns from District Supervisors after the enumeration phase, were released between April and June 1986. Final counts for Local Government Regions and New Zealand were released in late August 1986, with more detailed statistics for local authorities and area units being available in early September 1986.

Given the wide demand for early statistics on the major demographic, economic and social variables, a new series of "Key Statistics" were released between October and December 1986. These provisional statistics were released for Local Government Regions and their constituent Local Authorities as the data became available. This series was concluded in late

December 1986 when an enhanced range of statistics for New Zealand was released.

At previous censuses, the national summary had been based on a systematic random sample of questionnaire. For the 1986 Census, however, enhanced processing procedures enabled the publication of statistics based on the full set of questionnaires.
The Government Statistician supplied to the Surveyor-General and members of the Electoral Representation Commission, statistics on the distribution of the General and Maori electoral populations. Computerised facilities were also provided by Department to the Commission (for the first time) enabling revised population figures to be quickly calculated for any boundary changes the Commission was considering.

Currently all Regional reports have been completed while the subject matter reports (e.g. Ages and Martial Status) are being prepared.

Publications from the 1986 Census will eventually comprise some 58 reports containing national, regional and subject-matter statistical tabulations, together with technical and information material. This programme constitutes a substantial enhancement on the range of information produced at previous censuses, and in timeliness - the full series being scheduled for completion by mid 1988.

A deliberate policy has been adopted of publishing tabulations in the various 1986 Census statistical reports which have a demonstrably wide community value. In addition, a number of unpublished tabulations which contain more detail or are of special interest to selected groups of users will be available for a small servicing charge.

Other products available from the 1986 Census include Summary files of non-confidential data, covering aggregates for each Census topic at the meshblock and area unit levels plus multi-dimensional analyses of topics at the national level.

The Department is currently promoting the ad hoc services available to users of population census statistics. Where a specialised range of statistics is required by clients, a customised set of data can be processed, with the full costs of this service being met by the client.

A number of post-census evaluation projects commenced during 1987. The purpose of these projects was to evaluate the accuracy of enumeration coverage and the level of response to the questions in order to improve the quality of future Census data. To date, three studies have commenced to measure the quality of enumeration coverage, while three further studies will be undertaken to determine the accuracy of age reporting, labour force statistics and Census coverage in general.

The Department also assisted in taking the 1986 Census of Tokelau, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Office of Tokelau Affairs in Apia, Samoa. An officer from the Department visited Tokelau in April 1986 to develop and test the questionnaires and assist in designing enumeration procedures. The Census was taken on 10 October 1986 and the documents arrived in New Zealand a month later. The coding, data entry, editing and subsequent tabulation was undertaken by the Population Census Division in Christchurch. Provisional tabulations were supplied to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in January 1987, while the final printed report was available in March 1987.

Special tabulations giving data in respect of persons either residing in New Zealand or temporarily in New Zealand on census night and whose ethnic origin was a range of countries in the Pacific region are being extracted at the request of Pacific countries.

## DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS

The first issue of the Demographic Trends., the Department's main reference volume on population statistics, was published in July 1986, and the second issue appeared in August 1987. This annual publication carries brief reviews and basic data and derived series on major demographic indications of New Zealand population, including nuptiality, fertility, mortality, migration, population structure, induced abortion, national and sub-natural population projections, and is addressed to researchers, planners and others interested in monitoring population trends.

Two major analytical demographic studies were published during 1986. One report presented a systematic analysis of major patterns and trends in New Zealand fertility during 1912-1983, using cross-sectional and cohort measures. Background work has now commenced on a companion research study on cohort nuptiality in New Zealand, to facilitate the effective analysis and interpretation of family formation patterns. The second report, one of a series of macro-analytical studies on regional population dynamics, described the principal features of inter-regional migration in New Zealand during 1971-1981.

In January 1987 the Department introduced for the first time a set of Demographic Profiles for 326 areas in New Zealand. Unlike traditional publications, this is a computer-based information service whereby profiles are stored on the computer and can be printed according to the requirement of users. Each profile contains a wide range of historical and projected demographic data of an area which are presented in a convenient document, useful to demographers, planners, and marketers.

Three series of demographic projections were produced during 1986-87, including 1985-base New Zealand population and labour force projections, and revised 1981-base sub-national population projections that took into account information available from the 1986 Census of Population. A new series of 1986-base sub-national population projections is being processed, and is expected to be available in late 1987.

Development work completed included five computer-based models for producing sub-national labour force projections, national and sub-national housing projections, ethnic origin-specific projections, and annual age-and sex-specific population estimates for local authority areas and ad hoc districts. Using the 1986 Census counts as a guide, the Department has also completed an evaluation of the sub-national population estimates derived by the 'component' approach and 'regression' method.

## BUSINESS DIRECTORY

The last two years have seen some major changes in respect of the department's central Business Directory.

Phase I of the directory redevelopment project was completed and a fully operational on-line system was introduced in November 1986. Direct updating of directory data in conjunction with a history data file is now possible through computer terminals linked to the department's network.

This coupled with the computer assisted name and address matching system and an on-line interrogation facility is already proving to be an efficient method of dealing with directory updates and user enquiries regarding business operations.

In addition the facility to produce standard and ad hoc reports and record special data items for units is now available.

Other facilities for the new system which are still being developed and tested include the structure narrative for multi-accounting unit businesses and some ad hoc reports.

A program of linking in more surveys and censuses to the wide range of facilities available so as to improve departmental co-ordination and efficiencies is underway with one survey section having almost completed their surveys utilising the directory. This program will continue and subject to confidentiality constraints could be extended to other users outside the department.

1986 saw the introduction of the Annual Business Directory Update Survey. This survey which is conducted as at February each year is the means by which the entire directory will be kept up to date. It asks businesses to confirm or amend non-financial data including the name, address, size, activity and links with other businesses and has the facility to incorporate user specific questions. The results of this postal survey are to be published each December in a publication entitled New Zealand Business Patterns. The first such publication for 1986 is now available and contains summarised non-financial data about New Zealand businesses.

As the Update Survey develops it is intended to produce summarised statistics on changes in the population of businesses and facilitate studies on the rate of formation and closure of businesses, the types of businesses creating employment and changes in overseas ownership of New Zealand businesses. In addition the range of data available to users will be increased allowing cross analyses with other departmental census and survey information.

The use of Goods and Services Tax Registration Data to provide a continuing method of advising the directory of new businesses, business closures and address changes commenced from 1 October 1986. The use of this data, which has already increased the directory by some 100,000 businesses, will ensure a more accurate basis for the Annual Updating Survey and consequently a more up-to-date directory and accurate statistics.

Since the introduction of the Annual Update Survey the directory has become a much more marketable and valuable analytical tool for users.

The directory now has a regular client base for listings and tabulations with the main data items being Name, Address, Industrial Classification and number of persons engaged for listings and data on the number, type, location and size of businesses for tabulations.

The release of lists to users on a case by case basis and the department always ensures that the use of the directory is fully consistent with the confidentiality provisions of the Statistics Act 1975.

## ECONOMIC CENSUS

During 1985 the report of the 1983 Census of Distribution was published, followed by the final results and the reports of the 1984 Censuses of Forestry and Logging, Fishing, Mining and Quarrying, and Manufacturing.

The 1985 Censuses of Agricultural Contracting Services, Building and Construction, and Transport, Storage and Communication were completed in 1986 and final statistics were released. The reports for these three censuses, being the last censuses in the department's now superceded 5 yearly series of economic censuses, were published early in 1987.

As from 1986 the new scheme of an annual sample Survey of Enterprises and a 5-yearly Economy Wide Census came into effect, with the posting of the 1986 Enterprise Survey questionnaires.

Fifteen different questionnaires were employed in this first enterprise survey and just over 15,000 enterprises were included in the sample. Final results for each of the 47 industry groups covered in the survey were recently published and a full report is being prepared.

June 1987 saw the post out of the questionnaires for the department's first 5 yearly Economy Wide Census. Questionnaires for the censuses are being progressively posted as the Business Directory Update for 1987 progresses and all questionnaires should be sent out by December 1987.

The Economy Wide Census has an expected population of approximately 145,000 enterprises, covering all the activities, with the exception of the agriculture sector, and are classified to the New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (revised 1987).

Like the survey, the census concentrates on financial data, but it also collects commodity information on purchases and sales and incorporates sufficient breakdown of information to assist in the department's inter-industry studies.

Altogether, 88 questionnaires covering over 500 industries are used in this Economy Wide Census which has been designed for the computer processing of up to 10,000 separate questions.

The 1987 census incorporates the 1987 Enterprise Survey and results of this survey are expected early in 1988. The 1987 census itself is expected to be completed by September 1988 and all data published in report form by mid-1989.

## SHORT TERM BUSINESS SURVEYS

There is a continuing demand for timely short term statistical information on business activity. Quarterly sample surveys covering the Distribution and

Manufacturing sectors provide estimates of 21 income and expenditure variables for 14 separate industries. A monthly retail trade survey provides estimates of retail sales for 13 storetypes. The survey also provides quarterly estimates of the value of retail stocks. Seasonally adjusted values are derived from the monthly data and constant price estimates are compiled monthly.

Commodity production surveys are conducted, ranging from beer to electronic goods. Funding assistance for these surveys is now being provided in many instances by the principal users of the data.

The department is currently reviewing the coverage and content of its short term economic surveys. Proposals include extending the range of industries covered, and for retail trade statistics to be broken down by commodity as well as storetype. There is also a proposal to integrate with these surveys the quarterly employment survey, currently run by the Department of Labour.

## AGRICULTURE STATISTICS

Final results for the annual Agriculture Census are now available within approximately eight months of the post-out. Provisional estimates of key statistics are available within approximately four months.

The 1987 Agriculture Census saw a major revision of the main questionnaire, reducing the length by 50 percent. A specialised questionnaire was introduced for horticulturalists. These changes followed wide consultation with users and providers and were aimed at including only questions which provide statistics having significant community value. The reduced questionnaire length has decreased respondent burden and will enable results to be published significantly earlier with only a minor overall loss in the range of published data.

The annual Economic Surveys of Farming are now fully operational, and in conjunction with surveys operated by other agencies now provide an almost total coverage of the agricultural sector.

## SMALL AREA DATA

The Department is in its third year of developing the capacity to produce small area data sets. The plan envisages the standard geographic analysis of all economic and demographic statistical series. This will allow the production of data from several sources classified to "mesh block" which is the smallest spatial unit used by the department.

The main classification tool is a New Zealand Street Listing and an Areas file. The street listing lists every street address to a meshblock and can be used interactively to allocate addresses to meshblocks.

At the forefront of the dissemination is a proposal to produce the 1986 population census on a CD/ROM and market this with digitised meshblock boundaries, the Areas File, plus the appropriate software. Current plans are to have this available in February 1988. Other data, such as the list

of establishments from the business census may also be incorporated in the same format or marketed as a compatible data set.

## HOUSEHOLD LABOUR FORCE SURVEY

The Household Labour Force Survey, which provides quarterly statistical measures of the supply of labour to the economy, has now been operating for exactly two years.

At the commencement of the survey there was some concerns about the likely response rates that would be achieved. These were substantially unfounded as we are constantly achieving a quarterly response rate of some 90 percent with 80 percent of the gap being 'no contacts'.

The survey has also introduced two firsts for the department in that telephone interviewing is utilised for some to-thirds of the 12,000 survey households each quarter and some 40 percent of all responses are by proxy. These procedures significantly reduce survey costs and overcome revisit problems.

Output from the survey is released initially in news and information releases and later in a more comprehensive bulletin. Commencing in the latter part of 1987, each bulletin will include either a discussion paper on labour statistics topics or at the end of each survey year a written analysis of the years data.

## HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SURVEY (HIES)

Early work on the planned redevelopment of HIES has commenced. To some extent, redevelopment at this time is occasioned by significant changes in user requirements.

A primary purpose of the original survey was to obtain annual information on the expenditure of households in order that weights for the Consumers Price Index could be adequately monitored.

More recently the data is being used extensively for taxation and social welfare benefit payment modelling purposes by other agencies (see section on ASSET).

The redevelopment will allow for the quarterly production of output and for the system to be sufficiently flexible to permit the department to react to the emergent needs of economic and social analysts. These issues have been of concern with the current system.

## SOCIAL STATISTICS

Notable among the department's recent achievements in the field of social statistics has been the production of three social reports. Profiles of the Niuean and New Zealand Maori populations were prepared for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Maori Affairs respectively. More

recently a national social report analysing trends, issues and target groups relevant to social policy was prepared for the Royal Commission on Social Policy. These reports were prepared at the request of the respective clients and were customised to reflect the clients specific needs. The production of such client-orientated social reports has been greatly facilitated by the introduction of net funding and reflects also a concern to better bridge the gap between data and users.

In addition to the department's growing involvement in social reporting, it has continued to be active in the development of social statistics. Recent work in this area has included the provision of technical assistance and advice on questionnaire design to client sections and organisations. Major activities undertaken during the last two years have included the redesign of the international passenger arrival and departure forms from which migration statistics are derived and the provision of statistical information and advice to the New Zealand Planning Council Social Monitoring Group.

The department has continued to be responsible for the processing and publication of justice statistics emanating from the courts. During the last two years substantial progress has been made in improving the timeliness of justice statistics, and in increasing the range of these statistics available to users.

## CONTRACT SURVEYS

In response to the need to generate revenue to meet net funding targets a Contract Surveys Section was established with the objective of undertaking household surveys for client departments who would otherwise have to employ the services of market research firms. To date two surveys have been undertaken: a survey of marine recreational fishing for the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and a social policy survey for the Royal Commission on Social Policy. Both surveys were conducted as supplements to the Household Labour Force Survey. The Contract Surveys Section is run on a commercially competitive basis with the full cost of the surveys being recovered from the clients.

## PRICE AND INCOME INDEXES

Planning is now well advanced for a major revision of the Consumers Price Index. This revision has been rescheduled from 1986 to 1988 in order that its revised form will reflect expenditure patterns subsequent to the introduction of a Goods and Services Tax (Value Added Tax) which applied from October 1986 as part of a reform of the New Zealand taxation system.

In preparation for this revision of the Consumers Price Index the Minister of Statistics appointed an advisory committee in 1985 which reviewed CPI concepts and procedures. In its report the committee found that it was not necessary to propose any radical alterations in the concepts and methods currently used in the CPI. The committee's report represented a confirmation of the essential soundness of the Consumers Price Index and most of its recommendations were aimed at statistical refinement of, rather than changes to, current practices. Amongst its recommendations was for the Department of Statistics to expand the monthly survey of prices to

include more of the highly weighted commodities thereby facilitating the calculation and publication of a monthly CPI at some future date. As part of the review the committee examined a number of areas where the coverage of the index might be expanded to ensure that the index continues to reflect the change in the prices of all goods and services purchased by private New Zealand households. Accordingly the committee recommended that the Department of Statistics investigate the possibility of including generalised consumer credit, child care services, second homes, second-hand goods, and expenditure on certain forms of gambling in the regimen of the index.

The Producers Price Index has been progressively revised over a period of five years. Each industry group input and output index has been revised as data from the relevant economic census became available. This policy has ensured that the expenditure weights for the respective industry production group indexes are as up-to-date as possible. The fifth and final stage of the current revision cycle is almost complete with only one of the twenty four industry groups yet to be revised.

The Farming Inputs Price Index series, revised in 1983, is integrated with the Agriculture Production Group Index of the Producers Price Index. The Department is currently developing an index for Farm Interest which will measure the changes in the price of maintaining a fixed real level of farming indebtedness. When this is complete, full expenditure coverage will have been achieved in the Farming Inputs Price Index.

The 69 asset-type indexes of the Capital Expenditure Price Index are currently being revised. This programme should be completed by 1988.

A revision of the Nominal and Prevailing Weekly Wage Indexes was completed in 1986. In addition to technical improvements to the calculation methodology, the exercise encompassed an expansion and updating of the coverage of awards and occupations in the index regimens and of employers in the wage-rates surveys. The revised indexes for industry and occupation groups are separately available for local government and central government sectors.

Real Disposable Income Indexes and related series were developed in 1982 to measure the separate and combined effects of changes in levels of incomes, include taxation and consumer prices on salary and wage earners, the households of salary and wage earners and national superannuation payments. In respect of salary and wage earners, separate sub-series are published for the highest 20 percent of earners, the second-highest 20 percent and so on down to the lowest 20 percent. The series were the focus of considerable official and public interest at the time when Goods and Services Tax, Family Support and the associated income tax package were introduced.

## ECONOMIC STATISTICS

Prior to the deregulation of New Zealand economy, the current and capital account of the balance of payments was based on merchandise trade statistics and statistics drawn from the administrative returns of foreign exchange dealers. This was supplemented by an annual survey of those companies who had overseas affiliations. In brief, the regulated foreign

exchange market provided ample information on balance of payments statistics.

In 1985 regulations were relaxed and since that time the Department has been severly stretched to find alternative data sources and to develop new series to measure the increasingly sophisticated dealings with the rest of the world.

New series developed include; a monthly survey of foreign exchange dealers, a quarterly survey of visitors to New Zealand, quarterly surveys of consignment exporters (mainly primary produce exporters), quarterly surveys of international transport operators, quarterly survey of private long term overseas indebtedness.

Under development are a quarterly survey of insurance dealings with the rest of the world and a survey of New Zealanders travelling overseas.

Work is yet to commence on surveys of short term private debt, surveys of private holdings of overseas assets and a number of smaller surveys to cover imports and exports of services.

In addition, the increasing sophistication in overseas dealings make it necessary to continually review the existing series for coverage and relevance.

The main innovation in the past year has been the introduction of a monthly balance of payments on current account, including a smoothed seasonally adjusted series using a Henderson 27 month moving average.

A quarterly estimate of long term overseas debt of the private sector has also been introduced.

A quarterly constant price GDP estimate have been produced for several years. Estimates of the real expenditure on GDP are currently being developed and it is expected that after a comparative evaluation of the two series the new series will be published by early 1988.

## EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS

The 1982 computer system for processing exports external trade data is being redesigned so that all processing will be transferred from a government bureau computer to the Department's in-house IBM facilities. The modified system will retain the existing features incorporating the latest UN recommendations on "Concepts and Definitions", including separate analysis of merchandise and non-merchandise trade, together with an interfaced "uniform system" for collecting overseas shipping and cargo statistics. On line editing facilities have been added plus some "spare" fields for ad hoc use, thus extending flexibility and slightly improving output timeliness. The new system will be implemented from 1 January 1988.

The imports system (CASPER) was interfaced with the Customs Department computer system implemented in July 1982. It also incorporates the latest "Concepts and Definitions", and the system has proven advantages in timeliness and flexibility. Raw input data are keyed to the database at

Customs port terminals, resulting in the Department achieving considerable resource savings previously applied to coding for computer input. Planning is proceeding to further enhance imports processing by retrieving raw data tapes from CASPER, loading to the in-house IBM computer, and activating the required statistical processing in-house. The present target for completing this project is 1 July 1988.

Other major developments within the two systems include the transfer of data output production from the Government Computing Centre ICL computer to the Department's IBM computer during 1987. This has extended the media choice of data which now includes hard copy, microfiche, magnetic tape or diskette, and access to the INFOS information database. As well, the introduction of various software packages enables production of data for any period or combination, to suit the needs of customers. Intensive marketing strategies aimed at publicising the range and availability of external trade data in various media have resulted in a steady increase in clients in 1986/87. Sales have favourably increased revenue, offsetting processing and resource costs for producing the information.

From 1 January 1988 Customs Department will introduce the new international commodity classification (Harmonised System). The new system has significant implications for the external trade statistics collections, and planning for the implementation date has been underway for two years. An important feature is that New Zealand will introduce a single classification (and Customs Tariff) to cover both import and export commodities. External trade statistics will be published in a 10 digit H.S. format, with the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC revised 3) being available at the international 5 digit level.

The External Trade and Computing divisions are currently developing a personal computer version of the Harmonised System for use generally by Pacific countries. Work in this regard is scheduled for completion in early 1988. To ensure familiarity with the system, two levels of training will be given to officers from those countries which will use the system. The first, in November 1987, on the use of the HS system is being given by staff from the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the second, or 'hands on' training, will be undertaken by the New Zealand developers.

## SAMPLING AND OTHER MATHEMATICAL STATISTICS

### Sample Design for Business Surveys

The sample design for the first Annual Enterprise Survey was completed and implemented in 1986. This involved for the first time designing a sample to cover in one year the entire spectrum of business types in NZ - thus providing a "snap-shot" of the economy.

A review of the sub-annual Economic Surveys has begun. The Mathematical Statistics divisions will be involved in investigating the possibility of integrating some short-term economic surveys run by other Government Departments with the current series of Quarterly and Monthly Economic Surveys run by the Department of Statistics. The aim is to design a

sample robust enough to provide a wide array of statistics, while causing minimal respondent burden.

## Population Census Quality Control

A wide range of quality aspects of the 1986 Census of Population and Dwellings have been investigated. In particular, the quality of the data capture phase was monitored closely, and adjustments to checking levels made as appropriate. Reports have been completed on an analysis of non response and computer assisted coding discrepancies.

An imputation module for the 1986 Census was designed, developed and implemented with further analysis of its actual performance is now in progress.

Work is currently being done on consistency checks between the 1981 and 1986 Population Censuses, along similar lines to the 1976/81 Consistency Study.

## Seasonal Adjustment

The Department introduced monthly Balance of Payments series for the first time in 1986. Because the balance series (Balance on Invisibles, Balance on Merchandise Trade, and Balance on Current Account) are important economic indicators, the Department wanted to provide users with suitable series that would assist them in analysing the 'underlying trends'.

Traditionally, the Department has provided seasonally adjusted series using Census II X11 to fulfill this objective. However, the eleven balance series are characterized by large irregular movements caused by trade in 'lumpy' items (e.g. aeroplanes) or by delays in exports or imports due to industrial disputes. Furthermore, these series are displaying rapidly changing seasonal patterns caused by growth in non-traditional exports and by the deregulation of the economy which has lead to growth in investment income.

For these reasons X11 did not adequately seasonally adjust these series. After investigating newer methods of seasonal adjustment, the Department decided to use SABL. SABL is a seasonal adjustment method developed by Bell Laboratories, USA. It is an extension of X11 that has taken account of recent developments in robust estimation (qv. Cleveland WS, Devlin SJ, Terpenning IJ, for the details of the transformation, decomposition and SABL calendar methods, available from Bell Laboratories 600 Mountain Ave, Murray Hill, NJ07974 USA). Although SABL seasonally adjusted these series adequately, the seasonally adjusted series were not smooth and so did not satisfy completely the objective of assisting users to analyse 'underlying trends'. Therefore the Department provided further smoothed seasonally adjusted series.

As resources permit the Department will be investigating using SABL on other series in the past were thought to be too difficult to adjust using X11.

Multi-Purpose Household Sample Survey Design Facility

In recent years the size and number of household surveys conducted by the department has increased rapidly. To increase design efficiency a general purpose household survey design facility has been introduced. The main features of this facility are:

- a common stratification based on socio-economic variables and geographic regions

- a common first stage selection unit (PSU) consisting in general of 50-80 households

- simple random sampling of PSU's and households.

The facility enables the allocation of the sample size to each stratum to be based on survey-specific design variables. Also it is possible to ensure each PSU (or household) is included in at most one household survey at any point in time.

ASSET - A Simulation System for Evaluating Taxation

The ASSET system is a computer model which estimates the benefits paid by the government, income earned and personal tax paid by individuals. The database used is that obtained from the Household Expenditure and Income Survey, which collects income and expenditure (but not taxation) information. Tax liability is estimated from the personal and income data collected.

The system has recently been rewritten using the SAS/AF computer package. This allows the use of menu screens with numerous options and program screens where details can be specified. This development has meant that users are able to simulate a wide range of tax and benefit combinations conditional upon use being for research and policy purposes and not for enforcement activities.

The output from the ASSET system has been enhanced and is now adaptable to user requirements. The database creation has also been improved so that new data is added to the original database more regularly.

COMPUTER PROCESSING

In late 1985, the department installed new key to disc data capture equipment. This modern and efficient machinery facilitated the introduction of more efficient methods of quality assurance at the data capture point.

The two years since the sixth session of this committee have seen an up-grade of the department's principal mainframe from an IBM 4341 to a 4381. In addition, disc capacity has been increased on our other two machines.

In the case of the 4361 INFOS computer, the point has now been reached where a major up-grade is urgently required if the department is to properly service the growing number of clients and expand the base to the one million odd datasets anticipated by the end of 1987. Replacement of this machine is being planned for in the next three months.

## INFORMATION SERVICES

In April 1985 a Digital VAX 730, linked to the Government Printer's typesetting equipment, was installed. This system is operating very efficiently enabling files for publications to be transferred, either via the telecommunications line, or by magnetic tape, to the Government Printing Office system. Using the department's own computer network, remote departmental sections are able to transmit their files, electronically, to the publications production area. The electronic transmission of tabular material direct from subject matter processing systems has reduced the time required from receipt of copy to the final printed publication.

Complementary to the VAX system, an IBM 4250 printer is used to produce camera-ready copy. This printer uses an electro-erosion process giving extremely high resolution. The printer is used for the "typesetting" of questionnaires, graphs and special high quality work. The IBM 3270 PC/GX originally proposed to "drive" this in-house publishing facility was not purchased. Investigations are continuing as to the most appropriate alternatives.

A new dual News and Information Release service commended on 1 April 1986 and has been well received by users. Approximately 200 news releases are issued each year to the news media with an additional 300 information releases, containing more tabular material, available to users.

The department has recently changed the method by which it releases key short-term economic statistics of prime interest to financial markets. Such data are now released at a pre-announced time and day by means a news conference at which departmental officers comment on or answer any questions concerning the statistics being released. Until the exact time of release the statistics are held in strict security within the department.

The department's Information Network for Official Statistics (INFOS), a computerised on-line statistical database, continues to be enhanced and to attract more users. Expansion of the INFOS database in line with user demand continues and it now holds 680,000 statistical series. It is expected that this will reach one million by the end of the year.

Major activity concentrates on: the new Harmonised Description and Coding System for exports and imports, to be introduced on 1 January 1988; and the installation of SIR/CENSYS software for use with data from the Census of Population.

The department has signed an agreement with the software house, Progeni Systems Ltd, for the marketing of the software which drives INFOS. This software will be marketed under the name: The CHRONOS Information Manager. It is considered to have potential international appeal as a general product for the storage and presentation of corporate information.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Committee on Statistics

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# COUNTRY REPORT ON STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES

# IN PAKISTAN

# COUNTRY STATEMENT ON STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES IN PAKISTAN

The present statement for the Seventh Session of Committee on Statistics highlights the statistical activities undertaken since the last session of the Committee held in November, 1985.

## National Statistical System of Pakistan

2. The Planning Commission, Government of Pakistan, constituted a Working Group on Statistics for Seventh Plan (1988-1993)and Perspective Plan (1996-2006) with the following terms of reference :

i) To review available economic and social data in the light of the increasing demand from public and private sectors for statistical information and to recommend measures to increase its quantity, quality and timeliness in accordance with emerging priorities, and the requirements of 7th Plan.

ii) to propose arrangements designed to ensure continuous review of concepts, definitions and classifications in use among producers and users of statistical data in Pakistan, their adjustment to more recent theoretical and social developments and to enhance their international comparability.

iii) to review the statistical system in force (at Federal and Provincial levels) and to propose a programme for improving its capacity to produce adequate, reliable and timely statistics. This review, among other things, should examine the legal basis of the system and its institutional structure, the working of its manpower policies, arrangements in place for training and upgrading of skills of the statistical services, its access to computer technology and other equipment required for the performance of its expanding functions.

iv) to recommend measures to promote greater interaction between producers and users of statistics.

v) to make proposals designed to improve the utilization of statistical information in the development process.

3. The Working Group constituted Technical Sub-groups in important subject areas including Statistical System of Pakistan to review its working, identify statistical gaps and improvements needed in the system and make suitable recommendations including statistical development plans, for implementation during the Seventh Plan period. Some of the important subject areas covered by the Sub-groups are given below : -

i) Statistical System of the Country;
ii) National Accounts.
iii) Agricultural Statistics and related Censuses/ Surveys.
iv) Population Statistics including Housing & Population Censuses.
v) Mining & Manufacturing Statistics.
vi) Manpower Statistics.
vii) Price Statistics.
viii) Electronic Data Processing.
ix) Statistical Training.

4. The recommendations of the Working Group have been arrived at with a view to provide data for formulation of development programmes and monitoring of the progress of its implementation. As the Seventh Plan is being formulated around 5-Point Programme of the Prime Minister, it is expected to have particular emphasis on employment generation, housing facilities, education, health infrastructure besides agriculture, industry and other productive activities. Accordingly, a statistical development plan has been prepared which would help in the improvement of

statistical series being produced and filling up of statistical gaps.

5. The report of the Working Group on Statistics focuses attention on :

i) the improvement of statistical system/services in the country including creation of Department of Statistics in the Provinces ;

ii) strengthening of statistical organisations/cells at the federal and provincial levels and creation of infrastructure specially at the provincial level for undertaking sample surveys ;

iii) computerization of all existing statistical activities at the federal and provincial levels ;

iv) filling up of statistical gaps and development of economic and social indicators on basic needs namely education, availability of potable water, health facilities, transport, shelter and nutrition to facilitate the annual programming of the targets and also monitoring of development schemes in this regard ;

v) collection of statistics for rural development and special groups of population, e.g., women,children &youth, handicapped, and homeless ;

vi) development, revision and standardisation of concepts, definitions and classifications in the light of national needs and international comparability of data ;

vii) building up of hard core of trained manpower through training both within and outside the country for enhancing their skill ;

viii) Career planning of statisticians.

National Accounts

Pakistan's National Accounts comprise of the following series : -

i) Gross and Net National Product by economic activity at current and constant prices.

ii) Expenditure on National Product at current and constant prices.

iii) Gross Fixed Capital Formation separately for public and private sectors by economic activity as well as by capital assets.

iv) Government final consumption expenditure by functional heads.

All these accounts are prepared on annual basis and are published in a brochure "National Accounts of Pakistan".

7. The Government set up a Committee on National Accounts under the Chairmanship of Governor, State Bank of Pakistan to review the present methodology for the preparation of national accounts and to propose improvements considered necessary. The Committee constituted five technical sub-committees on agriculture sector, industrial sector, non-agricultural and non-industrial sector, savings and expenditure on GNP and investment.

8. The committee submitted its report in 1986. The Committee recommended that the revised UN System of National Accounts (SNA-1968) may be adopted and the sphere of National Accounts be enlarged to include input-output tables, social accounting matrices (SAM), flow of funds accounts, savings and investment. Other important recommendations of the Committee are as follows : -

i) Input-Output tables may be prepared on quinquennial basis and modified tables for the intervening years.

ii) Model building and Forecasting Models based on national Input-Output and SAM may be prepared.

iii) Half-yearly/quarterly domestic accounts may be attempted.

iv) Estimates of savings by institutions may be prepared.

v) Flow of Funds Accounts may be prepared in collaboration with State Bank of Pakistan.

vi) Indicators on Regional Income & Distribution may be attempted.

vii) National Deflator may be developed.

viii) Poverty line may be determined.

ix) Base year for all indices may be changed to more recent year.

x) Links between SNA and related fields of statistics with particular reference to balance-of-payments statistics, government finance statistics and money and banking statistics may be developed.

9. In pursuance of the recommendations of the Committee two new sections on SAM and Savings have been created. Training of the staff on basic principles of SNA, Input-Output Tables and SAM was arranged through local experts as well as foreign consultants engaged under the technical assistance programme of the United Kingdom. The Government of Netherland have agreed to finance the foreign exchange component of this project by providing a group of experts and foreign training facilities for the local personnel.

10. The implementation of the recommendations of the Committee has been started. Estimates of National Accounts with revised base 1980-81 using latest data have been prepared. Other jobs undertaken in this regard are mentioned below :

i) Table Nos. 1, 4, 5, 6a, 6b, 7a, 7b, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15a, 15b, ofnew SNA have been prepared.

ii) Estimates of functional income by economic sectors for the year 1980-81 to 1986-87were developed.

iii) New sample design was prepared for the survey to estimate investment of production units in large scale manufacturing.

iv) Estimates of value added of services sector were prepared using data collected through surveys/studies undertaken during the last four years.

11. Besides, keeping in view the national international requirements of National Accounts for socio-economic development planning, subjects such as income distribution, poverty measurements, measurement of input and output coefficients and exercises on flow of funds have been taken up by State Bank of Pakistan in collaboration with Federal Bureau of Statistics. The flow of funds accounts for the year 1975-76 to 1984-85 have been compiled on experimental basis and the accounts for the year 1985-86 and 1986-87 are under compilation.

International Comparison Project (ICP)

12. Pakistan is participating in the I.C.P. project sponsored by the United Nations. Phase-IV of this study which was started in 1982 with base 1980 has since been completed. For Phase-V study with base 1985 there has been some change in centralised system of comparison such as the classification scheme according to which the countries participating in Phase-V of the I.C.P are required to break down their gross domestic expenditure which will make it possible to link various regional & binary countries to build up world comparison. The basic heading list constitutes a stratification to improve the accuracy of converting gross domestic product from one currency into another. However it was well recognised that number of countries do not have this break down in their National Statistics and will face a number of difficulties in making these figures and hence they were urged to re-classify their data or supplement them with further sub-categories which will improve the accuracy of conversion.

13. Regions and pairs of countries carrying out binary comparison were urged to go beyond the obligatory minimum break down and to seek further sub-division whenever they think that Purchasing Power Parity of the sub-heading to be separated are likely to differ substantially from one another.

14. The UN Statistical Office organized meeting during 1984 which decided to carry-out inter country comparision by pairing of the countries known as core countries at regional and inter-regional level. Pakistan's inter country comparison was recommended with Turkey and Nigeria. Some preliminary work of matching of items was done by Pakistan with Turkey at Vienna meeting in September, 1985. But at a later stage the comprison with Turkey could not be possible. However, and I.C.P expert from Nigeria, through the assis-tance of ODA, of U.K. visited Pakistan during March, 1987.

15. Consumer goods prices included in Phase V were supplied for the year 1985. The work on collection and com-pilation of prices of durable goods and construction items is now-a-days in progress and is at advance stage of finalisation. Data on private consumption expenditure, general government consumption expenditure and gross fixed capital formation has recently been compiled as part of the exercise of preparing National Accounts.

National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP)

16. Keeping in view the contents of the ESCAP Resolution 246 (XL II) Statistical services in Asia and the Pacific the Government of Pakistan is participating in the National household Survey Capability Programme Sponsored by the United Nations. The main objective of the project is to upgrade the

skills of statisticians in the conduct of household surveys and processing and analysis of data through local and foreign training of personnel, engaging foreign consultants on specific subject areas, strengthening of infra-structure by providing transport and equipment e.g. drafting machines for preparing maps, printing press for printing questionnaire, manuals & reports; micro computer IBM PC/AT for data processing.

17. A Master Sample for integrating household surveys in the field of Labour Force Survey, Household Income and Expenditure Survey, Pakistan Demographic Survey, Survey on Impact of Zakat and Ushr, Survey on Children and Youth, Survey of Handicapped Persons, Survey of Fertilizer Use has been developed.

18. The master sample is a sample of 3820 primary sampling units (PSU): enumeration blocks in urban areas and mouzas/dehs/villages in rural areas. The allocation of PSUs to the urban and rural sectors of each province represented a compromise between two objectives:

1) Meet minimum reliability standards for estimates for the urban and rural sectors of each province.
2) Provide maximum reliability for national estimates.

19. To meet the first objective, the urban sector and the smaller provinces were over sampled.

Distribution of Sample PSUs by Provinces
and urban/rural sectors

| Province | Urban Sample | | Rural Sample | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | No. of PSUs | Proportion of total | No. of PSUs | Proportion of total |
| Punjab | 760 | .081 | 1,460 | .060 |
| Sind | 440 | .072 | 400 | .069 |
| NWFP | 200 | .190 | 320 | .043 |
| Baluchistan | 100 | .315 | 140 | .025 |
| Pakistan | 1,500 | .089 | 2,320 | .054 |

20. The smaller proportions of rural PSUs selected for the NWFP and Baluchistan reflect the higher cost of conducting interviews in those parts of the country.

21. The specified number of sample PSUs was selected from each urban and rural stratum at random without replacement and with probability proportinate to size. The measures of size used were estimated household counts for urban strata and 1981 census population counts for rural strata.

22. To avoid excessive workloads in preparing household listings for large rural PSUs, a second stage of sampling was introduced for all rural sample PSUs with 1981 Census Population of more than 2000. Each PSU was divided into a specified number of blocks, each consisting of approximately 350 households. One of these blocks was then selected at random, with equal probability, for inclusion in the master sample.

Census of Establishments

23. The Federal Bureau of Statistics has decided to conduct the first Census of Establishments in the country. The main objective of this Census is to provide a frame of all establishments engaged in any kind of economic activity. The project will consist of the following:-

i) Census of Establishments

This census will determine the number of establishments in the country, their location, employment size and kind of economic activity.

ii) Survey of Distributive Trade & Services

This survey will be conducted on sample basis using frame developed in the census of establishments.

iii) Census of Large-scale Manufacturing

The Census of Manufacturing Industries will be conducted on the basis of complete directory of Large-scale Manufacturing Establishments prepared as part of Census of Establishments Programme.

iv) Census of Small & Household Manufacturing Industries

The Census of Small and Household Manufacturing Industries will be carried out simultaneously with the Census of Establishments using the frame developed by it.

Agricultural Statistics

24. Traditional methods which are based on subjective judgement of the reporting agency are currently being used for crop forecasting except for wheat and cotton. A new project based on Area Sampling Frame concept using aerial photographs has been launched in 1986. The main objective of this project is to generate reliable and timely data relating to area and production of major crops which will help in evaluating activities of the agriculture sector enabling the Government to take timely remedial measures in case of short-fall in agricultural production.

25. The Area Sampling Frame is a statistical method of selecting an agricultural sample consisting of area segments of appropriate size from homogeneous strata to be constituted on the basis of intensity of land use. The project will also strengthen the infra-structure of the Provincial Agricultural Departments responsible for collecting agricultural statistics by providing transport, micro-computers, printing and reproduction equipment and foreign and local training of their personnel. It is also proposed to introduce advance crop forecasting of important crops by developing statistical models based on plant characteristics.

26. This project will be completed in two phases. A Pilot project consisting of seven districts has been taken up in the first phase. Area frame of one district has been constructed and acreage survey for Rabi and Kharif 1987 were carried out. Work on the construction of frame of three more districts is in progress. The project will be extended to the entire country in the second phase for which new aerial photography will be needed.

Livestock Census

27. A country-wide Livestock Census was carried out in the beginning of 1986 in both rural and urban areas of the country. The main objectives of this census were:

i) to provide head count of livestock and poultry birds aby age and sex distribution.

ii) to ascertain the number of livestock owners reporting animals and poultry birds.

iii) to estimate the number of milch animals and those yielding milk.

iv) to reckon the number of animals slaughtered.

28. The census was a sample census with a sample size of 10.02 thousand villages and urban enumeration blocks selected through a two stage design with probability proportion to their size, the number of households determined in the Population Census. The second stage sample size of 717 thousand households was selected through a systematic sampling technique. The overall sample size was slightly over 5% of the total households in the country.

Milk Production Survey

29. A sample survey to estimate production of milk was also carried out along with the main livestock census. This survey was based on a sub-sample of in-milk animals (cows and buffaloes) listed during the census. The milk yield of selected animals was recorded in the morning and evening by the enumerator while they were milked in his presence. Average yield of milk per animal was worked-out from this survey which when multiplied with total animals in milk estimated from the livestock census yielded total production cf milk.

Survey of Migratory Herds

30. Migratory herds of livestock (mostly sheep and goats) are found in NWFP and Baluchistan Provinces. In the winter season they move downwards for grazing in the plains and again start moving to mountains in the beginning of summer season. These herds follow specific routes and their enumeration can reasonably be done by establishing check points on narrow routes.

31. A survey of migratory livestock passing through established routes was carried-out in NWFP and Baluchistan during the period September 1986 to January 1987. The survey provided inventory of migratory livestock which otherwise might have escaped enumeration conducted through household settlements. Additional information regarding socio-economic status of their families, liabilities, customs, celebrations etc., was also collected.

Agricultural Census

32. The preparatory work for the next agricultural census has been started. A village census will be undertaken in Dec., 87 as part of the process of updating of existing sampling frame needed for the next agricultural census. This census will provide valuable data on facilities available in villages namely drinking water, electricity, tubewells for irrigation, tractors, schools, maternity homes/dispensary, bank etc.

Industrial Statistics

33. Annual Census of Manufacturing Industries for ther year 1985-86 was launched. The CMI reports for the year 1981-82 and 1982-83 have been released. The CMI report for the year 1983-84 is being compiled whereas returns of non-responding establishments are being collected in respect of 1984-85 CMI. Special efforts are being made to reduce the time lag in the availability of final results of CMI.

34. The results of survey of small and households manufacturing industries 1983-84 have been released. The base year for Quantum Index Numbers of Large-Scale Manufacturing Industries was shifted from 1975-76 to 1980-81. The new index series with 1980-81 is based on the production data of 106 items covering 81.427% value added on the basis of 1980-81 CMI results. The indices have been computed upto the year 1986-87 on monthly basis.

35. The annual reports on Mining Census upto the year 1983-84 have been prepared.

36. The annual reports on Census of Electricity Undertakings upto year 1985-86 have been released.

Foreign Trade Statistics

37. Federal Bureau of Statistics continued to rectrieve international trade data from customs documents and publish them in regular publications. The compilation is based on Pakistan S tandard Trade Classsification(PSTC). The Sections,. Divisions Groups and sub-Groups represented by the first 5-digit codes in the frame of this classification are those of the revised classification of UN and have been maintained as such. The details at 7-digit level have been added in PSTC to meet national requirements of trade statistics. The Revised PSTC-2 based on SITC-R 2 has been adopted from July, 1981.

38. The draft UN Standard International Trade Classification Revised-3 (SITC-3) was examined keeping ir view the national requirements and comments were forwarded to UN Statistical Office Efforts will be made to adopt the SITC-3 as far as possible as and when the final version is received.

39. The FBS has been compiling quarterly indices of foreign trade of Pakistan since 1950. The base of these indices continued changing wit h changes in the pattern of international trade of Pakistan. The indices have now been prepared on the base of 1980-81 alongwith the previous series with base 1975-76. Efforts are being made to compute them on monthly basis.

40. Compilation of unaccompaniedbaggage imports has also been undertaken on monthly basis. Data are now available with different details at 7 digit final items level by country.

41. Goods brought in by the incming passengers as baggage and personal effects were not included in foreign trade statistics of Pakistan. As large number of Pakistanis working abroad pay regular

visits to their country and bring goods of substantial value with them as baggage, it was considered desirable to compile statistics of these imports separately. Efforts are being made for the collection and compilation of baggage imports in different details on the basis of baggage documents record from the customs.

42. Compilation of statistics of imports by sources of finance has been undertaken. Preliminary work in this respect i.e. revision of import licences form and bill of entry has already been completed by Ministry of Commerce, Central Board of REVENUE, Customs Revised format of bill of entry will be used by importers soon.

43. The UN/ESCAP classification on broad economic category for compilation of Foreign Trade Statistics has been studied and will be adopted after the approval of Ministry of Commerce.

Population Census Statistics

44. A hand-book of population census data was published in December, 1985. Similar publications in the form of provincial profile covering almost all topics. covered in a census were being compiled. A special publication containing population data for 1951 to 1981 censuses by administrative areas according to boundary changes as of February 1986 was compiled and published in 1986.

45. Analysis of 1981 census data was undertaken which comprised of studies on migrant population, fertility and mortality, economi - cally active population, literacy and education and response and processing errors in 1981 census.

46. Preparatory work for the planning of next census of Housing and Population has been started. This include review of the questionnaire and tabulation plan, engagement of consultants/advisors, seeking of technical assistance from UNFPA, activity calendar and geographical plan for delimitation of census areas, and assessment of data processing requirements as well as equipment.

47. The standing committee constituted to examine the population growth rates issued by various agencies and make agreed recommendations about one set of population growth rate for its use by all Government Agencies held its delibrations. The committee reviewed Population Growth Rate and its components derived from Pakistan Demographic Survey, 1984 and 1985 and indirect estimates of fertility and mortality obtained from Contraceptive Prevalence Survey held in 1984-85.

Demographic Statistics :

48. In the absence of reliable and adequate civil registration system and the failure of decennial censuses to provide vital statistics, the importance of demographic sample surveys was realized. The Federal Bureau of Statistics, therefore, carried out a number of Population Growth Surveys (PGS) during 1969-71 and 1976-79. The above series yielded data on deaths, births, fertility and mortality level in the counltry.

49. A new series of survey entitled "Pakistan Demograhic Survey (PDS)-1984-87" has been launched. The main objectives of PDS are similar to those of PGS. The objectives of this survey are to collect data on deaths and births in order to arrive at various measure of fertility and mortality for Pakistan and the four provinces alongwith urban/rural components,measure of population and characteristics of the impact of family planning and their socio-economic development programmes. It has already been decided to continue this survey on yearly basis. The results of PDS 1984 have been released in 1987. The report for the PDS 1985 is under print, while results for PDS 1986 survey are being processed.

labour Statistics

50. Labour Force Survey will henceforth be conducted on yearly basis. The results of the Labour Force Survey 1985-86 have been released and t he report for the year 1986-87 is under print. The questionnaire used in the survey is being reviewed to include probing question for correct measurement of women in labour force.

New Series of Consumer Price Index (CPI)
( 1980-81 = 100 )

51. The Federal Bureau of Statistics (FBS) is compiling and publishing two series of CPI one with base 1975-76 and the second with base 1980-81 for 12 major cities of Pakistan for industrial workers, government employees and commercial employees belonging to four income groups namely : upto Rs. 600.00, Rs. 601-1500.00, Rs. 1501-2500.00 & above Rs. 2500.00 for 1975-76 base and upto Rs. 1000.00, Rs. 1000-2500.00, Rs. 2501-4500.00 & above Rs. 4500.00 (base 1980-81). The number of markets covered in 12 major cities has been increased from 22 to 50 from June, 1987.

52. The coverage of the CPI with base 1980-81 has been extended to 25 cities. The number of markets covered in these 25 cities will now be 63.

Productivity Measurement

a) Labour Productivity Indices for Selected Industries.

53. The monthly/annual labour productivity indices for five selected industries namely (1) Cigarettes (2) Jute Textiles, (3) Fertilizers, (4) Cement and (5) Bicycles were computed upto April, 1987 with 1980-81 base.

b) Productivity Analysis and Projections in Selected Key Areas

54. The Asian Productivity Organization (APO) in early 1984 launched a two year in-depth study on Productivity measurement and analysis at sub-sectoral level in the manufacturing and service sub-sectors. The study was aimed at developing and

improving the measures and analytical methods of input, output and productivity and coupling with profitability. The study was carried out by 13 member countries.

55. For the purpose of the study, Pakistan selected "Manufacturers of Small Agricultural Implements and Retail Trade in Clothing" amongst the various sub-sectors offered by the APO.

56. The study consisted of two phases: Phase-I consisting of finalization of the design of the study its detailed guidel-nes/outlines and brief examination of the data availability as per standard questionnaire prepared by the APO. This phase was discussed in the APO Coordination Meeting held on 26th-29th November, 1984 at Denspar, Indoneshia.

57. Phase-II consisted of the data processing and report writing on the findings of the survey which were discussed in "APO Symposium on Productivity Analysis and Projections in Selected Key Areas" held on 1st-5th December, 1986 at Manila, the Philippines.

Survey of Disabled Persons

58. To gather sufficient data for sound planning and policy making for the welfare of disabled persons, a Survey of Disabled Persons was launched in 1985 and its report was published in 1986. The objectives of the Survey were:

i) To determine the proportion of the disabled persons in the population with rural/urban break-down.

ii) To determine the nature and causes of disability.

iii) To estimate the proportion of disabled persons who received treatment.

iv) To gauge the proportion of disabled persons who acquired technical education as well as their source of livelihood.

v) Percentage distribution of civilian labour force of disabled persons by nature of disability, sex and nature of activity.

Education and Youth Survey :

59. The importance of social statistics for formulating and evaluating development programmes for the welfare of the population can not be over emphasized. Like many other developing countries, these data are not available in detail and in its all respects to cater the needs of planners in Pakistan. The main objective to launch this survey is to fill this data gap in this vitally important area.

60. Some data on education are available from administrative records for instance, data on enrolment and teaching staff by level are available. However, these data are inadequate. Information on drop-out, which is a serious problem, and reasons for not sending the children to schools is not available at national level. Government have given great importance to universalise the primary education during the Sixth Five Year Development Plan. The results of this survey would enable planners and researchers to measure the achievements in this regard.

61. As regards the data about Youth no attempt appears to have been made earlier. United Nations have declared the 1985 as Youth Year and in Pakistan various seminars and workshops have also been arranged to celebrate it. It has been decided to collect fact and figures about Youth regarding their education, employment, social and political activities to meet the national and international demands in this regard.

62. The main objectives of Education and Youth Survey are as follows : -

i) To measure the availability of existing educational facilities upto the high school level.

ii) To know the main reasons of not sending children to schools.

iii) Extent and reasons of drop-out from school.

iv) Youth participation in the labour market, educational and cultural activities, politics and sports.

Survey of Social and Economic Impact of Zakat and Ushr on Individuals and House-holds :

63. The Federal Bureau of Statistics conducted this survey in 1985 on behalf of Director General, Zakat, Ministry of Minorities and Religious Affairs. Its main objectives were as follows : -

i) To determine the social and economic impact of Zakat/Ushr on individuals and households.

ii) To know the utilization of Zakat/Ushr received bythe household and individuals.

iii) To determine the extent of different problems of recipients through the receipt of Zakat/ Ushr.

iv) To know the characteristics of Zakat/Ushr.

v) To estimate the effect of rehabilitation assistance on income of the household/individual.

vii) To collect the views of Chairman, Local Zakat Committee about the present system of Zakat/ Ushr and his suggestions if any for any improvements.

64. The survey results were supplied to the concerned Ministry in 1987.

Social Statistics and Indicators :

65. Federal Bureau of Statistics is quite alive to the need of development of social statistics and indicators in a systematic and integrated manner to provide a firm statistical base for social development and planning and its evaluation. This Bureau is regularly collecting data on health, migration, demography, education, culture,, employment, households, environment and publishing them in regular/adhoc publications. A publication entitled "Social Indicators of Pakistan, 1985" wasprepared and issued in February, 1986.

Household Income and Expenditure Survey :

66. The Federal Bureau of Statistics has a regular programme of Household Income and Expenditure Survey from 1963-64. The purpose of the survey is to provide data on income distribution, expenditure pattern and level of consumption of important items, savings, investment and liabilities by different income groups and by rural and urban areas. The report containing the results of the survey for the year 1984-85 was released in 1987, while the report for the year 1985-86 is under print. The processing of 1986-87 survey results is presently in progress. This survey will henceforth be undertaken on yearly basis.

Training :

67. In order to to improve and update the professional competence of statisticians working in the Federal and Provincial Statistics Departments/Agencies, the Federal Bureau of Statistics conducted the undermentioned training courses : -

i) Computer users training course - 1986.

ii) Orientation course on use of Personal Computers - 1986.

iii) Agricultural Statistics Training Course 1986 and 1987.

iv) Training course on SocialAccounting Matrices - 1987.

v) Training course on use of SAS software package developed for micro computers 1987.

vi) Country course on Training of Master Trainers in Population Census Planning - 1987.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
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# COUNTRY REPORT ON STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES

# IN PHILIPPINES

# A SYSTEM APPROACH FOR CAPABILITY ENHANCEMENT OF THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICAL SYSTEM

## INTRODUCTION

### Systems approach - an understanding

The systems approach provides the broad framework for understanding organizations. It considers relationships among subsystems as well as interactions between the system and its suprasystem.

The systems view of organization and management serves as the basic conceptual framework of this paper. Its basic premise is that organization is an open system in interaction with its environment. An examination of the system will thereby help us to define the needed efforts to coordinate the different components of the system, namely its structure, function and primary attributes. Here is where management is called for to develop congruence between the organization and its environment and to design intersubsystem characterized with effectiveness, efficiency, and participant satisfaction.

A decentralized statistical system calls for powerful integration instruments in providing a basic framework to collect and organize statistics produced by the numerous stastistical units comprising it. Coordination in a decentralized system is more difficult than the centralized type giving rise to problems of duplication of activities, conflicting statistics, and data gaps that needlessly burden the respondents. However, an adequate statistical legislation can provide the necessary framework to win the willing cooperation of users, respondents and other government departments and build a robust statistical service.

## THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICAL SYSTEM, DEFINED

The Philippine Statistical System (PSS) is a highly decentralized system, which consists of the various statistical organizations at all administrative levels, its personnel and the national statistical development program. This includes all government departments, bureaus, agencies and instrumentalities both at the national and local levels and all government-owned or controlled corporations that are engaged in statistical activities either as a major fuction or as a necessary part of their administrative and regulatory functions.

Its organization has evolved through several stages and has undergone a dynamic process greatly influenced by the government machinery prevailing during different eras. The government's emphasis on development planning has affected the creation of research and statistics division to meet the data and information needs of the planning services of the various departments. From this emerged a highly decentralized structure in which the statistical services are managed and supervised separately by the respective government agencies.

The bulk of statistics which the PSS provides its user clientele were the primary outputs of a general-purpose statistical data producer and about a dozen specialized agencies. Prior to the 1986 government reorganization, coordination and integration of statistics were performed at different levels by the following orgnizations: (a) the Committee on Statistical Development (CSD), one of the four cabinet level committee created in 1977 to serve as the principal medium in the development of a well-integrated statistical system of the government; (b) the Statistical Advisory Board composed mainly of undersecretaries of the government agencies represented in the CSD which served as the technical arm of the

CSO and concommitantly advised the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) in the development of a unified system of statistical services and in the formulation of basic policies for government statistical operations, (c) the Inter-Agency Committees (IACs) created by the government planning agency, the NEDA, as a means of convening representatives of major producer and user agencies to discuss needs and problems; and (d) the Statistical Coordination Office, one of the four technical staff offices of NEDA and which served as the central coordinating body of the PSS.

No matter what critics say, the decentralized statistical system also has some distinguished advantages. The close proximity of the statisticians and their policy-making counterparts is conducive to a better understanding of the need for relevant statistics concommitant with the flexibility in satisfying the data needs of the users. Despite such advantages and attempts to strengthen coordination in the PSS, problems still persisted.

## ASSESSMENT OF THE PSS

Cognizant of the need for continuous improvement of the statistical service to provide quality data for planning and decision-making, the government through the then Office of the Prime Minister issued a memorandum order dated 18 November 1985, directing NEDA to conduct a comprehensive review of the PSS. The order also allowed the creation of a Special Committee which was tasked with the following:

a) Conduct a comprehensive review and evaluation of the Philippine Statistical System, identify organizational, financial and statistical gaps and bottlenecks, and recommend measures which can enhance the efficiency of the statistical system and improve the timeliness and accuracy of statistics for planning and policy-making;

b) Assess the research and training needs of the statistical system and propose ways and means by which these can be accommodated; and

c) Review the adequacy of the legal framework governing the operations of the statistical system and if necessary recommend legislation which can make the system more effective.

The Special Committee, comprised of experts on varied disciplines and who were drawn from different sectors, conducted the review through rigorous weekly meetings and supplemented by consultative workshops. The six-month meetings, which was completed in early 1986, covered a wide range of statistical issues, both on the organizational and technical aspects. Issues on organization touched on system goals and objectives, organizational structure, research and training. Technical issues covered general questions on data production and dissemination, major censuses and surveys and sector-specific statistics.

Consultative workshops were organized where a meeting of minds between special data producer and user groups were necessary. Selected issues discussed in the workshops were: institutional problems, agriculture, fisheries, forestry and social statistics, etc.

## PSS PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED

Factors both internal and external to the system which affected the quality of statistical data were identified. These were categorized as: (1) undue pressure from users brings out questions on independence and vulnerability of data producers; (2) the lack of a coordinating mechanism with sufficient clout and authority prevents full coordination and integration of statistical activities; and (3) the decentralized system has put strain on the financial and manpower resources of government.

The statistical system needs public recognition and a strong capability in terms of objectivity, impartiality and professional independence. To carry out its responsibility efficiently and rationally, the system must always be ready with statistical information on the current state and trends of situations. It must provide users with reliable, timely and consistent data to obtain public confidence on its products. The adverse effects on the quality of data brought about by the persistent problems in the system have apparently weakened its external as well as internal capability.

## RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

On the basis of its findings, the Special Committee to Review the Philippine Statistical System listed down a series of recommendations clearly for the development of statistics and strengthening of the statistical organization. First in its recommendation was an assertion on the primary objective and scope of the PSS, namely "to provide information in support of development planning, policy formulation, and in general, decision-making in goverment."

More importantly, it recommended specific measures for (1) strengthening the system through institutional improvements, for strengthening the coordinating mechanism; (2) enhancement of the responsiveness of the system to the needs of the users; and (3) improving public confidence on the data produced by the PSS. Furthermore, it outlined several activities to be undertaken by the system for a five-year period, i.e. starting 1987.

## PSS REORGANIZED

Simultaneous with the nationwide organizational and functional restructuring of the government was the reorganization of the Philippine Statistical System. As stated in the introductory statements of Executive

Order No. 121 "the absence of a strong mechanism has given rise to the problems of duplication of activities, conflicting statistics, data gaps as well as unnecessary burden on respondents" and "that the government needs to rationalize the allocation of resources for the collection of statistics". Therefore, the authorities stressed that there is also a need to maintain a decentralized system characterized by independence, objectivity, and integrity to make it more responsive to the requirements of national development and the need for a stronger mechanism to coordinate the system in order to promote the orderly development of a system capable of providing timely, accurate and useful data for the government and the public, especially for planning and decision-making. The said Executive Order called for the PSS to remain decentralized but with a strong coordination feature, something which was lacking before, to be achieved through closer linkage between statistical programming and budgeting.

It might be safe to say that the Special Committee to Review the PSS which was completed in August 1986 was successful, since stipulations for the strengthening and improvement of the PSS under the Executive Order were the actual recommendations contained in the final report of the said Committee. Perhaps, the two most important institutional measures considered under the Executive Order were the creation of the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) and the Statistical Research and Training Center (SRTC).

## THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL COORDINATION BOARD, ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS

The said legal mandate stressed the creation of the NSCB as the highest policy-making and coordinating body on statistical matters in the country and on which its decisions on statistical matters are final and executory.

The Board replaced the three coordinating bodies: the cabinet-level Committee on Statistical Development, the Statistical Advisory Board and the Statistical Coordination Office of the National Economic and Development Authority. Now, its strength lies on its new composition. The Director-General of the NEDA and the Undersecretary of the Department of the Budget and Management are the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board, respectively. Each national government department is represented by its deputy or undersecretary. For the first time since the existence of PSS, the local government and the private sector are allowed representations in the Board. The former is represented by the Governor or City Mayor who in turn is nominated by the League of Governors and City Mayors while the latter will have to elected by the other members of the Board. Other members include the Deputy Governor of the Central Bank, the Administrator of the National Statistics Office, the Secretary-General of the NSCB and the Director of the SRTC.

The powers and functions of the Board will give it the much-needed clout and authority in statistical coordination. These are stipulated in Section 5 of the Executive Order: e) Approve the Philippine Statistical Development Program; f) Allocate statistical responsibilities among government agencies by designating the statistics to be collected by them, including their periodicity and content; g) Review budgetary proposals involving statistical operations and submit an integrated budget for the PSS to the DBM; and h) Review and clear, prior to release, all funds for statistical operations.

## THE STATISTICAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTER (SRTC)

The SRTC is another creation under the government reorganization in the furtherance of the desired improvements of the PSS. Its functions are:

a) Develop a comprehensive and integrated research and training program on the theories, concepts and methodologies for the promotion of the statistical system;

b) Undertake research on statistical concepts, definition and methods;

c) Promote collaborative research efforts among members of the academic community, data producers and users;

d) Conduct non-degree training programs to upgrade the quality of statistical personnel and expand the statistical manpower base in support of the needs of the statistical system;

e) Provide financial and other forms of assistance to enhance statistical research and development.

All the measures passed by the Office of the President are geared towards the enhancement of the PSS and in line with the thrust of the ESCAP, accord high priority to the improvement and strengthening of its services which will assist in the effective planning, implementing and monitoring of economic and social development plans. There lies strong hopes that with the sincere implementation of these measures coupled with improved cooperation among the participants: data suppliers, producers and users will abound. Decision-makers can then look forward to a more responsive, dedicated and objective statistical data system.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
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# COUNTRY REPORT ON STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

## 1. Introduction

This report reviews the major statistical developments achieved since the last session of the committee and introduces some future statistical programs in the Republic of Korea.

The Republic of Korea has successfully carried out the Fifth 5-year Socioeconomic Development Plan and launched its sixth plan this year.

Owing to the nation's rapid economic development and the subsequent socioeconomic transition, the demand for more sophisticated data has greatly increased. To meet these needs, the government has expanded statistical activities remarkably.

In recent years, the goal for national development in Korea has been changed from aggregate economic growth to balanced development among regions and sectors, and also to increased social welfare. Therefore, more emphasis has been given to developing the statistics required for formulating the regional development and social welfare programs.

## 2. Formulation and Implementation of the Statistical Development Plan

The Republic of Korea has made an overall statistical development plan as a part of the Sixth 5-year Socioeconomic Development Plan and launched its plan in 1987.

The Plan is designed with four development targets : (1)to improve the quality of statistics by introducing better statistical techniques, (2)to provide newly required data for formulating the regional development and social welfare programs, (3)to make maximum use of statistical data by developing data base system, and (4)to strengthen the capability to organize and implement statistical activities by reforming the statistical system and government statistical organization.

## 3. Population Statistics

### 3.1 The 1985 Population and Housing Census

The 1985 Population and Housing Census is characterized by two aspects. First, there has been a change in the balance between scope and coverage ; 30 items were covered in the 1985 census, which is 13 items fewer than in the 1980 census. Information on all items were collected by the method of complete enumeration, while in the 1980 census, only basic items were collected on the basis of complete enumeration while other items concerning migration, fertility and labor force were collected on a sample basis. Second, the enumeration period was changed from October to November because, even though early October has some advantages for field enumeration, a remarkable population movement takes place during October, which seems to cause a good deal of omission of population. Further, three national holidays fall within the first ten days of October which overlapped with the enumeration period in past censuses, making it difficult for enumerators to locate respondents and thus contributing as a major cause of undercoverage.

A preliminary count of population, households and housing units based on the enumerators' summary sheets was released in March 1986, and advance tabulations based on 2 per cent sample of households were released in November 1986, and the final reports will be published by the end of 1987.

### 3.2 Vital Statistics

In Korea, vital statistics are mainly compiled from three data sources ; the population census, the continuous demographic sample survey and the vital registration.

The population census is the most important source of demographic data. Especially, fertility and mortality levels are estimated from the census data through analytical techniques.

The continuous demographic survey has been conducted every month since 1972 on the basis of sample enumeration with a size of 17,000 households. This survey was designed to estimate the rate of natural increase of the population at the national level.

While the population census and the sample survey are important sources of vital statistics, the methodologies and concept impose some limitations on the accuracy of the demographic estimates obtained.

Vital registration, based on a family registration system dating back to 1909, provides a potentially rich additioinal data source. However, this registration system is not yet complete in terms of coverage and suffers some problems in timeliness.

In recent years, realizing the importance of the registration system for the compilation of vital statistics, the government has made strenuous efforts to improve the vital registration system. In addition, the introduction of the health insurance system is bringing about a marked improvement in the registration of births and deaths. The registration rates of births and deaths in the year of occurrence are, at present, more than 75 per cent in contrast with less than 50 per cent in the early 1970s.

The improved coverage of vital registration has given us an expectation that current vital rates can be estimated more precisely. Thus, we are making an extensive study on methods of adjustment to estimate the actual number of births and deaths based on the pattern of births and deaths reported.

### 3.3 Special Vital Statistics Survey

A special survey on vital statistics will be conducted in November 1987 on the basis of sample enumeration with a size of 60,000 households.

The purposes of the survey are (1)to obtain age-specific fertility rates and age-specific death rates, (2)to identify factors affecting the levels of fertility and mortality, and (3)to collect data for assessing coverage in the vital registration system and to provide insights for determining a strategy for further improvement.

Interviews will be carried out during two weeks in early November 1987. The reference period refers to 1 January 1985 ~ 31 October 1987. In this survey, four kinds of questionnaires, for household members, ever-married women, births, and deaths, will be employed. The total number of items to be covered will be about 55.

Among the distinctive features of the survey will be the introduction of OMR for data entry and the adoption of a dual survey approach, linking part of the sample with the continuous demographic survey, to improve coverage of events.

## 4. The Employment Structure Survey

The Second Employment Structure Survey was conducted in November 1986, following the first survey in 1983, on the basis of sample enumeration with a size of 150,000 households.

The purpose of the survey is to obtain information on the regional structure of employment and unemployment, and the migration of the labor force among regions and industries. It provides not only regional data on the labor force but also data for in-depth studies on employment and unemployment structure. The final results will come out by the end of 1987.

## 5. New System of National Accounts

In Korea, the current national accounts system was replaced by the New System of National Accounts in 1986, which provides systematic and integrated recording of the flows and stocks of the economy.

Since 1978, we have made feasibility studies to develop and compile the New System of National Accounts. Substantial progress has been made since the National Accounts Group was organized in March 1980. We developed the new system and devised estimation methods appropriate to the Korean economy and the compilation of national accounts.

A new series of national accounts for the years from 1970 to 1986 was published in 1987, and data for the years before 1970 will be added to the new series shortly.

The revised system is in the process of review, but will clearly need some further improvements. For example, the insufficiency of basic data prevented us from incorporating the Input-Output Tables and the National Balance Sheets into the new system ; we recognize that our new system is not the complete one recommended by the UN, but subject to resources and national needs we will try to complete our revision in the near future.

## 6. Regional Income Accounts

As mentioned before, the goal of national development has been changed from aggregate economic development to balanced development among regions. The most essential information required for regional development plans is the regional income accounts. Therefore, some experimental estimates of regional income have been made for a few provinces since 1983. At present, the provincial income accounts is under compilation, and final results will be released by January 1989.

## 7. The Capital Stock Survey

The capital stock survey in Korea has been taken every ten years, since 1968. The next survey, the third in the series, will be carrried out in 1988.

The general purposes of the survey are to measure the national resources on which national economic activities are based : to provide the basic information needed for establishing economic policies such as the economic development plan through an understanding of the structure and distribution pattern of national resources, to analyze the results of development by calculating the extend of capital accumulation, and to compute the capital-output ratio which shows the relationship between national wealth and national income.

For the preparation of the 1988 survey, several expert meetings and meetings of data users were convened in early 1987 to review survey methodology and items to be covered in the survey.

The major characteristics of the survey are as follows;

(1) Dates of the Survey

a. Reporting date : December 31, 1987

b. Survey period : April ~ August, 1988

(2) Methods of the Survey

a. As a rule, the survey is carried out on an ownership basis. However, for enterprises, the survey is supplemented by information on use, to obtain a more realistic appreciation on how the national capital stock contributes to economic activities and income creation.

b. In principle, the survey is conducted on a sample basis but with a complete enumeration in the government sector.

c. The joint use of self-enumeration and interiewing method.

d. Some use of indirect estimates from existing data.

| Sector | Methods of Survey |
|---|---|
| ○ Government Sector | complete survey/self-enumeration |
| ○ Incorporated Enterprises Sector | sample survey/joint use of self-eumeration and interviewing method |
| ○ Unincorporated Enterprises Sector | sample survey/interviewing method |
| ○ Household Sector | sample survey/interviewing method |
| ○ Net Foreign Claims | estimate from existing data |

## 8. Statistical Data Base

Since the data base was installed in 1977, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBOS) has stored a total of 530,000 time series data.

Information in the data base is supplied to users through computer terminal facilities and disk storage. The mainframe computer of the system is an IBM 4381, with memory capacity of 16 megabytes.

As the center of the data base system, the NBOS established a statistical information network, connecting its data base with other agencies such as the Bank of Korea, the Korea Development Institute, and the Korea Institute of Economy and Technology. The data base is also connected with principal data users in order to enhance the fast retrieval and the use of statistical information. Users can easily perform analytical processes with selected data from the data base by using package programs such as SAS, SPSS, and TSP, which are connected with the data base.

The Korean Government is planning to establish a nation-wide computer network system as a national project. Once this project is completed, all information, whether administrative records or statistical survey data, could be sent to the NBOS for further processing and tabulation by the primary collectors of data ; the results could be disseminated to selected users through this national computer network.

## 9. Development of Small Area Statistics

In order to produce the required data for community development, the NBOS has been developing small area statistics on a grid square basis since 1984, which can be presented either as statistical tables or as statistical maps. The small area statistics of the population census data have been made, and "Statistical Maps on Grid Square Basis" was published in July 1987. Now, we are planning to develop other fields of small area statistics mainly based on establishment survey data in 1988.

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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
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# COUNTRY REPORT ON STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES

# IN SINGAPORE

COMMITTEE ON STATISTICS, SEVENTH SESSION
24 - 30 NOVEMBER 1987
BANGKOK

# COUNTRY PAPER ON SINGAPORE

## Introduction

The collection of statistics in Singapore is based on a decentralised system. The Department of Statistics of the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Research and Statistics Units of the various ministries are involved in the collection, compilation and analysis of statistics. Statistics is also collected by government agencies such as the Monetary Authority of Singapore and the Trade Development Board which generate statistics as part of their operations. Since the launch of the Civil Service Computerisation Programme in 1981, many more government ministries and departments have acquired their own computer resources to computerise their operations and to process their statistics.

## Implementation of Commission Resolution 246 on Statistical Services

## Improvement and Strengthening of Statistical Services to Support Decision Making

Demands for more timely, accurate, frequent and readily available statistics from administrators for policy making and planning and from the private sector for making business decisions have been increasing. Statistical agencies in Singapore have responded to these needs by enhancing and improving existing sources and by developing new data series.

Many surveys were conducted at more frequent intervals to gather key economic data. The coverage of the surveys were constantly reviewed and questionnaires redesigned to cater for the need for additional information due to the rapid changing economic and social environment. For example, the Surveys of the Commerce and Services sectors had been enhanced with the addition of questions on trade in services and their frequency increased from biennial to annual. The frequency of the Labour Force Survey had also been increased from bi-annual to quarterly. Its questionnaire was re-designed to include questions that could reflect current labour market conditions in Singapore.

The recession of 1985 made it necessary to have additional sensitive indicators to augment the existing statistics. Suitable leading and coincident indicators of the economy and flash quarterly estimates of GDP have since been developed to provide timelier indications to policy makers of the likely course of economic events in the short term. Before that, the Quarterly Survey of Business Expectations of the Manufacturing and Services sectors which had proved useful to government policy makers and the business community were reviewed and new items incorporated to obtain a more quantitative assessment of business prospects. A quarterly earnings index based on a fixed sample of working persons was also developed to monitor changes in level of earnings over time. Work on an econometric model of the Singapore economy is still in progress.

Rebasing of output and prices to a more recent and representative base was completed during the last two years. Gross Domestic Product (output and expenditure approaches) were rebased to 1985 prices and weights, and various indices of wholesale prices (including the export and import price indices) to 1985 prices and 1984 weights.

New projects have also been started to upgrade the Singapore national accounts system including development of the income approach to GDP, sectoral accounts and flow of funds. When all these projects have been developed in the next few years, these together with existing data on GDP (by output and expenditure approaches), indigenous GNP and Input-Output Tables will be very useful as a description of the output, income and savings and investment of the economy. Internal consistency of the accounts will also be improved.

The dissemination of information has been improved with the launch of the Public Access Time Series (PATS) database in July this year. The database provides the general public with a comprehensive range of many important statistical time series for ten to twenty years. Data revisions are incorporated as and when available to ensure comparability and consistency of data. Information in published form is also available earlier than before. The monthly publication on trade statistics is currently available 3 weeks after the close of each month compared with 3 to 4 months previously.

**Priorities For Data Collection and Analysis**

Feedback from the two major groups of users - the public sector and the private sector - and internal reviews are the major ways of identifying information requirements. The Statistical Development Committee plays a co-ordinating role in the statistical development of Singapore. It was set up by the Ministry of Trade and Industry in 1985 to integrate the work of the Department of Statistics and the various key producers and users of the statistics. Emphasis was also placed on the availability of timely and accurate statistics to primary users for policy formulation.

The Committee also acts as a central co-ordinating body to ensure that there is no duplicated efforts in data collection and that standards and quality are maintained. Each statistical agency sets its own priorities for data collection and analyses based on the needs of the ministries they serve.

**Training in Statistics and Use of Computers**

In general, statistical staff are given on-the-job training with special guidance given by their supervisors. During the past two years, staff had also been sent overseas for courses or seminars on a variety of specialised topics including population census, economic censuses and surveys, input-output techniques, national accounts, balance of payments and leading economic indicators. Junior staff are given basic training in elementary statistical methods.

With the decentralisation of computer resources in various ministries and departments and the greater availability of computer resources in the hands of users, the demand has increased for specialised courses on the use of software packages for wordprocessing and spreadsheets on personal computers and on the retrieval and report generating facilities and graphics capabilites on the mainframe. The skills acquired in the use of computers are also being passed on to other staff. The active participation of users in the development of computer application systems also speeds up the acquisition of computing skills by users.

**Participation In and Use of Standards and Guidelines of UN Capability Building Programmes**

Singapore already has the expertise and capability in conducting large-scale censuses and surveys of establishments

in all major sectors like manufacturing, construction, commerce, transport and communications, financial and business services, and social and community services. Questionnaires for these surveys are used to capture wide-ranging facets of the operations of establishments with detailed breakdown on receipts, expenditure, assets, capital structure, employment and remuneration, etc. From these details, it is possible to derive various components of value added and other statistics useful for economic analysis. Such information is also used in the compilation of macro economic statistics such as GDP, balance of payments and input-output tables, and for other projects and studies.

Sampling techniques have been adopted for efficient collection of data on a timelier basis. Samples are drawn from a centralised database of all establishments which has been successfully developed for this purpose. In this data hub, linkage between the establishment and the enterprise is provided.

Expertise in conducting surveys on households has also been gained over the years. The Labour Force Survey has been conducted regularly since 1973. The Master Houseframe was set up to facilitate sampling for such surveys. In the recent Labour Force Survey, a two-tier stratified sampling procedure was adopted to facilitate efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

The 1987/88 Household Expenditure Survey is now in progress and the partially overlapping sample is drawn together with the Labour Force Survey. This obviates the need to conduct a preliminary survey to obtain data on socio-economic characteristics which are already available from the Labour Force Survey. Previously the selected households were surveyed in two stages - once to obtain data pertaining to

socio-economic characteristics of the household members and a second time to obtain information on their expenditure patterns.

## Improvement of Statistical Infrastructure

The present legislative framework is adequate though decentralisation has led to a few problems. With decentralisation, the Department of Statistics's access to information is less convenient. Greater effort needs to be placed on coordination to ensure consistency and minimise duplication.

As a result of the aim of reducing the Civil Service staff strength, improvement in services must come from higher productivity. Computerisation plays a key role here.

The decentralised system of collection of statistics makes full use of administrative records. The mass of information collected as the by-product of the operations of certain government agencies is, as far as possible, used directly in the compilation of statistics by the same agencies which are often the main users of the statistics. In the last two years, the compilation of trade, transport, building and industrial statistics had been farmed out from the Department of Statistics to various agencies. In cases where administrative records are used as inputs for compilation by statistical agencies, the inputs are increasingly being put into machine-readable form. Magnetic tapes containing the requisite information are passed on to the statistical agencies to be processed and summarised. Optical character readers are also used to eliminate duplication of coding and data entry eg in the processing of statistics on live births.

Over the years, efforts have been directed towards embarking on projects to close the statistical gaps with regard to availability of different types of statistics and the frequency and timeliness of statistics. As a result, more detailed information on various aspects of the economy such as output, prices, employment, investment, international trade and finance are now becoming available. By building upon such existing infrastructure in the collection and compilation of statistics, Singapore has moved towards managing the information as a resource. The management of information resources involves the systematic collection and collation of data from many sources, the pooling together of such data in one central data bank and ultimately making such information readily available to internal users and the general public. The use of information technology enables this information to be disseminated electronically to users using personal computers, modems and communication lines.

In the Civil Service, three data hubs had been identified to provide the basis for data sharing. These are the People Hub, the Land Hub and the Establishment Hub. The building of the hubs necessitated the use of standardised classifications, definitions of terms and data formats and statisticians played a major role in this regard. As common data can be shared, the need to collect similar information by different agencies will be eliminated. Since common data items can be pre-printed on questionnaires, the burden on respondents with regard to the filling of forms will also be reduced.

In the setting up of the various data hubs, committees with active participation from both producers and users were set up.

## Promotion of Effective Dialogue between Producers and Users of Statistics

The Statistical Development Committee was set up in 1985 as a formal forum for the exchange of views between different statistical agencies and main public sector users. Informal contacts between officials also provide opportunities for feedback. The Department of Statistics carries out a quarterly survey on statistical activities in the public sector (including statutory boards and quasi-government bodies) and the results are published in the "Report of Statistical Activities" for distribution to respondents. Through this report, readers are kept informed of the type of statistical data that are available and avoid duplication of effort.

A Statistical Information Services section was set up in the Department of Statistics to entertain enquiries from members of the public. Greater efforts have also been put into explaining the concepts, methodologies and uses of the different types of statistics published. A quarterly publication "Singapore Statistical News" which includes results of surveys is published and circulated widely to both the public and private sectors. Attempts have been made to explain the concepts, definitions and terms in statistical publications in order to reach a wider audience. In this regard, a booklet entitled "Understanding Singapore Input-Output Tables" was released at the same time as the 1983 Input-Output Tables to explain the uses of Input-Output Tables to the public. It also contained an analysis of the structure of the Singapore economy.

A group comprising users of the PATS system was set up before the PATS system was launched. This is to have interaction and dialogue between providers and users of

information. In order to judge the usefulness of information contained in the various publications, comments were solicited from readers through leaflets provided together with the publications.

**Data Processing**

In the past most of the data processing of the Department of Statistics and other government statistical agencies was done by Computer Services Department of the Ministry of Finance. Raw data was sent for centralised data capture at the back-end only after they had been manually scrutinised and edited.

With decentralisation of computing power, numerous government systems had been developed. To-date, the government maintains and operates a total of more than 50 mainframes and mini-computers which support more than 2,000 users. More than 100 application systems have been developed. The users including statistical personnel are also now more involved in system development and data processing. A total of more than 500 computer professionals are now engaged in system development and maintenance in the public service.

A new trade system was developed and implemented in end-December 1985 to expedite the processing and compilation of trade statistics. The system of processing trade declarations is based on distributed data processing concept. It uses on-line and user-friendly, menu-driven screen facilities for data capture. This is a vast improvement over the previous batch-processing system. Trade declarations can continue to be processed at Import and Export counters located at the World Trade Centre and the Changi Air Cargo Complex even if the communications system and the host computer were to break down. Trade statistics are produced immediately at the close

of each month on magnetic tapes for computerised type-setting thus reducing publishing time by about three months.

An important spin-off from the new system is the Trade Dial-Up System. Traders, cargo agents and freight forwarders can now use their own computers to electronically submit trade documents for approval. The Tradenet system will take this a step further by linking all the government bodies involved in the processing of trade documents through a value-added network.

In the area of statistical processing, specialised relational software packages are used to develop application systems. These systems facilitate flexible retrieval of data in various formats eg in the servicing of different ad-hoc requests from the same database. This enables statisticians to generate their own reports readily as and when they want them for economic analysis.

Two databases, namely, the Master Houseframe and the Establishment Hub have been developed for ease of maintenance of information pertaining to residential houses and business establishments in Singapore respectively. These databases provide comprehensive master frames for conducting surveys of households and establishments respectively.

One of the off-shoots of the Establishment Hub is the development of the Survey Control System. This system provides facilities to generate mailing lists for surveys to print names and addresses of respondents either directly on questionnaires or address slips, monitor the progress of surveys and print reminders.

Data entry is inevitable in any system. However, to improve the efficiency of data capture, menu-driven screen

facilities are now provided to assist in data capture. With the exception of very large systems, editing and verification checks can also be built in so that errors can be rectified immediately when the documents are still around. Data entry has now shifted to the front-end to be integrated with the normal work operations. Very soon the field workers collecting price data for the compilation of the Consumer Price Index will be using hand-held computer terminals to enter the information provided by respondents on the spot. This information will then be uploaded to the mainframe computer through a personal computer. Special devices such as optical character readers have also been used for data capture.

Advances in computer technology enable high-quality output to be generated and publications to be produced with a shorter lead time. As mentioned earlier, computerised type-setting is used for the trade publication. Most other statistical systems utilise output from the laser printer which produces camera-ready copies (including graphics) for photo-offsetting for publication. Tremendous benefits will accrue through the elimination of manual effort spent on formatting, typing and proof-reading. The public will be able to receive more timely publications.

Greater use has also been made of information technology in the areas of end-user computing, office automation, management of information resources and dissemination of information. Increased familiarity with workstations has enabled Statisticians to retrieve information and generate reports and charts. They are also able to use personal computers to do wordprocessing, computations on electronic spreadsheets and other PC capabilities. For those who are more computer-inclined, they are able to use mainframe computer software like SAS (for statistical analysis), ISSCO

(for graphics) and TPL (to produce tabulations). The computer also enables voluminous time series data to be stored and maintained. The data can also be disseminated electronically to users eg the PATS system mentioned earlier.

The ultimate goal of computerisation in the area of statistics is to facilitate access to data and improve the timeliness and frequency of its availability. In the area of data sharing among government ministries and departments, Singapore has identified three centralised datahubs namely, People, Land and Establishment. For this to be successfully implemented, it will entail careful planning involving both producers and users of data, in such areas as definition of items, classification schemes and responsibilities for updating the databases.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Committee on Statistics

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# COUNTRY REPORT ON STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES

# _ IN SRI LANKA

# STATISTICAL SERVICES IN SRI LANKA
# MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS DURING LAST TWO YEARS

## I. Statistical Organization in Sri Lanka

The Department of Census and Statistics is the Central Statistical Agency of the Government of Sri Lanka and is responsible for collection, compilation and dissemination of statistical data relating to all sectors of the economy. Since its inception in 1947 it has been expanding its activities to meet the ever growing statistical needs of a developing country. It continues to be the main source of statistical information for the Government for the formulation, implementation and evaluation of its policies while it also caters to the needs of local and foreign organizations with a regular flow of data on various sectors of the economy. The activities of the Department are carried out by ten Technical Divisions. These are:

1. Demographic and Social Statistics.
2. Trade and Industry.
3. Agriculture.
4. National Accounts and Prices.
5. Data Processing.
6. Sample Surveys.
7. Field Operations.
8. Training & Research.
9. Statistical Co-ordination and Standards.
10. Census of Population.

Besides these Technical Divisions, there are four other supporting Divisions comprising the Library, Establishment and Accounts, Printing and Publications. The Department of Census and Statistics has also a permanent field organization with a branch office at each of the 25 Districts. Apart from these, the Department also has branch offices in various Government Ministries and Departments.

The activities of the Department of Census and Statistics could broadly be classified as:

1. Censuses and Surveys conducted by the Department.
2. Censuses and Surveys conducted by various Ministries, Departments and Foreign Agencies in consultation/collaboration with the Department of Census and Statistics and
3. Other Statistical work relating to the collection and compilation of data on important aspects of the economy.

## II. Major Statistical Activities Carried out by the Department

It is not the intention of the author to go into details of all activities carried out by the Department during the last two years, but to discuss in some details few of the activities which are important to be highlighted at this session.

## CENSUS PROGRAMME

### 1. CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING - 1981

The entire programme of the 1981 Census of Population and Housing was brought to a successful completion in 1986 by the publication of General Report. All publications released on 1981 census of Population and Housing are given below.

Publications Containing Provisional Data Based on Enumerator Summaries.

1. Release No. 1 - This publication contains population of districts, towns and A.G.A. divisions by sex, ethnicity, religion and age below and above 18 years.

Publications Based as 10% Sample of Census Blocks.

2. Release No. 2 - This includes tables on age, marital status, literacy, school attendance, education and place of birth.

3. Release No. 3 - Tables are included on occupancy, kind or structure, year of construction, materials used in construction and available facilities.

4. Preliminary Release No. 4 - Contains information on economic characteristics of the population.

Publications Based on Final Results.

5. District Reports - For each administrative district a seperate report was published.

6. Statistics on physically disabled persons.

7. General Report - a descriptive analysis of major characteristics of the population along with census procedures.

8. Population data by small areas - This is a publication giving basic demographic and socio-economic data by G.S. division/Town levels.

### 2. CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE - 1982

During the year 1986, the work in connection with the Census of Agriculture 1982 was completed with the release of the final report in early 1986. This is the first time, Census data was disseminated through district reports to meet the growing need for data at district and lower level due to the decentralization of administrative functions. The final report of the Census would have been completed earlier than this if not for the inadequate computer facilities available with the Department to process the data of three large scale Censuses which were conducted in succession.

Two studies (In-depth analysis of Census data) were also undertaken with the assistance of the FAO as a part of the project "Assistance to Agriculture Census and Surveys" during early 1987. The first study which was entitled "Regional Analysis of Changes in Land use Pattern in the Agriculture Sector of Sri Lanka, 1962-1982" dealt with the

land use pattern and the second study entitled "Role of Marginal Farmers in Sri Lanka Agriculture" which focused attention on the group of operators who operate holdings of less than 2 acres in size which consist of about 64 percent of the total number of operators in Sri Lanka.

## 3. CENSUS OF INDUSTRY - 1983

A Preliminary Report containing an analysis of results and eighty two Statistical Tables in respect of major Statistical Indicators such as the Value of Output, Input Costs, Number of persons engaged, Gross Additions to Fixed Assets and Salaries and Wages etc. was prepared both at national and sub-national levels. This report was released in early 1986.

Subsequently the data processing for the final tabulations was attended to in three phases namely,

(i) Consistency checks and range checks
(ii) Imputation for missing gaps and erroneous values
(iii) Consistency checks and edit checks after imputation.

Data processing is nearing completion and the final Tables which will form the basis of the General Report and of selected Regional Bulletins will be released during the fourth quarter of 1987 and in early 1988.

A noteworthy feature of the data processing for the final Tables was the use of the procedures of Hot Deck imputations, for imputing of missing values and the amendments of erroneous values.

# SURVEY PROGRAMME

## I. NHSCP PROGRAMME

Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) is entrusted with the responsibility of executing the National Hosehold Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP) of United Nations in Sri Lanka.

The NHSCP is a major technical co-operation effort in Statistical Development of the entire United Nations family. This is aimed to increase the survey taking capabilities of the country and to provide a continuing flow of integrated data.

Under this programme several household surveys have been conducted by the Sample Survey Division of the DCS. These surveys provide extension and up date information on the condition under which people live, the activities in which they engage, their level of income and pattern of spending, demographic characteristic and cultural factors which influence behaviour a. ' response to social and economic changes.

A representative sample of about 25,000 housing units are selected from the entire country for these surveys by adopting a two stage sample design. Sample of this size was used in order to provide sub-national level data as well.

The division was engaged in the activities of three major surveys carried out under the NHSCP during the period under review.

1. Labour Force and Socio-Economic Survey 1985/86.
2. Survey of Demographic and Social Aspects 1986/87.
3. Proposed Household Survey of the Agricultural Sector 1987/88.

Field work pertaining to the last few rounds of the Labour Force and Socio-Economic Survey was carried out during this period. Processing of the data of first six rounds was done and a priliminary report based on this data is published.

Survey of Demographic and Social Aspects 1986/87 commenced during this period. Field work which started in June 1986 was continued till May 1987, in twelve successive rounds. Editing and Cording operation of this survey was carried out for first four rounds.

The Household Survey of the Agricultural Sector 1987/88 was at the planning stage during this period. The Concepts, Definitions, Survey Schedule, instructions as well as other Survey materials were drafted. A special listing form was prepared to identify Agricultural Households as this survey is confined only to agricultural households. A pretest has been conducted in a selected area to test the survey schedules. Training of the field officers have also been done during this period.

The following methods are adapted to improve the quality of the data of these surveys.

1. Control forms at various stages of the survey operation - these have to be filled at various stages in order to control the flow of survey materials and to ensure that the smooth flow of all survey operations including the supervision.

2. Interviewers as well as supervisors were trained by the same team of senior officials of DCS in batches of about 30 officers in order to give a uniform set of instructions.

3. Letter to the respondent was sent before the interviewer visited that household to get their full co-operation which increase the accuracy of data collected.

4. Statistical officers attached to each district functions as immediate supervisors. They usually check about 12% of the completed schedules. Immediately after the survey schedules are received at head office, inconsistant schedules or partly incompleted schedules are identified and district statistical officers are instructed to reinterview some sections of these schedules during their field supervision.

5. Field work was supervised by the staff of the head office in addition to the supervision done by the district officers.

## II. OTHER SURVEYS:

### (a) DEMOGRAPHIC AND HEALTH SURVEY - 1987

This is the Sri Lanka component of the global programme of research launched by the Resource Development Agency of the Westinghouse U.S.A., with the assistance of the USAID.

The survey questionnaire was designed to collect information on the following areas -

(a) Background characteristics of the ever married women 15-49 and their husbands.
(b) Reproductive behaviour and intension - fertility, survival status of births, current pregnancy and future child bearing intension.
(c) Knowledge and use of family planning.
(d) Availability of family planning materials.
(e) Breastfeeding and health of children, and
(f) Length and Weight of children (3 months and 36 months of age).

The DHS is the first survey the DCS conducted which incorporated fertility contraception and weaning with health variables such as immunization and diarrhoeal diseases together with the length and weight measurements of the babies.

Among the several approaches used to improve the data quality, following worth mentioning.

In order to minimize errors in the data entry stage and to speed up the publication of results, micro-computers were used. The data entry programme had online editing facilities which helped detect basic errors and inconsistances followed by sample point to sample point comprehensive edit checks. Furthermore, a sample of schedules, were keyed again and matched with the earlier entries to assess the accuracy of the data entry. The selection of schedules for re-entering was done on a random basis.

It was the first survey by the DCS that processed using micro-computers and this proceeding not only helped to minimize the errors but also to speed up the tabulations. As a result the DCS was able to release the preliminary report within one month of the field operation.

### (b) LONGITUDINAL STUDY ON CHILD SURVIVAL AND DEVELOPMENT

The DCS has traditionally been involved in the conducting of retrospective surveys, which in most cases, do not help to understand linkages of events overtime and casual portion. The DCS has with UNICEF assistance launched a project on child survival and development which is a longitudinal survey on mothers and children.

For the purpose of the survey all women pregnant were identified in 97 clusters consisting of 500 households selected in some dry zone districts of Sri Lanka on a random basis. Following are the identification of the mothers. Mothers were followed to delivery and in the case of surviving babies till the baby in one year old. The visits to mother and the child was done as follows:

1. Identification of women pregnant in household.
2. At 28th week of pregnancy.
3. One week following delivery.
4. On the 29th day following delivery.
5. Three months following delivery.
6. Six months following delivery.
7. Twelve months following delivery.

By September 1987 all children included in the longitudinal study have passed the age of 12 months. The schedules have now been collected, coded and edited.

Although, the longitudinal approach proved to be better in many respects there were some problems. One is the possibility of omission of identification of pregnant women. This was particularly greater for the women who were in the early months of pregnancy and also very rare cases among women who were pregnant outside wedlook.

The other serious problems encountered was dropout of mothers. Dropout of mothers was mainly due to her moving out of the study area and in many cases it was difficult to locate them. Some others moved to their parental homes for delivery but returned to the usual place of residence later.

However, the longitudinal study can be effectively extended to cover the morbidity and mortality pattern of childhood, to study in depth, various aspects of reproduction, such as spacing, and contraception more accurately than can be done in one time surveys.

## (c) ANNUAL SURVEY OF INDUSTRIES

(i) With a view to meeting the urgent needs of data users, a Preliminary Report was released for the first time, during September 1986, based on manual Tabulations, for the Survey of Industries 1984. This report contains an analysis of results and Statistical Tables, giving major indicators such as Value of Output, Number of persons engaged, Salaries and Wages, and Gross Additions to Fixed Assets. A similar report was released for the 1985 Survey in March 1987. The third report in this series covering the 1986 survey, is also being printed.

(ii) A Data Users Meeting was held for the first time in 1986 after obtaining the written comments and suggestions of important public and private agencies, to improve the scope of the 1987 Survey of Industries Questionnaire and Instructions. This consulation with data users proved to be valuable and the Questionnaire and Instructions were subsequently modified in the light of some of the suggestions made.

A second Data Users meeting was held in October 1987 to review the Questionnaire for the Survey of Industries 1988, so as to make it more responsive to the needs of data users.

Advance information from tabulations of preliminary results of the census and, current annual survey have been made available to government institutions, research workers in the private sector, and to international agencies including the U.N. Statistics Office.

## (d) SURVEY OF DISTRIBUTIVE TRADE AND SERVICES

There is a scarcity of basic data on Trade and Service sector. The Technical Review Mission Project SRL/78/002/B/d/1 has recommended that a comprehensive listing of Establishments engaged in Distributive Trades and Services be undertaken by the Department. Therefore as the preliminary step the Department has programmed a survey of Distributive Trades and Services during 1987. Among the objectives of the survey are the accurate estimation of contribution of Trades and Services to the national product, and the preparation of Input and Output studies.

This survey is intended to cover the first four groups of the Trade and Services Sector. The activities involved in terms of I.S.I.C. are:

1. Wholesale trade - 6100
2. Retail trade - 6200
3. Restaurants, cafes and other eating and drinking places - 6310
4. Hotels, rooming houses, camps and other lodging places - 6320

As a preliminary study aimed at an island-wide survey it was decided to carry-out a pilot survey in the Administrative District of Kalutara in the period 1986/87. The survey was carried out in 2 stages; viz.

(a) Complete listing of establishments and
(b) Canvassing a questionnaire to a selected sample.

The village level officers attached to the district administration and employees of urban councils were enlisted as enumerators for the Stage I field listing of establishments. Approximately 9,500 establishments were listed in the latter part of 1986. The survey questionnaire was designed to collect data on such topics as Employments, Fixed Assets, Wages and Salaries, Operational costs and Purchases and Sales and canvassed to about 850 establishments.

The universe was divided into 2 groups according to the significance of Annual Turnover; viz. Rs. 500,000 and over and below Rs. 500,000. The first group was enumerated fully. The latter group was stratified by sector and by I.S.I.C. 4 digit level. SRS systemetic technique was used in the selection of sampling units.

The stage II field operation commenced in September 1987 and is scheduled to be completed by November. The district Statistical staff is engaged in the canvassing of questionnaire. A field supervision programme designed to enhance the quality of data collected and to ensure the consistency and completeness of data is in operation.

## (e) DEMOGRAPHIC SAMPLE SURVEY OF THE FEMALE EMPLOYEES IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE - 1987

The purpose of this survey is to obtain information on demographic, social and employment conditions of Public Sector female officers, who work side by side with their male counterparts. These women who have unlimited maternal chorus at home, give a tremendous effort to support the country's economy, as well as their families financial upliftment.

An ILO Global study done by the International Labour Office, Geneva for 127 countries for which information is available reveals that the average length of maternity leave in the world is between 12-14 weeks. Over half the countries (69) stipulate maternity leave of this duration, while 31 countries provide less than the average and the rest of the countries exceed the average. Shorter period of leave is prevalent in developing countries including Sri Lanka. Although much is spoken about nutritional values of breast milk the Sri Lankan working mother has only 4-6 weeks available to breastfeed her child full time. Since 1981 if the pre-maternity leave of 2 weeks is not taken, it can be added to the 4 weeks post maternity leave, thus making it 6 weeks. In countries such as Afganistan, Nepal, Singapore, the period is longer but still less than twelve weeks. New Zealand grants the longest maternity leave.

In Sri Lanka, mere employment is a qualification to get maternity leave, while in some countries contributory service of stipulated periods are required, to be qualified for maternity leave. There is also legal protection that the mother who is on maternal leave, gets full pay leave and that she cannot be dismissed during the maternity leave period. There is also provision for nursing breaks 2 of 1 hour (2 of half hour when Day Care Centre or appropriate facilities are available) with full pay, but unfortunately majority of the mothers are unable to benefit as they live far away from their work place and no Day Care Centres available close by.

The Women's Bureau of the Ministry of Teaching Hospitals has recognized the need to improve the social conditions of these public sector female employees, had requested the Director of Census and Statistics the feasibility of carrying out a survey to study and assess the facilities available to breastfeed the children, and the adequacy of maternity leave. Thus the Department of Census and Statistics in collaboration with the Women's Bureau, undertook to carry out the above survey.

The Department used the Census of Public and Corporation Sector Employees 1985, which has a count of 145,769 female employees in the Government Service, as the frame for this study. A representative sample of 6670 women employees (3% of Education and Health Ministries and 10% all the Ministries) were selected, and their present addresses were located. The questionnaires were addressed to them individually with clear instructions to fill the questionnaire and how to send it back to the DCS. Although this survey being a mailed questionnaire survey the response rate was appreciably high giving an overall response rate of 67.5%, apart from those who had retired from service, and some of the casual employees who were no longer in service. Also there was difficulty in locating the addresses of some of the employees, specially teachers who were in a chain of transfers since July 1985.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

### 1. STATISTICAL TRAINING

The Training Division of the DCS continued to conduct in-service training programmes for the Departmental and officers working in other Departments/Institutions engage in Statistical work. In addition to this the division co-ordinated with SIAP, Tokyo in arranging country courses and also helps by placing officers of the Department in other training institutions.

**IN-SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR STATISTICAL INVESTIGATORS**

The Training Division has conducted four training programmes for Statistical Investigators both from Colombo and from the rest of the districts.

| Programme No. | Medium | No. of Trainees | Duration |
|---|---|---|---|
| 14 | Sinhala | 23 | 3/3/86 to 21/3/86 |
| 15 | Tamil | 11 | 24/3/86 to 11/4/86 |
| 16 | Tamil | 23 | 24/11/86 to 12/12/86 |
| 17 | Sinhala | 20 | 1/7/87 to 23/7/87 |

Main subject areas covered for the Course were as follows.

(i) Basic Mathematics and Statistics.
(ii) Statistical Methods and Applications.
(iii) Sampling Theory and Applications.
(iv) Survey Designing and Interviewing Techniques.
(v) Non-Sampling Errors.
(vi) Activities done by the DCS.

Written examinations were conducted at the end of each training programme to evaluate the programme. The In-service training programmes were geared to the efficient work that is expected to be carried out by the DCS staff.

**IN-SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR STATISTICAL OFFICERS**

During the period under review, Training Division has also commenced the In-Service training programmes for Statistical Officers. Four programmes of this series were conducted. The objective of the programmes was to enhance the quality of statistical data produced and to improve the performance level of Statistical Officers by providing them with the necessary skills and knowledge.

Following subject areas were covered in the programme:

(i) Statistical theory and methodology.
(ii) Organization of sample surveys and making inferences.
(iii) Analysis and use of statistical information.
(iv) Introduction to survey data processing and use of Micro-computers.

Written examinations were conducted at the end of each training programme to evaluate the programme.

## UNDP SUPPORTED PROGRAMMES - TRAINING OF TRAINERS COURSES

Two trainers courses were organised by the Training Division with SIAP (Tokyo) to train senior level officers in the DCS (Statisticians and Assistant Directors) as well as Senior Officers outside the DCS who are engaged in the Statistical work.

Practical workshops were also conducted on basic language and use of the DOS, DBASE III, USP and SPSS packages.

## CO-ORDINATION OF STATISTICAL TRAINING ACTIVITIES IN SRI LANKA

The Training Division has organised and conducted several training programmes for officers outside the DCS on statistical theory and practice on the requests made by the respective institutions.

Following are three of this institutions who sought the services of the DCS for Statistical training:

1. Department of Rubber Control (for Planning Assistants).
2. Sri Lanka Ports Authority (for Statistical Investigators).
3. Ministry of Sports (for Sports Supervisors & Officers).

## SPECIAL LECTURE SERIES

1. Following Lectures have been organized by the Division which were delivered by the visiting consultants to DCS.

(a) "Roll of the Statistician" - by Mr. S.A. Sahib (ESCAP).
(b) "Contraceptive Survey 1985" - by Division 14.
(c) " National Accounts" - by Mrs. Lourdes Ferran.

2. Following monograph was also presented by the Deputy Director Mr. A.G.W. Nanayakkara, which is the first of it's kind in the series.

"Progress in Paddy Cultivation and Production in Sri Lanka and Forecasts for the Future".

**HANDBOOK ON THEORY AND APPLICATIONS OF STATISTICS (PART 1)**

Training Division has published the above handbook which contains a complete set of course materials used for the training of Statistical Investigators. This will be used as a statistics reference manual by the Departmental staff.

**HANDBOOK ON STATISTICAL METHODOLOGY AND ANALYSIS (PART II)**

Preliminary work on the preparation of the above handbook has been undertaken and the draft has already been completed, which could be considered as a continuation of the Part I of the handbook.

## II. NATIONAL ACCOUNTS

DCS is the official agency primarily responsible for preparing annual national accounts estimates. It has taken most of the conceivable steps to adopt the concepts difinitions, and methodology in system of national accounts of United Nations. Further improvements to the existing estimates are possible mainly by a further elaboration of the data base.

The data, made available from 1980 round of censuses and sample surveys under NHSCP greatly helped to expand the data base in National Accounts Statistics during the period.

The National accounts Bulletin series remains, the most authoritative and comprehensive source of data in the national account field. The annual publication "National Accounts of Sri Lanka 1975-1985, Part I", which contained "Quick Estimates" was published in April, 1986. This was the 10th in the series of such publications released by the Department. Timely release of "Quick Estimates" on national accounts commenced in 1983 and the "1975-1985 Part I" was the 3rd in the series. The Department during the last three years therefore succeeded in releasing qualitative timely accounts. The annual publication on "National Accounts of Sri Lanka 1975-1985, Part II", was also published during the period under review. Apart from the final estimates on GDP and GNE, it contained a comprehensive set of accounts, such as Sectoral, Income and Outlay, Supply and Disposition accounts and a detailed classification of Expenditure under ICP categories. This publication consisted of 24 tables and 3 accounts in addition to its descriptive economic review.

A special feature of the publication is an attempt made for the first time to present the global data (consolidated accounts for the Nation) in account form. In this sense, it is an advancement over the data published so far by the Department. The annual publication "National Accounts of Sri Lanka 1975-1986, Part I" was published in May. 1987. The current publication is the 12th in the series of publications on National Accounts released by the Department. It contains detailed estimates upto 1985 and "Quick Estimates" for GDP and GNE for 1986 based on provisional data available.

Remarkably high standard of actual data has helped to improve the accuracy and credibility of the estimates on national accounts and its scope. The division ventured into wider areas and new fields in the ambit of national accounts and introduced a series of new accounts in compliance with international accounting concepts and methodology.

## COLOMBO CONSUMERS' PRICE INDEX

Colombo Consumers' Price Index (C.C.P.I.) is the official Cost of Living Index, which is used for the adjustment of the wage payment of both the Government and Private Sector employees. For the purpose of computing the monthly Colombo Consumers' Price Index with the year 1952 as the base, the Department conducts weekly price collections and actual Test Purchase in 07 different market areas in the City of Colombo.

Revised Colombo Consumers' Price Index (Base 1977=100), the Urban Consumers' Price Index (Base 1982=100), and the District Food Group Index are also being computed as auxiliary indicators of Consumer Prices for analytical purposes.

## RETAIL PRICES

Retail Prices of Food, Textiles and Miscellaneous group in respect of all the district towns are collected on a monthly basis through the field statistical staff of the Department and these are being used for the maintenance of a regular time series data on prices at district level. The Wednesday Price collection was undertaken and being continued on a cabinet directive suggested by the Cost of Living Review Committee, as requested by policy makers.

## INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON PROJECT - PHASE V

The Phase V of the International Comparison Project for domestic expenditure commenced in end of 1986. The collection of prices on consumer goods and durables for the year, 1985 was undertaken by the staff in the National Accounts and Prices Division, in the districts of Colombo, Gampaha, Kandy and Galle. The questionnaire related to the ICP Phase V, was used for the collection of price data in Sri Lanka. Tabulation of these price data and the computation of All-Island averages of retail prices were carried out and the completed ICP price schedules consisting of 921 items compared to 419 items in Phase VI were despatched to United Nations Statistical Office.

Under the Phase V of the International Comparison Project, supplementary informations on Expenditure on General Government Consumption and Private Consumption using SNA and ICP concepts, with regard to yearly compensation for certain selected jobs, Number of medical personnel by occupation category, Data on enrolment of pupils and teachers at different levels of education, and Employment Category by number of employees were supplied.

Price data in relation to basic headings of producer durables and construction activities are now in the process of being compiled.

### INPUT-OUTPUT TABLE

The Gross Domestic Product consistency matrix table was revised and expanded introducing few additional sectors. This bench-mark Input-Output table, was updated using RAS modified technique for years 1981, 1982, 1983. The direct and total co-efficients were also computed. The relevant tables and the analysis were published in April, 1987.

## III. AGRICULTURE STATISTICS

The Agriculture Division is responsible for the planning and conducting Agricultural Censuses and Surveys in addition to the collection, compilation and analysis of current Agricultural Statistics such as paddy statistics, highland crops and livestock statistics. The activities also include the computation of Food Balance Sheet, Index of Agricultural production and cost of production data for major crops.

### PADDY STATISTICS - AREA AND YIELD

The paddy production is estimated for each season (i.e. Maha and Yala) as a product of the area harvested and average yield per acre/Hectare obtained through the complete enumeration of all paddy parcels and the biannual sample survey on paddy (crop cutting) respectively. The above two methods of estimating area and yield was initiated in 1951/52 with the help of a FAO Statistician and is being continued with modifications to suit changing conditions. Although a well established system for the collection of area and production of paddy exist in Sri Lanka, it was felt that there is scope for improvement in terms of reliability as well as timeliness. With this in view, a request was made to the FAO and assistance was received during early 1987 to develop a suitable information system for obtaining advance estimates of area and production of paddy. A Pilot Survey was undertaken with the help of an FAO Consultant during Yala 1987 in one of the districts (Ratnapura) to test the suitability of the proposed system to obtain advance estimate of area and production of paddy as well as to improve the reliability of the data. Under this scheme a sample of paddy growing villages in Ratnapura district was selected and the asweddumized and sown area under these villages were enumerated on a priority basis and based on this results an estimate for sown area was obtained for Ratnapura district in about 7 to 8 weeks earlier than the usual complete enumeration estimate. As a second component of the survey a well trained team of field staff were deployed to measure the area of two clusters of four parcels each in each of the subsampled villages using compasses, measuring tapes and programmable calculators. Based on the results of this measurement, a correction factor was worked out to adjust the sown area for enumeration and seed rate conversion errors. The third stage of the survey consist of conducting crop cutting experiments on the sampled villages selected for the priority sector to estimate the average yield for the district. With the availability of micro-computers in the Division, it is expected to release the paddy production estimates district by district rather than waiting till the whole season is over throughout the island.

## LIVESTOCK STATISTICS

Livestock Statistics are collected each year as at 30th June. The primary reporters furnished estimates at divisional level under their jurisdiction. These estimates include number of livestock by species and also the average monthly production of milk and eggs of which quality is subject to question as they are based on enumerators judgement.

Since these annual estimates had proved to be very poor in quality the division has planned to conduct a survey on milk production with the following objectives.

1. To collect comprehensive data on the composition of cattle and buffaloe population.

2. To build up a suitable base to estimate the milk production by different varieties.

A Pilot Survey was conducted in Gampaha District during the month of November, 1986 where detail information about the neat cattle and buffaloes by each species were collected. Special significance was laid on the cows milked during the reference period while the reasons for not milking the cows which have the protential to produce milk was also investigated. The variables which influence the milk production such as the feed given to milk cows, access to veterinary services and marketing facilities was also gathered in the pilot survey.

The report based on the findings of the above pilot survey has been drafted and arrangements have been made to print the report during the year 1987. The Department is exploring the possibility of getting some assistance to conduct this survey throughout the island in order to improve the data on livestock population and dairy products.

## INDEX OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

The base year used hitherto in the computation of Volume index of Agricultural production was 1962. Due to the changes which has taken place with regards to Agricultural production and prices, it was felt necessary to use a more recent base period which would enable more realistic comparison to be made. After considering the productions and prices it was observed that the period 1977-1979 was a normal period to be selected as the base period. Therefore, it was decided to revise the base period from 1962 to 1977-1979. The coverage of the Index was also extended to cover some additional crops.

The revised series as well as the linked series were computed using the new base period. This was made available for the users during the period under review.

## HIGHLAND CROP STATISTICS

The estimates of highland crop statistics are adhoc in nature and its reliability is subject to question. When the country is on the verge of being self sufficient in rice, every effort is being taken to diversify crop cultivation to import substitution food crops as well as to minor export crops. At this juncture it is very essential to have reliable data on area and production of highland crops for the purpose of project formulations and evaluation of such programmes. Therefore, there is an urgent need to improve the quality of the available highland crop statistics and at the request of the Government of Sri Lanka, FAO Consultant prepared a project proposal for the Development of Highland Crop Statistics for external financing and technical assistance.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Committee on Statistics

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# COUNTRY REPORT ON STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES IN THAILAND

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A Chart Showing the Present Computer Configuration of the NSO of Thailand.

I. General Remark about the Present Statistical System of Thailand.

At present the statistical system of Thailand can be considered as a partially decentralized system. Since there have been more than one statistical organizations which handle data collection work, either through the survey method or as a by-product of administrative process. The National Statistical Office, one of the government agencies with a department status under the Office of the Prime Minister, plays the leading role in producing basic statistics at national and regional level. It was established in 1963 by upgrading the former "Central Statistical Office" of the Office of the National Economic Development Board. As for the undertaking of statistical surveys in various subject-matter fields, other statistical units of various ministries can also perform that duty as part of their statistical activities besides the collection of statistics as a by-product of administrative process. Consequently it is a function of the NSO. to screen and review those statistical project proposals before they are submitted to the Bureau of the Budget for annual budget appropriation. Through the latest annual survey, conducted by the NSO, on statistical activities which undertaken or attempted by various government agencies, there are at present about 111 statistical units within the 13 ministries and state enterprises which are actively engaged in producing basic statistics for the government during the past 4 years (1984 - 1987). About 4,534 regular statistical personnels were envolved in this sector and all these statistical projects consume an annual budget of about 400 million baht.

## II. Brief Description of Activities During 1985 - 1987

Under the 1965 Statistical Act of Thailand, the NSO has been responsible for providing or producing basic statistics which are necessary and useful for both government and private sectors. Moreovere, one of it's important role is to control government statistical projects with regard to statistical methodology and standards. In general, government statistical activities can be devided into 2 categories :

1. Projects undertaken by the NSO

2. Projects undertaken by the other government agencies Details of these statistical projects will by in the next section of this paper.

## 2.1 Major Survey Undertaken by the NSO.

There have been 24 large scale surveys being undertaken by the National Statistical Office of Thailand during the three years period (1985 - 1987). Though most of these survey are of uni-subject nature, they had been planned and designed which were based on a set of master sample. So that the field enumeration can be performed by the same group of permanent field enumerators on different periods of year. Following are brief description of the 24 major surveys of interested.

1. The 1990 Population and Housing Census.
2. Household Labour Force Survey.
3. Household Socio-Economic Survey.
4. Housing Survey.
5. Children and Youth Survey.
6. Survey of Migration into the Bangkok Metropolis, the Vicinity of the Bangkok Metropolis and Some Major Provinces.
7. Survey of Highly Qualified Manpower.
8. Annual Survey of Industry.
9. Annual Survey of Business Trade and Services.
10. Industrial Production Index.
11. Annual Village Survey.
12. Report on Education Statistics.
13. Energy Consumption Survey.
14. The 1984 - 1986 Survey of Population Change.
15. Survey of Hill Tribes Population.
16. Cultural Activity Participation and Time Used Survey.

17. The 1985 Census of Marine Fisheries.

18. The Analysis of Fertility and Family Planning.

19. Attitude Survey toward Investment in Flood Prevention Project in the inner City of Bangkok.

20. The Census of Business Trade and Services.

21. Mass Media Survey (Radio and Television).

22. Mass Media Survey (Newspaper).

23. The Survey of Health, Welfare and Uses of Traditional Medicine.

24. The Survey of Local Tourism of Thai People 1987.

## 2.1.1 The 1990 Population and Housing Census

### 1. Introduction

Thailand will be one of the countries which has a schedule to undertake the Nationwide Census of Population and Housing in 1990 as recommended by the United Nations. This Census will be the ninth Population Census and the third Housing Census in Thailand.

The first national Census was organized in 1909. The following Censuses were taken in 1919, 1929, 1937, 1947, 1960, 1970 and 1980. The first five Censuses were conducted by the Ministry of Interior. Since 1952 the National Statistical Office has been in charge of conducting the censuses, under the authorization of 1952 Statistical Act, which was revised in 1965. In 1970 the NSO has conducted the Housing Census along with the Population Census. It was also the first census that produced a report on the evaluation and adjusted census population as well as detailed analytical reports on major subjects of population characteristics such as fertility, economic characteristics and migration which was tabulated on a sample basis and published in addition to the basic characteristics reports for the changwats (province), regions and whole kingdom.

The objective of the Population and Housing Census is to obtain the information on the number and the characteristic of population and housing such as age, sex, education, occupation, industry, religion, fertility, mortality, migration as well as type and structure of household on the Census date every 10 years.

### 2. Proparation and Planning

Proparation for the 1990 Population and Housing Censuses started since 1986. The census preparation included the study of international recommendations, review of user's needs, drafting of the census questionnaire, instruction manual and testing them, consideration of alternative census methodology e.g. sampling plan, budget estimation etc.

The pilot census will be conducted in 1988 in one province. It is aimed to test the field enumeration plan, the data processing plan and most important of all, to test the feasibility and efficiency of using difference sampling techniques in this new census. The outcome of this pilot census will help the NSO of Thailand to finalize the census methodology to be used in the actual census operation.

The census will be conducted in April 1990. This period is being chosen to suit the local condition which enable the NSO to mobilize local school teacher to work as census enumerators during the school summer vacation.

The completed questionnaires will be sent to NSO. They will be manual edited, machine edited and tabulated by the computer.

The Preliminary Report which presents only the total number of population and household by province, and the Advance Report which shows some important population characteristics by region and whole kingdom will be published within 1990.

The 1990 Population and Housing Reports by Province, Regions and Whole Kingdom, which consists of 73 Provinces, 4 Regions and Whole Kingdom will be all published by 1992.

3. Census Coverage, Enumeration and sampling

The basic unit of enumeration will be the household, for the population census, all persons falling within the scope of the census will be enumerated on a de jure basis with the exception of students, who will be enumerated on a de facto basis.

Both the housing and population census will be conducted simultaneously. Listing and enumeration will also be carried out simultaneously using two seperate form. The basic population items will be collected on a complete enumeration basis, and other characteristics on population and housing items will be collected on a sample basis. The sampling procedure will be a systematic random sampling.

## 2.1.2 Household Labour Force Survey.

### 1. Introduction

Labou force tatistics have been compiled by the National Statistical Office since 1963. Beginning in 1971 two rounds of the survey for the whole kingdom had been conducted each year; the first round enumeration was held from January to March coinciding with the non-agricultural season and the second round was from July to September, during the agricultural season. Commencing from the year 1984, another round of the survey in May has been conducted.

The main objective of this survey is to estimate the number and characteristics of the labour force in the country and its different region periodically. The statistical data derived from this survey include :

1. the number of persons in and outside the labour force and the number of persons under 11 years of age,

2. the number of employed person by age group, sex, educational attainment, occupation, industry and work status,

3. the characteristics of unemployed persons and persons not in the labour force,

4. some statistics on internal migration.

### 2. Sampling Design

A stratified two-stage sampling was adopted for this survey. All 73 provinces were included in the survey. The primary and secondary sampling units were blocks for municipal areas or villages for non-municipal area and private household and member of special household respectively.

Groups of provinces in each region and the Bangkok Metropolis constituted primary strata and each province was treated as a sub-stratum. There were altogether 5 primary strata (North, North-East, Central, South and the Bangkok Metropolis) and 73 sub-strata.

Each province or sub-stratum was devided into three parts according to the type of local administration, namely, municipal areas, sanitary districts and rural areas. The sample selection of blocks and villages was performed separately and independently, then the sample blocks/villages were selected systematically from each province. The total number of the sample households were about 20,000.

3. Organization of Field Work

Labour force information of this survey was obtained through interviews. Seventy-eight enumerators and six supervisors with provious experience in the survey operation were responsible for Bangkok Metropolis, while in the other provinces the field staff were 280 enumerators together with the provincial statistical officer of the sample region serving as supervisors for the field work. The reference period was the week prior to the enumeration.

4. Data Processing and Report Publication

Data obtained through this survey of each round were processed by the computer and the result were published for the Bangkok Metropolis Area and other four major regions.

## 2.1.3 Household Socio-Economic Survey

1. Introduction

The National Statistical Office has first conducted the Household Expenditure Survey in 1957. Comparable survey known as "The Socio-Economic Survey" was carried out in 1968 - 1969 and was repeated every five years. The 1986 survey is the eighth, survey of this kind. Strat from 1988, This

survey will be carried out every two years acording to the needs of the users.

The objective of the survey is to study patterns and level of households expenditure and income and to construct or revise the CPI weighting patterns. The contents covered in this survey were household income and consumption expenditures, changes in assets and liabilities, housing characteristics as well as the ownership of some durable goods. The survey covered all private, non-institutional households residing permanently in survey area.

2. Sampling Design

A stratified three stage sampling was adopted for the survey. In the first stage, sample amphoes were selected as primary sampling units with probability proportional to size. In the second stage, sample blocks were selected from the municipal areas and sample village were selected from the non-municipal areas by systematic sampling. In the third stage, all households in sample blocks and village were listed and classified by size and occupation of household head. Then 12 households in each sample block, 8 households in each sample sanitary district, 6 households in each sample village were selected systematically from these listings. The total number of sample households selected were 12,488.

3. Organization of field work

The total sample households were divided into 12 equally representative sub-samples, and one sub-sample of households was interviewed each month starting from February 1986. (Duration of field work was 12 months)

4. Data processing and report publication

All information has been processed by the computer. Preliminary report based on the data for the first round (information relating to the period January to March 1986) and the first two rounds ( information

relating to the period January to June 1986) have already been published. The final report is in progress and will be released in the middle of 1988.

### 2.1.4 Housing Survey

#### 1. Introduction

Statistical data on housing as well as information related to living condition of the population are considered to be one of the most basic requirements for social development planning. Today, expansion of building construretion have sprouted up rapidly especially for the establishment of living quarters in both urban and rural areas. However, the major source of such data is generally the decenial population and housing census. Since the 1970, 1980 Population and Housing Censuses had provided basic data needed for housing policies at the national as well as regional level.

In order to provide more timely data requirement for the Sixth National Economic and Social Development Plan and also to serve the other government or private agencies, the 1976, 1986 housing survey were conducted during the inter-censal period in order to obtain information on changes in housing condition in Thailand.

The main objective of this survey is to compile the data on living condition, public health services of private households, and also pollution sources with their problems were collected.

#### 2. Sample Design

A stratified two-stage sampling was adopted for the 1986 housing survey. The selection of primary sampling units were blocks (in municipal areas) or villages (in sanitary district and also outside municipal area (M.A.) and Sanitary district (S.D.) and the secondary sampling units were households.

Primary Selection

- In M.A. of 73 changwats, 920 blocks were selected from 2,302 blocks.
- In S.D., 580 villages were seleted from 4,507 villages.
- Outside M.A. and S.D., 1,155 villages were selected from 52,999 villages.

Secondary Selection

In M.A., a number of sample households was selected in sampling fraction about 1/5. Outside M.A. and S.D., a number of sample households was selected in sampling fraction about 1/10.

Approximately, 50,000 households were selected in all rural and urban areas.

3. Organization of field work

The 1986 Housing Survey was conducted in conjuction with the first round of 1986 Labour Force Survey in August - September 1987.

In the Bangkok Metropolis and the Municipalities, enumeration was carried out simultaneously with the household listing for the Labour Force Survey. All households in the sample blocks were enumerated. In Sanitary Districts and rural areas, the rural households were enumerated at the same time as the enumeration for Round 1 of the Labour Force Survey.

Approximately, 50,000 private households in urban and rural areas were interviewed. The enumerators were permanent field staffs of the NSO

4. Data Processing and Report Publication

The completed questionnaires were sent to NSO. at the end of September 1986 and were tabulated by the computer

The 1986 Housing Report was being published and expected to be ready by the end of 1987.

2.1.5 Children and Youth Survey

1. Introduction

This survey had been undertaken annually since 1974 at the request and recommendation of UNICEF in collaboration with the National Economic and Social Development Board till 1978. After a pause of three years the survey was conducted again in 1982 and had been repeated in 1983. Since the Children and Youth Survey is a part of the so-called Social Statistics Program, other areas in social statistics have been scheduled to be surveyed in th in the consecutive years. Then the Children and Youth Survey is conducted afterwards in May, 1987.

The objective of the survey is to obtain the statistical data on children and youth, participation in sport or exercise activities of population, The basic information obtained from the survey included :

1. Number of Children and youth attending school, by level of education, educational expenditure, accessibility of school facilities.

2. Number of children and youth not attending school, by reason for not attending school, non-formal training education, time-used, monthly expenditure and source of finance.

3. Number of population participating and interesting in sport or exercise.

For this survey, children refer to persons 14 years of age and lower and youth are people 15 - 24 years of age.

2. Sampling Design

A stratified two-stage sampling was adopted for the survey. All 73 provinces were included in the survey. Group of provinces in each region and Bangkok Metropolis constitute strata. There were altogether 5 strata i.e., North, North-East, Central, South and Bangkok Metropolis and

each province was substratum. The primary and secondary sampling units were blocks for municipal areas or villages for non-municipal areas and households respectively.

Each province or substratum was divided into three parts according to the type of local administration, namely, municipal areas, sanitary districts and non-municipal areas-outside sanitary district. The sample selection were performed separately and independently in each part. The total of 894 sample blocks and 1,701 villages were selected systematically from each province. The overall sample private households was 20,430

3. Organization of field work

Data were obtained by interviewing the head of the sample households. The duration of field work was one month. The reference period was the week between April 26 to May 2, 1987. Seventy enumerators and twelve supervisors were employed in the Bangkok Metropolis, while in the other provinces the field staff was composed of 295 enumerators with the provincial statistical officers serving as supervisors for field work.

4. Data processing and report publication

After the completion of the field work, all data are being processed by the computer and the results will bepublished for the Bangkok Metropolis Area and for four major regions.

2.1.6 Survey of Migration

1. Introduction

The survey of Migration into the Bangkok Metropolis has been undertaken by the National Statistical Office since 1974. This survey was annually conducted in order to obtain the data on in-migrants to the Bangkok Metropolis and additional 3 provinces i.e. Nonthaburi,

Pathum Thani and Samut Prakan. The 1984 survey of Migration extended over the Bangkok Metropolis and the Vicinity of the Bangkok Metropolis (the 5 surrounding provinces, i.e. Nonthaburi, Phathum Thani, Samut Prakan, Nakon Pathom and Samut Sakhon). At present, the scope of the survey is extended to cover another major provinces, such as Khon Kaen, Chiang Mai, and Songkla.

The basic information obtained from this survey are

- Age, sex, education of in-migrants.
- Place of previous residence, reason for migration
- Labour force data on occupation before and after migration, industry and work status.

2. Sampling Design

In the 1986 survey of migration was extended over the Bangkok Metropolis, the Vicinity of the Bangkok Metropolis, Khon Kaen and Chiangmai Province. A stratified Uni-Stage sampling design was used, and these four areas were strata. Each stratum was devided into 3 substrata according to the type of local administration, namely, municipal areas, sanitary districts, and outside sanitary districts. Then the sample blocks/villages in each substratum were systematically selected.

3. Organization of Field Work

The enumeration of the survey was conducted during the listing operation of the Labour Force Survey. All households with migrants who moved into the Bangkok Metropolis, the Vicinity of the Bangkok Metropolis, Khon Kaen and Chiang Mai provinces during June 1st to May 31th in each of the sample blocks/villages were interviewed on the characteristics of migrants.

4. Data Processing and Report Publication

Data obtained through this survey were processed by the computer and the results were published annually.

## 2.1.7 Survey of Highly Qualified Manpower

1. Introduction

This survey was first initially attempted as a joint project between the National Statistical Office and the Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board in 1974. Later on, in 1976 it has been taken over all steps by the NSO, and now has been conducted annually. The objective of the survey is to obtain the data on employment and unemployment status of the graduates. Further more information on the level of education attainment, field of study, frequency of job turnover, problems concerning with the present job, reason for not looking for work and etc. were included.

The survey covered all university, teacher training and vocational school graduates for the academic year.

2. Organization of Field Work

Questionaires were mailed to the graduates according to the addresses provided by the universities and schools in the coverage. At the present, due to non-response problems and in order to reduce data processing work load, a stratified sampling is being adopted with a sampling fraction of about $\frac{1}{4}$. The enumeration period is between April - June each year.

3. Data Processing and Report Publication

The preliminary results were processed by hand and the final ones were by the computer.

## 2.1.8 Annual Survey of Industry

### 1. Introduction

The first annual large scale survey of industry was conducted in 1968. The objective of this survey is to collect some important data on number of persons engaged in indusing wages , salaries paid, value of goods purchased purchased and resule, purchase of raw materials, changes of inventory including value of fixed assets and it depreciation of the establishments, etc. Such data will be useful to both government and prevate sectors for the industrial planning and promotion.

This survey covered the industrial establishments, with 10 or more persons at work for the whole kingdom. These establishments were included in the listing of industrial establishments prepared by the National Statistical Office.

### 2. Sampling design

The information of the in dustrial establishments with 10 -- 19 persons at work were collectd on a sample basis and the establishments with 20 workers and over were completely enumerated, Stratified Systematic Ranuom Sampling was used and a group of Provinces was stratum. The industrial establishments in each stratum were further classified into substratum according to the type of industrial activities (5 digit code) and were then systematically selected. The sample size was fixed at about 20%. The substratum that consisted of 1 - 3 establishments was an exception, and every substratum of this type was included in the sample. And for the substratum that consisted of 4 - 12 establishments, 3 establishments from each of those substratum were selected.

3. Organization of Field Work

The survey was conducted by a self-enumeration method on which a questionnaire was sent to each establishment by mail with a request that it had to be filled according to the instrutions and returned to the National Statistical Office in a reply-envelope within 15 days from the date of receipt. A follow up letter was sent to the delayed respondents 15 days after the original dispatch of the questionnaire to serve as a reminder with a request to return completed questionnaire within 7 days from the receiving day. After the second attempt, if no response was received, an enumerator would visit the establishment to conduct an interview.

4. Data processing and Report publication

Data obtained through this survey were processed by computer and the results were published in two separated reports, one for the Bangkok Metropolis and her surrounding provinces, the other for the whole kingdom.

## 2.1.9 The Annual Survey of Business Trade and Services

### 1. Introduction

The first annual survey of business trade and services was conducted in 1968. The main objective of this survey is to obtain the data on the business establishments, i.e., kind of business and services, number of persons engaged, quantity of purchase and sales, operation expenditures as well as the assets of the establishments. These data would indicate the circulation of production, quantity and demand of goods and services which would then be an excellent basis for the economic development planning policy and also in studying the business situation and trends of consumers' demand.

### 2. Sampling Design

The survey covered all establishments engaged in business trade and services with 5 and more persons at work. All business establishments with 10 and more workers were completely enumerated, but those with 5 - 9 workers were enumerated on a sample basis using the Stratified Systematic Sampling Method.

### 3. Organization of field work

The survey was primarily conducted by the combination of mail method and interview or personal visit. The questionnaire will be sent to each establishment with the request that it should be completed according to the instructions given, and be returned to the National Statistical Office by using the reply envelope within 15 days from the date of receipt. After the first mail, a follow-up letter and a questionnaire form would be sent to the respondents who are tardy in their replies to serve as a reminder with the request that the questionnaire

form would have to be returned within 7 days. After second attempt, if no response was received, an enumerator then would visit and interview the remaining respondents as a final attempt.

4. Data processing and Report Publication

Data obtained through this survey were processed by the computer and the presentation of the survey results are at the national level and were published annually.

## 2.1.10 Industrial Production Index

### 1. Introduction

The quarterly and annual Industrial Production have been compiled according to its significance as the Indicator of the change over time of the industrial production volume. The production indexes will be useful for analysis of national economic condition and forecasting future trend of production which is an essential basis for governmental economic policy and also for private sector's production planning.

In constructing the indexes, the Laspeyres method was adopted by using the value added of 1978 as weight.

### 2. Sampling Design

All establishment were classified into 148 industrial activities. The establishments in each activity were further classified into 6 strata according to the number of employees as follows :

- Stratum 1, Establishments with less than 10 persons at work
- Stratum 2, Establishments with 10 - 19 persons at work
- Stratum 3, Establishments with 20 - 49 persons at work
- Stratum 4, Establishment with 50 - 99 persons at work
- Stratum 5, Establishment with 100 persons or more at work
- Stratum 6, Establishment with unknown number of persons at work

The sample establishments were selected by the following procedures :-

- In strata 4 and 5 all establishments were drawn as the sample establishments.
- In strata 2 and 3, a 10 percent sample establishments in each stratum were selected

- In stratum 6, approximately 5 percent of the establishments were selected

- The establishments in stratum 1 were excluded from the survey

- The number of persons at work in the sample establishments had to be over 60 percent of the persons at work in that industrial activity, else the additional sample establishments would be selected from strata 2 and 3 with a fixed sampling fraction until they accounted for 60 percent of persons at work.

In each stratum, the sample establishment were selected by systematic random sampling method.

3. Organization of Field Work

This survey was conducted by a self-enumeration method, in which questionnaires were distributed to and received from respondents by mail. A questionnaire was mailed to each respondent with a request that it should be filled in according to the given instructions, and should be returned by mail to the NSO within 15 days from the date of receipt. When this period was over, a follow-up would be carried out by mail or telephone to the respondent who were late in replying. If there were still no response, enumerators would visit and interview the remaining.

4. Report Publication

The National Statistical Office has annually published the series of reports on the compilation of quarterly and annual industrial production indexes. Un-to-date indexes have been prepared for each kind of industries to serve the policy planning in industrial production of both government and private sectors.

## 2.1.11 Annual Village Survey

### 1. Introduction

This survey has been annually conducted by the NSO since 1965. The main objectives of the survey are to obtain the basic information of the village, the smallest administrative unit in rural area. In the early stage, the obtained data was used for constructing the sampling frame for the design of master sample. Nowadays the data are widely used by various government agencies, which are involved in development planning and administration.

### 2. Survey Coverage

The survey covers all villages (nearly 60,000 villages) of the country and there are about 20 - 25 data items to be collected from each village, some of which were alternated in some years according to the need of users. The basic items were number of households, number of population, major occupations of villagers, number of farm households, livestocks, source of water supply, number of factories, existence and availability of public services/facilities such as local school, health station, electricity etc.

### 3. Organization of Field Work

The data were compiled by the village-headmen through the questionaires prepared by the NSO.

### 4. Data Processing and Report Publication

The questionnaires of the 1987 survey are being processed and expected to be finished by the end of 1988.

## 2.1.12 Report on Education Statistics

### 1. Introduction

The report on Education Statistics which was formerly called the "School and Teacher Census" is a joint project between the NSO and the Office of the Under-Secretary, Ministry of Education. The objective of this project is to collect the data on the school enrolement, number of schools and teachers including other related education statistics. The obtained data are classified by various characteristics for the purpose of educational and manpower planning, educational administration and researches. All these data are annually collected from the questionnaires sent to the schools under the coverages.

### 2. Coverage

This project covers all educational institutions in Thailand, i.e. public and private school in the academic streams (including special schools for the physically and socially handicapped), public and private schools and colleges in the vocational stream, teacher-training schools and colleges, in formal and non-formal adult education (eg. libraries, newspaper reading places in villages, vocational training groups, etc.). On the contrary private and public universities under the jurisdiction of the Office of the State Universities are not included in the coverage

### 3. Organization of Field Work

The questionnaires were sent to all schools under the coverage, and the principals, head masters or directors of these schools were entrusted with the responsibility for filling in the questionnaires, and ensureing that the data were complete and accurate.

### 4. Data processing and Report Publication

All the data were processed by the computer of the NSO and the survey report is published annaully.

## 2.1.13 Energy Consumption Survey

### 1. Introduction

The first Energy Consumption Survey was undertaken in 1984 upon the request of the National Economic and Social Development Board and was repeated in 1985. This survey was integrated with the House-hold Socio-Economic Survey in 1986.

The main objective of the survey was to obtain information on the energy consumption of the households. The contents covered in this survey were types of fuel use in the households, average monthly fuel consumption, and average monthly household expenses for fuel.

### 2. Sampling design

The sample design and the sample size were the same as Household Socio-Economic Survey.

### 3. Organization of field work

Information was obtained by interviewing method and the duration of field work was 12 months, during February 1986 - January 1987.

### 4. Data processing and report publication

All information has been processed by computer. Report of the 1986 survey will be released in the middle of 1988. The presentation of the survey results are at the national and regional level and by municipal and non-municipal areas.

## 2.1.14 The 1984 - 1986 Survey of Population Change of Thailand

### 1. Introduction

The First Survey of Population Change (SPC) was undertaken in 1964 - 1967, as recommended by the First Population Seminar, in order to obtain the reliable estimates of vital rates and rate of population growth for the formulation of the population policies of Thailand. The Second Survey of population Change was conducted between 1974 to 1977 to measure the changes in the population growth and its components for the intercensal period. The survey results were also used to estimate the completeness of births and deaths registration. The field work of this third survey of Population Change was started in July 1984 and completed by the end of 1986 with the objective as the previous survey.

The objectives of the 1984 - 1986 Survey of Population Changes were as follows :

1. To provide data on changes in demographic characteristics in the mid-decade period.

2. To obtain estimates of birth, death and the rate of population growth.

3. To measure the completeness of birth and death registration.

4. To provide reliable data for population projection which is the base for formulating policies and programmes for the Sixth National Economic and Social Development Plan.

2. Sample Design

A Stratified Two-Stage Sampling was used. Group of provinces in the four regions and the Bangkok Metropolis constitute 5 strata. Each stratum was further divided into two substrata, namely municipal areas and non-municipal areas.

Municipal areas and districts were the first stage sample units, blovks/villages were the second stage sample units and households were the third stage sample units :

1. Primary Selection

In each sub-stratum municipal areas/districts were selected with probability proportional to the number of population in municipal areas/districts. There were 88 municipal areas/districts in the sample.

2. Secondary Selection

From each sample municipal areas/districts, sample blocks/villages were selected by systematic method. The number of samples area were 245 blocks and 255 villages.

3. Enumeration Procedure

The survey of Population Change is the continous survey for the period of 2 years. There are four rounds in the first year and five rounds in the second year, with the interval of about 3 months in each round. Information on household composition and characteristic of household member were enumerated as the base population in the first and the fifth round. The first round of the survey started in July 1984 and the last round ended in July 1986.

In the other round of the survey, The enumerated households will be interviewed only for events occured during 3 months i.e., births, deaths, in-migration and out-migration and some change of characteristics.

After each round of the survey had been completed, a seperate team was sent to District office to copy the information from the official birth and death registration documents and are used as the other independent source of data. Births and Deaths from these two sources were matched case by case to determine whether :

1. They were recorded in both source of data or,
2. recorded in only one source.

The estimates of the total number of events was made by using the Chandre-Deming formular.

4. <u>Data Processing and Report Publication</u>

The data was already processed by the computer. Report of this survey will by finished by the end of 1987.

## 2.1.15 Survey of Hill - Tribe Population

### 1. Introduction

The Survey of Hill - Tribe Population is undertaken as a joint project of the Department of Public Welfare, the Border Patrol Police, the Local Administration Department, the National Research Council and the National Statistical Office.

The objective of this survey is to

- obtain the data at community level of the hill - tribe villages on total population and characteristics of the hill tribe in Thailand including the data on their fertility, mortality and family palnning practice as well as economic and social data,
- provide necessary information for setting up the registration system of hill tribes particularly for allowing Thai citizenship to these minor groups.

This survey covers all hill tribe population residing in Thailand. Three types of villages are classified as follows.

- Village type one : villages under the administration of some government agencies, ie Hill Tribe Welfare Division of the Department of Public Welfare and the Border Patrol Police.
- Village type two : villages which only some part of the villages were contacted by some government agencies.
- Village type three : remote and isolated villages which have never been contacted by any government agencies.

The project covers 3 years consecutively (1985 - 1987). In 1985 which was the first year, field interview was conducted in one province, in 1986 covered 5 provinces, and 16 provinces in 1987.

2. Data Collection

The survey was conducted by 260 enumerators and 130 field supervisor, who were temporarily employed. Besides, government officials from the Border Patrol Police and Department of Public Welfare accompanied each enumerator team as a guide and also for security purpose.

3. Data Processing

All information were processed by the computer at the NSO. The preliminary and also the final report of the 1985 survey are available for the users.

## 2.1.16 Cultural Activity Participation and Time Used Survey

### 1. Introduction

This survey was first conducted by the NSO in 1985, and will be repeated every five years. Obtained statistical items are ;

- Number of persons participated in various cultural activities.
- Personel consumption expenditure on religious and charity activities.
- Time spent on watching television, listening to radio and on other recreational activities.
- Number of person participated in social development activities.

The survey covered only non-institutional households and special households throughout the Whole Kingdom.

### 2. Sampling Design

The sample design and the sample size are the same as Household Labour Force Survey.

### 3. Organization of Field Work

The field work was carried out in May 1985 by interviewing method.

### 4. Data Processing and Report Publication

All information were processed by computer. Tabulation of the survey results were finished in 1986. The presentation of the results are at national and regional level by municipal and non-municipal areas.

## 2.1.17 The 1985 Census of Marine Fisheries

### 1. Introduction

The Census of Marine Fisheries was first carried out in 1967, and the 1985 census was jointly conducted by the NSO and Fisheries Department. This census covered all fishery households and fishery employee's households in municipal and nonmunicipal area of the 24 provinces in the Central and Southern parts of the country. These households, however, had to engaged in fishing/ aquaculture during one year prior to the census date (March 1984 - February 1985).

The objectives of this census were :

- to clarify the basic economic structure of marine fishery and coastal aquaculture,
- to clarify the economic characteristics of marine fishery and coastal aquaculture activities,
- to provide data concerning the socio - economic nature of fishing households and fishermen,
- to provide a sampling frame for related surveys.

### 2. Census items

2.1 Basic economic structure of marine fishery

- Number of fishery households and fishery employee's households.
- Number of fishing boats.
- Number of fishermen
- Number of fishing gear mainly operated
- Fishing area mainly operated
- Catch in value
- Area under culture

2.2 Socio - economic nature of fishery households

- Extent of dependency on fishery
- Possesion of durable goods
- type of social activities .
- Age, sex and level of educational attainment of fishermen

2.3 Data on fishing village

- Number of fishing villages
- Number of facilities related to fishery

3. Data Collection and Field Operation

The duration of field work was about 1 month (1 - 31 March 1985), and data were obtained by interviewing method. About 970 government officials from the NSO and the Fishery Department were engaged in this Census as the supervisors and enumerators.

The field operation was devided into two parts;

- Listing all households and enumerating all fishery households in every coastal sub-districtof 24 provinces
- Additional enumeration of fishery households outside the area mentioned above was undertaken by using the household lists which were obtained from the fishing gear registration of the Fishery Department.

4. Data Processing and Census Reports

All the filled in questionnaires which had been already edited for some major items during the field operation were sent to the NSO and the information were processed by computer.

The census reports comprised two of series, the preliminary and the final report. The preliminary report contained 8 statistical tables of the data on basic structure of marine fisheries by fishing zones and provinces.

And the final report illustrated basic economic structure of marine fishery and aquaculture including socio - economic characteristics of fishery establishments and fishermen by province of the 5 Coastal Zone and the Whole Kingdom.

## 2.1.18 The Analysis of Fertility and Family Planning

### 1. Introduction

The National Statistical Office realized that the solution of the population problem in Thailand is not anyone agency responsibility, but it is rather a problem which requires the joint efforts of both the government agencies and private sectors. Therefore, the NSO has increased its effort in improving the quantity and quality of statistics in the field of population and has also increased its efforts in the analysis of such data in order to provide the necessary data for the formulation of development policies and programmes.

Thailand has had dramatically changes in fertility levels and differentials during the last twenty years. From the high levels of fertility that characterized all regions and socio-economic groups, the fertility has declined to the levels that are relative low compared to the other countries in Southeast Asia.

From the 1980 Population and Housing Census, and the Survey of Fertility in Thailand, the NSO. has published many subject reports contained analytical studies of crasial topics in the field of fertility and family planning.

At present, the NSO. has completed the Third Survey of Population Change 1984 - 1986. The data obtained from this survey will be used for the analysis on fertility and family planning for studying the changes in fertility and family planning in the intercensal period.

### 2. Series of subject reports on Analysis of Fertility and Family Planning

2.1 Subject Report No.3 : Fertility and Family Planning.

The principle focus of this report is on the fertility and family planning of Thailand in 1980. The comparison of differentials in fertility for all women and ever married women are analyzed by various demographic,

social and economic characteristics of women, ever-married women and their husbands and are also presented by regions, municipal areas and non-municipal areas.

2.2 Subject Report No.4 : Provincial Level Fertility Estimates for Thailand, 1965 - 1979 : An application of the own-Children-Method.

This report presents an application of own children method of fertility estimation to the 1980 Census. The estimates of total fertility rates and age-specific fertility rates for all women for the period of 1965-1979 are reported annually for each of 71 provinces, 4 regions and the whole kingdom and also by areas. In addition, the Coale-Trussel m-index of marital fertility control is estimated for the three 5 - years period proceding the 1980 Census for each province.

2.3 Subject Report No.5 : Nuptiality.

This report present the marriage pattern of Population in Thailand from 1980 Census. Various demographic social and economic characteristics of women are also presented by regions and areas.

2.4 Subject Report No.7 : Female Employment and Fertility.

This report provides information on fertility differences among currently married women according to female labour force participation and socio-economic and demographic background. Employment of women in this study is devided into 2 categories; the labour force status and principal occupation of women. Comparison of differentials in fertility for currently married women are analyzed by working status, occupation, various demographic, social and economic characteristics of women.

2.5 Declines in Fertility by Districts in Thailand : An analysis of the 1980 Census.

This is the joint project with the ESCAP. The report presents the fertility by small areas in order to serve planners' need. Since the national

economic and social plans in Thailand have been changed, so that planning becames from the bottom up rather than the top down.

2.6 Ccntraceptive Method Choices in Thailand : An analysis of the 1985 Survey of Fertility in Thailand.

This report discussed various factors, such as socio-economic and demographic determinants ie. age, rural/urban residence, education, birth institution, infant and child mortality. The mulinomial logic model is used to analyse the influence on the choices of contraceptive method.

## 2.1.19 Attitude Survey Toward Investment in Flood Prevention Project in the inner City of Bangkok

### 1. Introduction

This survey is an ad hoc survey carried out by the National Statistical Office (NSO) in response to the request of the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration. The main objective of the survey was to obtain the data on the experience on inundation in the past decade of the inner city residents, direct and indirect damage from flooding, their investment in flood prevention, their understanding on the causes of flooding in the city, their willingness to participate in the investment on the new flood prevention project by paying extra tax. The survey covered both households and establishments engaged in manufacturing, business and services.

The survey was conducted in 9 districts which were Pranakorn, Pomprab, Samphanthawong, Patumwan, Payathai, Bangrak, Yannawa, Prakanong and Dusit. It was designed to be a two-round survey. The first round was conducted between 1 - 31 July 1987 and the second round was carried out in October after the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration has finished its propaganda about the project.

The first round of the survey was to collect the data on the damage from flooding and the attitude of the residents toward the joint-investment project proposed by the BMA. The second round of the survey aimed to find out if the people were determined to take part in investing in the flood prevention project.

2. Sample design and field work

For both rounds of the survey, a Two-Stage Random Sampling Design was applied for the household sector, 4,000 household samples from 200 sample blocks were selected systematically. For the establishments, a Stratified Random Sampling Design was adopted, 1,600 samples were selected. The interviewing method was adopted for the field data collection using about 80 field interviewers.

3. Data Processing

Data were tabulated by computer of the NSO. The results of the survey will be published and released for the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration and all interested users as well.

## 2.1.20 The Census of Business Trade and Services

### 1. Introduction

The Census of Business Trade and Services was first conducted in 1966 and covered all business establishments throughout the whole kingdom. The 1988 census is the second in series with a view to providing the basic information concerning the business establishments as follows :

1. The number and location of establishments
2. The form of legal and economic organization
3. Kinds of activities and type of business
4. The number of persons engaged and wages and salaries of employees
5. Purchases of goods
6. Receipts from sales of foods and services
7. Stock of goods
8. Fixed essets

The operation of the census will be devided into 3 periods :

1987 General preparation of the census, pre-testing the census questionnaires and carried out the Pilot Census

1988 Enumeration period and initial processing of questionnaires including preparation of preliminary report

1989 Final processing and preparation for the final report

2. Sampling Design

All business establishments in municipal and sanitary district areas are completely enumerated, but those in villages are enumerated on a sample basis.

3. Organization of field work

The field work will be carried out in April 1988 by using the interviewing method. The enumerators and the field supervisors are temporarily employed and work under the supervision of the permanent officials of the NSO.

4. Data Processing and Report Publication

All of information will be processed by computer at the NSO. The census results will be tabulated in 2 series : the preliminary report and the final report which consisted of 60 statistical tables and presented by Bangkok Metropolis, Regions and the whole kingdom respectively.

2.1.21 Mass Media Survey (Radio & Television)

1. Introduction

This survey was first implemented in 1968 and had been repeated every 5 years there after.

The main objective of this survey is to make available data on mass media to the government and private agencies in order to improve radio and television programmes. The survey covers non-institutional households throughout the Whole Kingdom. The major statistics which were derived from this survey are ;

- Number of radio and television sets,
- Number of households possess radio or television sets and
- the tastes, preferences, listening and watching habits of the audiences.

2. Sampling Design

A stratified two-stage sampling was adopted. The first stage sampling units were blocks in municipal area or villages in non-municipal areas. The second stage sampling units were households. The total number of sample households was 20,000.

3. Organization of Field Work

The field work was carried out in August by interviewing method. Field staff comprised of 309 enumerators and 94 supervisors.

4. Data Processing and Report Publication

All informations were process by computer. The presentation of the survey results are at the national and regional level by municipal and non-municipal areas.

2.1.22 Mass Media Survey (Newspaper)

1. Introduction

The objective of the survey is to compile the data on number of households with members having habit of reading newspapers, the tastes, preferences and attitude towards newspaper columns.

2. Sampling Design

A stratified two-stage sampling was adopted. The first stage sampling units were blocks in municipal areas or villages in non-municipal area. The second stage sampling units were households. The total number of sample households was about 20,000.

3. Organization of Field Work

The field work was carried out in May by interviewing method. The field staff was the same group as the Radio and Television Survey.

4. Data Processing and Report Publication

All information were processed by computer. The presentation of the survey results are at the national and regional level by municipal and non-municipal areas.

## 2.1.23 The Survey of Health, Welfare and Uses of Traditional Medicine

### 1. Introduction

This survey has been undertaken annually since 1974-1978 and has been repeated survey there after in 1981. Since the Health and Welfare Survey is a part of the so-called Social Statistics Program, other areas in social statistics have been scheduled to be surveyed in the consecutive years. Then this survey was conducted afterwards in 1986.

The objective of the survey is to make available to the government and to private agencies periodic data on health and welfare of the population for planning and manpower development.

Some major statistical data obtained from the survey included :

1. Number of persons reporting illness, injury during the reference period.
2. Number of hospitalized persons.
3. Number of persons buying medicine for self-treatment.
4. Number of persons smoking cigarettes.
5. Number of persons who knowa and uses of Traditional Medicine.

### 2. Sampling Design

A stratified two-stage sampling was adopted for the survey. All 73 provinces were included in the survey. Group of provinces in each region and Bangkok Metropolis constitute strata. There were altogether 5 strata i.e., North, North-East, Central, South and Bangkok Metropolis and each province was substratum. The primary and secondary sampling units were blocks for municipal areas or villages for non-municipal areas and households respectively.

Each province or substratum was divided into three parts according to the type of local administration namely, municipal areas, sanitary districts and non-municipal areas (outside sanitary district). The sample selection were performed separately and independently in each part. The total of 872 sample blocks and 1,645 villages were selected systematically from each province. The overall sample private households was 19,323.

### 3. Organization of field work

Data were obtained by interviewing the head of the sample households. The duration of field work was one month. The reference period was the week prior to the enumeration day. Seventy enumerators and twelve supervisors were employed in the Bangkok Metropolis, while in the other provinces the field staff was composed of 295 enumerators with the provincial statistical officers serving as supervisors for field work.

### 4. Data processing and report publication

After the completion of the field work, all data are processed by the computer and the results will be published for the Bangkok Metropolis Area and for four major regions.

2.1.24 The Survey of Local Tourism of Thai People 1987

1. Introduction

This survey was conducted during February - March 1987 by the NSO according to the request of the Tourism Authority of Thailand. This survey was a part of practical work of the trainees who attended the Intermediate Statistical Training Course organized by the NSO. The informations compiled from this survey are :

- Number of local tourists during the year 1986 and major characteristics of the tourist such as sex, age, occupation, education attainment etc.
- Travelling characteristics:- purpose of visit, type of lodging, mode of transportation, length of stay etc.
- Expenditure spent by the tourists and its component.
- Data on tourist's attitude towards the tour places.

The survey covered the persons who are at least 11 years of age through out of the whole kingdom but the data on attitude and opinion covered only the ones who are 15 years and over.

2. Sampling Design

A multi-stage sampling design was used for this survey and the ultimate sampling units were households and the total sample households were approximately 10,500 scattered all over the country.

3. Organization of Field Work

The data were collected by interviewing method. The enumerators were all the trainees ; who are the officials, from various government agencies and government enterprises.

4. Data Processing

The data were processed by the computer and the reports are being published.

## 2.2 Major Statistical Activities Undertaken by Other Government Agencies.

Apart from the Statistical Projects undertaken by the NSO, there were also large scale statistical programmes and activities performed by other government agencies. These projects were more or less organized under the close supervision of the NSO. from the planning stage to the data processing operation. Major statistical projects of interested during the past 3 years are as follow.

1. National Account and Related Statistics.
2. Foreign Trade Statistics of Thailand.
3. General Farm Survey.
4. Survey of Rice and Some Major Field Crops.
5. Objective Yield Survey.
6. National Agricultural Extension Survey.
7. Rice Production Survey in Irrigated Area.
8. Survey of Fisheries Production.
9. Socio-Economic Survey in Land Reform Area
10. Survey of Forestry Inventory.
11. Land Transportation Survey.
12. Community Development Survey.
13. Establishment Labour Force Survey.
14. Rural Energy Survey.
15. Industrial Statistics.
16. Mineral Statistics.
17. Tourist Expenduture Survey.

## 2.2.1 National Accounts and related statistics

Economic accounting in Thailand has been estimated and developed for the completeness not only in accounting system and compilation system but also establish of consistent basic statistical system supporting economic accounting. Economic accounts are compiled currently and periodically as followings.

### 1. National income accounts

Estimation is made annually and production approach, income approach and expenditure approach are employed to derived Gross Domestic Product, Factor Incomes and Final Demand. Production approach is also applied for the estimation of regional and provincial product. Since 1982 to 1985 the Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB) has been making comprehensive revision of national accounts for 1970 - 1984 under the presentation of old SNA (SNA 1953), but some parts of conceptual framework and classification using new SNA (SNA 1968). The main purposes of revision is to make consistency in concepts, definition, classification and methodology in sphere of social accounts. Recent sources of data are investigated comprehensively and utilized. Moreover quarterly and half year estimates are tired for the years 1982 - 1984 and 1987 respectively.

### 2. Input-Output Tables

Input-Output Tables of Thailand i.e. 1975 Table and 1980 Table were constructed comprehensively in 1976, 1981 - 1984 respectively. Both tables divided Thai economy into 180 sectors, and five matrices were represented i.e. for full size of producer's prices and purchaser's prices other three supporting tables for wholesale margins, retail margins and transport cost matrix. Table for non-competitive type matrix is also estimated. Input-Output table will be constructed every five years.

The 1982 Input-Output table has been constructed under the research project of the Social Research Institute Chulalongkorn University sponsored by the National Energy Administration (NEA). Method of construction the table has applied the short-cut procedure to disaggregate the detailed energy sectors for energy modelling purposes.

During 1985 - 1988, the NESDB under the cooperation of various statistical agencies and institutions has been setting plan to construct. Input-output table for 1985 and suppose to finish at the end of 1988. The major distinction between the 1985 table and others are mainly concerned with the modified sector classification. The table, therefore, has been disaggregated in more details up to the commodity level in some sectors.

3. Folw-of Funds accounts

NAD, NESDB has been annually released flow-of-funds statistics officially since 1978 and showing series back to 1967 and up to 1982. The estimation for 1983 to present is now undertaken with the cooperation of the Bank of Thailand.

4. Balance of payment accounts

The Bank of Thailand is in charge of compilation annually and quaterly.

5. National balance sheets

In order to complete the whole system of social accounts, national balance sheet for the year 1984 and 1985 are going to be constructed as a pilot project and aims to finish in the year 1991.

2.2.2 Foreign Trade Statistics of Thailand.

1. Introduction

The Customs Department, Ministry of Finance is responsible for compiling the Foreign Trade Statistics of Thailand. This project is aimed at compiling the trade figures of imported, exported and re-exported goods as well as statistics of transit goods.

2. Data Collection

Data were obtained from the import and export entries as well as substitutionary documents. The obtained informations are description of goods, quantity, weight, coming of origin or destination and price etc. CCCN codes are applied to data collection from the details of entries.

3. Data Processing and Report Publication

The data were processed by computer of the Customs Department. The figures are monthly published in the form of Report on Foreign Trade Statistics.

### 2.2.3 General Farm Survey

The General Farm Survey has been conducted since 1972 by the Office of Agricultural Economics, Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives. Details collected included

- Land holding and land utilization,
- Crop and livestock production,
- Family members,
- Farm and off-farm income and expenditure,
- Debt and investment funds needed,
- Marketing and distribution of agricultural products,
- Uses of factors of production.

Previously the sample design for this survey was a stratified two-stage sampling, for which villages were primary sampling units and farm households were the secondary sampling units. Later in 1981, a simple random sampling procedure was adopted. Sample farm households were randomly chosen from the farm household list of the 1978 Agricultural Census.

The data were obtained by interviewing method, the enumerators were 140 officials of the Office of Agricultural Economics, stationed at the Economic Area Provincial Center. The obtained data were processed by computer of the office. And the results of this survey are published annually as Agricultural Statistics of Thailand.

## 2.2.4 Survey of Rice and Some Major Field Crops

Since 1974, the Center for Agricutural Statistics, the Office of Agricultural Economics has conducted a special annual survey on Rice and Some Major Field Crops.

This survey covers 16 major corps ;

- Major rice
- Second rice
- Maize
- Casava
- Sugarcane
- Soybean
- Sorghum
- Mungbeans
- Groundnuts
- Kenaf
- Cotton
- Garlic
- Pineapples
- Potatoes
- Shallots
- Onions.

Each year, there are three surveys for rice, two for the first crop at the beginning of the season and harvest time and the other one is for the second crop. A different frame is developed for each crop.

The rice frame is villages that have area under paddy. All villages were classified into 3 strata according to their number of households. A simple random sampling was adopted, the headmen of the villages assisted the enumerator to prepare lists of farmers who grow paddy. Then 20% of

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2.2.5 Objective Yield Survey

This survey is conducted by the Center for Agricultural Statistics Office of Agricultural Economics, Ministry of Agricultural and Co-Operatives.

The objective of the survey is to obtain the data for forecasting the crop yield per acre. The yield forecasting model is based on the characteristics of crop components. The accuracy or reliability of the production data is derived from two sources : the reliability of the estimate of the planted area and the reliability of yield per acre. The estimate of the area planted in obtained from the acreage survey which is conducted during the planting season from July to September. The data of yield per acre are also obtained from the acreage survey. Since during the survey period, crops are immature so the yield forecasts are obtained from farmers' expectations. Although these yield forecasts are generally satisfied, in the years when there are drough the yield variability was usually large, so the farmers' expectation did not fully reflect the actual changes. This led to the development of techniques using objective methods to forecast or estimate the crop yield. Instead of interviewing farmers on crop yield, the survey tries to investigate the crop components that affect the yield. The sample fields are randomly selected from the fields to a certain crop. The crop component data are obtained directly by counting, measuring and weighting of crop in small plots which are randomly selected from the sample field.

Informations were obtained by 14 officials of the Office of Agricultural Economics, then the data were processed by hand and computer. The final reports on Objective Yield Survey are published annually.

## 2.2.6 National Agricultural Extension Survey

### 1. Introduction

This survey has been undertaken by the Department of Agricultural Extension, Ministry of Agriculture and Co-Operatives. It was a five year project stated in 1978 in 15 provinces and was extended to cover all 72 provinces in 1982. For the purpose of analytical study the survey was repeated the previous sample areas after 3 years. The main objective of the survey is to obtain the information on production of major crops, knowledge and attitude towards new agricultural technology etc.

### 2. Sampling Design

Three stage sample design was adopted and the primary sampling units were districts which were selected with the probability proportional to the number of the households. Sample villages were selected from sample districts as the second-stage sampling unit by systematic random sampling using self-weighting method. From each sample village, 15 households were systematically selected.

### 3. Organization of Field Work

The duration of field work was 2 months, April - May of each year. The reference period was the previous crop year. All information were collected by interviewing household heads. The data were processed by computer of the NSO.

### 4. Report Publication

The results of this survey, the Statistics on Major Crops, are published annually. The latestone is the 1984/1985 Statistics on Major Crops.

## 2.2.7 Rice Production Survey in Irrigated Area

### 1. Introduction

This survey has been carried out annually since 1968 by the Irrigation Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Co-Operatives. The objective of the survey is to obtain the data on areas and production of some crops such as rice, sugarcane, maize and to estimate yield per rai of rice in irrigated area. Then the evaluation of the result of irrigated project was done from these obtained informations.

### 2. Sampling Design

Sample farms were selected by simple random sampling in order to obtain the informations on planted area of paddy and general information. For crop cutting survey, the proportional systematic random sampling was adopted to get the sample segments. These segments covered the area of 200 rais each and the area was devided into the field of 10 x 10 meters. Then the experimental fields were selected from each segment systematically. The correspondent who owns the sample field would be interviewed and the sample field would be observed from planting through harvesting. This survey was undertaken in 12 Irrigated Regional Offices, which ocvered the area of about 16 million rai.

### 3. Report Publication

Annual Reports on Rice Production in Irrigated Area have been published and released.

2.2.8 Survey of Fisheries Production

This survey has been annually conducted by the Fishery Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Co-Operatives since 1969. The objective of the survey is to compile the data on quantity and value of fish caught, number of fishing households, fishing vessels, culture stations. Data were collected by interviewers working under the supervision of fishery officials at various fishery stations. The data were processed by hand and computer. The reports of this survy have been published annually.

## 2.2.9 Socio-Economic Survey in Land Reform Area

### 1. Introduction

This annual survey was first conducted in 1982 by Agricultural Land Reform Office, Ministry of Agriculture and Co-Operatives, The objective of this survey is to compile the socio-economic data in the Land reform area. The major items collected from this survey are :-

- Demographic information such as age, sex, number of household members, occupation, employed persons etc.
- Agricultural statistics such as number of holdings, land tenure, production of major crops etc.
- Income, assets and household facilities

All these data will be used for constructing the socio-economics indicators and for analytical study. The survey covered the agricultural households in both public and private land reform area in 24 provinces in the North, North East and Central Region.

### 2. Sample Design

Multi-stage Sampling Design was adopted for this survey. The sample areas were selected from each region as the primary sampling units. Then the sample villages were systematically selected approximately 20% from the sample areas. The ultimate sampling units were households which were selected from the sample villages. The total number of sample households was about 2,000.

### 3. Organization of Field Work

The field work was done during February - July and the data were obtained by interviewing method. The supervisors and enumerators were the permanent officials of the Agriculture Land Reform Office.

## 4. Data Processing and Report Publication

All the filled-in questionnaires were processed by the computer of the Agricultural Land Reform Office. The 1986 Report on Socio-Economic Indicators had already been published.

2.2.13 Survey of Forestry Inventory

1. Introduction

The Department of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives has annually conducted this survey in the Northern Region since 1966. The objective of the survey is to compile the data on forest area forestry products and some characteristic of wood. The Techniques of forest inventory survey have been satisfactorily developed. At present areial photography and remote sensing are being employed.

2. Sampling Design and Field Work

The camp - unit system (clusters) was used in conducting the survey. The area of each province was devided into camps, and each camp was devided into units and each unit into tract. Approximately 20 sample plots were selected from each tract. Ground checking by satellite has been introduced. The data were collected by observational method by the field workers and were processed by computer of the Department of Forestry.

Reports of this survey have been annually published by type of the forest.

## 2.2.11 Land Transportation Survey

### 1. Introduction

This annual survey has been conducted by the Land Transportation Department, Ministry of Communication since 1968. The objective of the survey is to collect the data on transport flow of cargoes trucks passing through the unde. under studied check points. Data on origin/destination of trips, weight and value of the cargoes are collected from every truck. The survey is conducted 4 rounds a year, each round represents the season.

### 2. Sampling Design and Organization of Field Work

For each round of the survey, there are 6 check points, and from these check points the data of every truck were collected by interviewing method. The field operation for each round is devided into 2 units, each unit is responsible for 3 check points. Enumeration are made for 7 successive days at each check point. The field staff comprises 18 enumerators for each unit.

### 3. Data Processing

All information are processed by computer of the NSO. The survey results have been annually published.

2.2.12 Community Development Survey

The Community Development Department, Ministry of Interior had first conducted this survey according to the request of the National Economic and Social Development Board in 1984 and after that it has been repeated annually. The main objective of this survey is to collect the relevant statistics for rural development planning. The obtained informations are village condition and some characteristic of the villagers such as location of the village, transportation, education and occupation of villagers, use of leisure time, health condition and population attitude. In 1986 the survey covered 53,072 villages. The data were collected by interviewing method by the community development officers who visited village headmen or other teachers of the villages so as to enquire about village condition as in the survey form. At present, data are processed by Computer of the Ministry of Interior.

## 2.2.13 Establishment Labour Force Survey

### 1. Introduction

This survey has been regularly undertaken by the Department of Labour, Ministry of Interior since 1967. The main objective of the survey is to collect the statistical data on number of establishments and employees, income and earning, number of working hours, occupational wages, labour demand, labour turnover which are useful for forming labour policy and man power planning.

### 2. Method of Data Collection and Organization of Field Work

- Self-enumeration method was used for collecting data on labour demand and labour turnover by mailing questionnaires to selected establishments with employees of 20 and over in Bangkok Metropolis and the other 68 provinces.

- Simple Random Sampling was adopted for collecting data on wages, income and earning and working hours. The enumerators were sent to selected establishments with employees of 5 and over in Bangkok Metropolis and another 68 provinces for interviewing.

- Self-enumeration method was used for collecting data on employment, income and working hours by mailing questionnaires to selected establishment with employees of 20 and over in Bangkok Metropolis and other 68 provinces.

### 3, Data Processing

Data were processed by hand and computer and the reports of this survey were published.

2.2.14 Rural Energy Survey

1. Introduction

The National Energy Administration first conducted this survey in 1980 and was repeated in 1985 and will be consecutively conducted every 6 years. The objective of the survey is to obtain the data on

- energy sources of household
- energy characteristics and type of energy being used in various activities
- amount of each type of energy being used for households, agriculture and others.
- energy demand.

All the obtained data are used for analysis of efficiency energy use, structure of utilization, trend of production, use and substitutional sources in the future.

2. Sampling Design

A three-stage sampling design was adopted, the primary sampling units were provinces, the second and third sampling units were villages and households respectively.

3. Organization of Field Work

The field work was carried out by interviewing method.

4. Data Processing and Report Publication.

All informations were converted to a one year base for tabulation and then were processed by computer. The data were presented in the form of average and percentage distribution. The results of the survey were published for four major regions and the whole kingdom.

## 2.2.15 Industrial Statistics

The industrial statistics have been compiled by the Industrial Economics and Planning Division, Office of the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Industry. Since 1972 the data has been collected by mailing and interviewing method.

The objective of this survey is to obtain the current informations of the major sectors of industry on cost of production, sale, inventory and export of major industrial products in order to formulate industrial policy and plans. In addition the obtained data has been used for the analysis of industrial economic situation of selected industries.

The data on number of the industrial establishment are compiled by the provincial industrial officers and the basic data such as names of establishment, location, productive capacity, registered capital, number of employees and detail of machinery are collected from the factories registration

The data processing has been done by computer since 1983.

2.2.16 Mineral Statistics

Mineral statistics are compiled by the Department of Mineral Resources, Ministry of Industry. The data are collected from the monthly reports which were prepared by the provincial mineral officers. The obtained informations are production, consumption, quantity and values of exported mineral, number of operating mines, labours and mineral royalties and so on. The data are processed by computer and are published monthly and yearly.

2.2.17 Tourist Expenditure Survey

This survey project has been undertaken for every alternative years by the Tourism Authority of Thailand. The objective of the survey is to study the level and component of the foreign tourists expenditure during their visit. The survey covers all tourists of various nationalities who visit Thailand for at least 1 day but not more than 90 days. The components of expenditure are on loc̈ging, food & beverage, sight seeing, gifts and sourvenirs, transportation. A self enumeration-method coupled with personal interview on sample basis was used in obtaining data from the tourists who visit Thailand during the survey period. For this, cooperation from hotels and travel agencies were sought to distributs and retrieve survey forms in the self-enumeration method. Whereas in the direct interview method, the field work were done by a specisl group of interviewers which were employed. The first quater report of the 1987 survey has alredy been published.

## III Statistical Training Programmes

The National Statistical Office of Thailand has continually organized the so-called in-service training program in Statistics since the early 60's and the Computer training for personnel of government agencies and state enterprises since the early 70's. The main objectives of the training are :-

1. To improve experiences and skills in statistical operations of statistical personnels especially at the primary and intermediate level.

2. To improve the statistical system of the country in order to meet present development plans.

3. To improve the co-ordination on statistical activities among statistical personnels of various government agencies.

The statistical training program comprises 3 major courses, i.e. primary level, internediate level and special in-service training course. The primary and intermediate level are annually organized for the officials of the NSO and other government agencies, while the in-service training course is organized as an ad hoc program for the field staff of the NSO. Apart from those training programs, there are various short-term courses which is known as Country Course and special courses. The country course was conducted in Bangkok jointly by the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) and the NSO with the financial support of the UNDP.

The training on computer data processing has been continuously conducted as a one year course consisting of 7 - 10 short courses on some selected subjects from basic knowledge on automatic data processing up to advanced programming and computer system analysis and system design. Moreover, special coursesare also designed for a particular government agency on request.

3.1 In-service Training Program for Primary Level

This course is aimed for junior government officials who have no degree at all but engaged on statistical operation. The training period is five months of which 4 months for statistical methods and one month for survey operation. Classes are normally held during half day for the first 4 months and full day for the fifth month.

The primary level course in statistics is divided into two parts. The first part is emphasized on statistical methods and subjects included are :-

- Principles of Statistics
- Data collection methods
- Census and Survey methodology
- Sampling Techniques
- Field operation procedure
- Statistical Mapping
- Scrutiny and editing of data
- Data presentation
- Data Processing

The second part is practical training and all the trainees are required to work on the statistical survey projects.

The lecturers of this course are the senior officers of the NSO who have wide knowledge and experiences in statistical work.

For each course, there are about 60 trainees who are the officials of the NSO and other government agencies. The NSO has so far conducted nine primary level courses to some of 552 trainees and the tenth course was started in April this year.

Certificates of achievement will be issued to all trainees who attend at least 80% of all classes and at least 60% successfully complete all assignments and examinations. Trainees who satisfactorily attend the course, but do not pass the examinations, will receive certificates of attendance.

3.2 In-Service Training Program for Intermediate Level

This course is aimed for government officials who have at least a bachelor degree in any field and are involved in statistical works. Six-month duration of the training is divided into two unequal parts. The first part is a four-month period for theoretical background and a later is a two-month period for application purposes. Classes are ordinarily held during half day for the first 4 months and full day for the last 2 months.

The subjects included in the first part are Statistical Methods such as :

- Statistical methodology
- Census and Survey methodology
- Statistical Analysis
- Survey Sampling
- Experimental design
- Index numbers and Time Series analysis
- Data Processing
- Data presentation and Statistical report.

For the practical work, all the trainees are required to work at all stages of the statistical survey operation.

The training at the National Statistical Office is mainly conducted by the senior staff of the NSO and this faculty strength is supplemented by

invi ing university lecturers.

The trainees are consisted of about 60 persons for each course. Thirteen courses of this program have been already conducted to some of 780 trainees. The fourteenth course was just arranged in October 1987.

Same as the primary level, trainees who attend at least 80% of all classes and at least 60% successfully complete all assignments and examinations are awarded certificates of merit, while those who satisfactorily attend and complete the course but do not pass the examinations are awarded certificates of attendance.

3.3 Other Special In-Service Training Programs

This course is especially organized only for the provincial statisticians of the NSO who stationed in every province in the kingdom and mostly involved in the field work of the survey projects of the NSO. The objective of this program is to improve their knowledge and experiences in the statistical methods and application. The training will be emphasized on statistical operation such as sample selection, questionnaire design, data processing, data analysis and presentation etc. For the next few years, the course will be emphasized on automatic data processing with an application of microcomputer since the government policy on provincial data/information center is now being implemented.

The training duration of this program is about 3 weeks and every provincial statistician will alternately attend the class.

3.4 Advanced Course/Country Course

This is another short-term training course which is conducted by the NSO with the cooperation of SIAP under the sponsorship of the UNDP.

This country course is designed for the government officials who have either good theoretical background in Statistics or some experience in statistical work. So far, three Country Courses have been conducted in Thailand.

The first country Course on "Evaluation Analysis and Use of Statistical Data" was conducted during May - June 1978, the second course on "Measurement and Control of Errors in Censuses and Survey" was organized during July - August 1981 and the third course was arranged in August 1986 with the topic on "Indicators for Economic and Social Development". For each course, there were approximately 30 participants of which about a half from the NSO and the rest from other concerned government agencies. The duration of the course is limited to about 3 weeks and the lecturers were mostly provided by SIAP, while the Thai government provided one or two local lecturers for each course.

The trainees who successfully completed the course had received the certificate signed jointly by the Director of SIAP and the Secretary General of the NSO.

3.5 <u>In-Service Training in Computer Data Processing</u>

Apart from those statistical training programs, the National Statistical Office has also conducted quite a few number of courses in computer data processing for intermediate level of government officers since 1971. The qualification required for participants is that they must have at least a bachelor degree and their work must concern with the data processing. The course consists of at least 10 short courses of varying duration which ranges from one week to two months. Some of the courses regularly given are :-

- Computer Concept and Programming Logic
- Principle of Computer Data Processing
- Computer Programming (ANS, COBOL, PTL)
- System Analysis
- Uses of Statistical Software Packages such as SAS, SPSS, VSEDIT, STDUPT, BOX & JENKIN, TSP
- Data Base and Data Communication/Concept
- File Organization Techniques
- Microcomputer
- Management Information System

The teaching at the NSO is mostly performed a group of experienced senior officers of the NSO and some invited lecturers from other agencies and universities.

The number of trainees in each courses is about 70. Up to the year 1987, the number of trainees for computer Data Processing Program is about 4,000 officials from various government agencies.

3.6 Other special courses

Apart from those training programs which are conducted at the NSO. It has also colaborated with other government agencies and state enterprises in setting up the very special course curriculum of both Statistics and Electronic Data Processing to suit their own needs and provided staffs for lecturing outside the NSO on request. There are about 3 - 5 courses of this type each year.

## IV. New Development

### 4.1 Multi-Purpose Household Survey

The multi-purpose household survey is one of the major project which has been included in the five year statistical plan of the NSO. In 1983, the NSO had conducted a pilot survey based on the multi-purpose household survey principal in 2 provinces. After studying the survey methodology and the result of the pilot survey, the NSO decided to undertake a periodic multi-purpose survey. Start from 1984, the household surveys of the NSO have been integrated to some extent. The survey has been carried out 3 rounds a year and each round the labour force information is the core module. A supplemental module on newspaper readership, television viewing, radio listening, energy consumption, cultural and time using etc. was included in one of the three rounds in each year.

The survey covered only non-institutional household for the whole country. The master sample had been redesign. A Stratified Two-Stage sampling was used with provinces and administrative areas as strata. The first and second stage sampling units were blocks/villages and housing units respectively. The sample units were selected systematically and maintained for one year. The same sample set has been used in each round and is approximately 20,000 households. The estimation has been designed to provide the data at regional and national level. The NSO is having a plan to present the data at provincial level (only major provinces).

## 4.2 Computer Data Processing Facilities of the NSO.

At present the computer mainframe of the NSO has been upgraded from IBM 370/138 with the main memory of 512 k bytes to IBM 3031 - 004 with a main memory of 4 million bytes. To this new computer mainframe following facilities are added.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Card Reader | | |
| | type 3505 - B 01 | 1 | unit |
| 2. | Tape Drive | | |
| | type 3420 | 10 | units |
| | type memorex 3281 | 1 | unit |
| | type memorex 3288 | 1 | unit |
| 3. | Disk Drive | | |
| | type 3340 - A 02 | 2 | units |
| | type 3340 - B 02 | 1 | unit |
| | type 3344 - B 02 | 3 | units |
| | type 3375 - A 01 | 2 | units |
| | type 3375 - B 01 | 1 | unit |
| 4. | Diskette I/O | | |
| | type 3540 - B 01 | 1 | unit |
| 5. | Printer | | |
| | type 3211 - 001 | 2 | units |
| 6. | Terminal Printer | | |
| | type 3287 - 002 | 1 | unit |
| 7. | Local Terminal | | |
| | - English CRT | 18 | units |
| | - APL CRT | 6 | units |
| | - Graphic Display | 2 | units |
| | - Thai CRT | 4 | units |
| | - Color PC - A1 | 1 | unit |
| | - PC - A1 | 1 | unit |

8. Processor (CPU)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| type 3031 - 004 | 1 | unit |

9. Console

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| type 3036 - 001 | 2 | units |

10. Telecommunication Controller

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| type 3704 - 001 | 1 | unit |

11. Power Unit

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| type 3017 - 001 | 1 | unit |

12. Tape Control Unit

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| type 3803 - 001 | 2 | units |
| type memorex 3281 | 1 | unit |

13. Dasd Control Unit

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| type 3830 - 002 | 1 | unit |
| type 3880 | 2 | units |

14. Printer Control Unit

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| type 3811 - 001 | 2 | units |

15. Terminal Control Unit

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| - THAI CRT type 3272 - 002 | 1 | unit |
| - APL CRT type 3272 - 002 | 1 | unit |
| - ENG CRT type 3272 - 041 | 2 | units |

And also the following softwares are available

1. Packages under OS/VSI

- TSP
- BOX & JENKIN (INDENT, FORCAST, ESTIMATE)
- X - 11, X 11 Q
- SAS
- SPSS
- CONCOR

- MPSX
- COCENT
- BLOCK ADJUSTMENT (PAT - M 34)
- LSML (Least Square and Maximum Likelihood)
- TPL
- TABRAP
- VSEDIT & STDUPT
- LP (Linear Programming)
- SOL/ DS
- THAIMAP
- GDDM ( Graphical Data Display Manager)

2. Operation System
   - VM/SP
   - OS/VS1
3. Compilers
   - COBOL
   - FORTRAN IV (G1)
   - PL/I (Optimizer)
   - ASSEMBLER
4. OS/VS1 Utilities
5. Sort/Merge
   - SORT/MERGE
   - THAI SORT

In addition, the micro-computers are also available for data processing at the NSO. The followings are details of facilities.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Micro - Computer IBM Monochrom 512 KB AT | 1 | unit |
| 2. | Micro - Computer IBM Graphic Color 512 KB AT | 1 | unit |
| 3. | Micro - Computer MICROMEX 640 KB XT | 1 | unit |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4. | Micro - Computer CORDATA 640 KB XT | 4 | units |
| 5. | Printer P5 | 2 | units |
| 6. | Printer P7 | 4 | units |

7. Package for Micro - Computer

- BASIC
- LOTUS T/E
- DBASE III T/E, DBASE III PLUS
- WORD PROCESSING
- C - LANGUAGE
- TURBO - PASCAL
- SPSS PC
- STAT - PAC

# APPENDIX

## 5. Statistical Activities under the NSO

A CHART SUMMERIZING LARGE SCALE CENSUSES/SURVEYS WHICH WERE UNDERTAKEN BY THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THAILAND DURING 1963 - 1987

| CENSUS/SURVEY TITLE | FREQUENCY | YEAR UNDERTAKEN 19... | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | REMARK |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 70 | 71 | 72 | 73 | 74 | 75 | 76 | 77 | 78 | 79 | 80 | 81 | 82 | 83 | 84 | 85 | 86 | 87 | |
| 1. POPULATION CENSUS | decennial | | | | | | | | 1/ x | | | | | | | | | | x | | | | | | | | - Housing census were incorporation in 1970 and 1980 |
| 2. AGRICULTURAL CENSUS | decennial | x | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | x | | | | | | | | | | - the census was postponed from 1973 to 1978 |
| 3. INTERCENSAL SURVEY OF AGRICULTURE | ad hoc | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | x | | | | | |
| 4. INDUSTRIAL CENSUS | decennial | | x | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | - will be conducted in April 1988 |
| 5. CENSUS OF BUSINESS TRADE AND SERVICES | decennial | | | | x | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | x | - Pilot Survey 1987 |
| 6. SCHOOL AND TEACHER CENSUS | annual | | | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | - Report on Educational Statistics |
| 7. LABOR FORCE SURVEY (HOUSEHOLDS) | tri-annual | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | |
| 8. SURVEY OF LABOR UTILIZATION | ad hoc | | | | | | | | | | | x | x | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9. SURVEY OF POPULATION CHANGE | decennial | | x | x | x | | | | | | | | x | x | x | x | | | | | | | x | x | x | | - three sucessive |

| CENSUS/SURVEY TITLE | FREQUENCY | YEAR UNDERTAKEN 19.. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | REMARK |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 70 | 71 | 72 | 73 | 74 | 75 | 76 | 77 | 78 | 79 | 80 | 81 | 82 | 83 | 84 | 85 | 86 | 87 | |
| 10. SURVEY OF POPULATION FERTILITY | annual | | | | | | | | | | | | | | x | x | | | | | | | | x | | | |
| 11. SURVEY OF POPULATION ATTITUDE | ad hoc | | | | | | x | x | | x | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | - target population were changed from year to year |
| 12. SURVEY OF HIGHLY QUALIFIED MANPOWER | annual | | | | | | | | | | | | | | x | x | x | | | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | |
| 13. SURVEY OF POPULATION MIGRATION | annual | | | | | | | | | | | | x | x | x | x | x | | | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | |
| 14. SURVEY OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH | annual | | | | | | | | | | | | x | x | x | x | x | | | | x | x | | | | x | |
| 15. SURVEY OF POPULATION HEALTH AND WELFARE | annual | | | | | | | | | | | | x | x | x | | x | | | x | | | | | x | | |
| 16. HOUSING SURVEY | ad hoc | | | | | | | | | | | | | | x | x | | | | | | | | | x | | |
| 17. SURVEY OF MASS MEDIA (RADIO AND TELEVISION) | ad hoc | | | | | | x | x | | | | | x | | | | | x | | | | | x | | | | |
| 18. SURVEY OF MASS MEDIA (NEWSPAPER) | ad hoc | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | x | | | | | x | | | | |
| 19. HOUSEHOLDS INCOME-EXPENDITURE SURVEY | quin quennial | x | | | | | x | x | | x | x | x | | x | | | | x | | x | | | | | x | | - Socio-Economic Survey |
| 20. CROP PRODUCTION SURVEY | annual | | | | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | | | | | | | | | | | | - rice, maize, kenaf |
| 21. RICE PRODUCTION COST SURVEY | annual | | | | | | | | x | x | x | x | x | x | | | | | | | | | | x | | | - special project |

| CENSUS/SURVEY TITLE | FREQUENCY | YEAR UNDERTAKEN 19.. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | REMARK |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 70 | 71 | 72 | 73 | 74 | 75 | 76 | 77 | 78 | 79 | 80 | 81 | 82 | 83 | 84 | 85 | 86 | 87 | |
| 22. RICE INVENTORY SURVEY | annual | | | | | | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | | | | | | | | | | x | | | special project |
| 23. FARMERS NEEDS SURVEY | annual | | | | | | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 24. VILLAGE SURVEY | annual | | | x | x | x | x | x | | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | | x | x | x | x | | x | x | |
| 25. EDUCATED UNEMPLOYMENT SURVEY | annual | | | | | | | | | | | | | x | x | x | x | | | x | x | x | x | x | | | |
| 26. SURVEY OF LARGE SCALE INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS | annual | | | | | | | | x | x | x | | x | x | x | x | x | | x | | | x | | x | | x | Annual Industry Survey |
| 27. INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION INDEX | annual | | | | | | | | | | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | |
| 28. LARGE SCALE-BUSINESS TRADE AND SERVICES ESTABLISHMENT SURVEY | annual | | | | | | | | x | x | x | | | x | x | x | x | | x | x | | x | | x | | | Annual Business Trade and Services Survey |
| 29. SURVEY OF TRADITIONAL MEDICINE | ad hoc | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | x | | | | | | x | | |
| 30. HILL TRIBES SOCIO AND ECONOMIC SURVEY | ad hoc | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | x | | x | | | x | | | | | |
| 31. SURVEY OF HILL TRIBES POPULATION | ad hoc | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | x | x | x | x | |
| 32. HOUSEHOLD ENERGY CONSUMPTION SURVEY | annual | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | x | x | x | x | |
| 33. CENSUS OF MARINE FISHERIES | decennial | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | x | | | |
| 34. SURVEY OF THE FLOOD IN DAMAGE IN BANGKOK METROPOLIS AND 5 PROVINCES IN VICINITY | ad hoc | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | x | | | | |

| CENSUS/SURVEY TITLE | FREQUENCY | YEAR UNDERTAKEN 19.. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | REMARK |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 70 | 71 | 72 | 73 | 74 | 75 | 76 | 77 | 78 | 79 | 80 | 81 | 82 | 83 | 84 | 85 | 86 | 87 | |
| 35. CULTURAL ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION AND TIME USED SURVEY | ad hoc | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | x | | | |
| 36. SURVEY OF POPULATION BEHAVIOUR AND ATTITUDE TOWARD SPORTS PLAYING AND WATCHING | ad hoc | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | x | | | | |

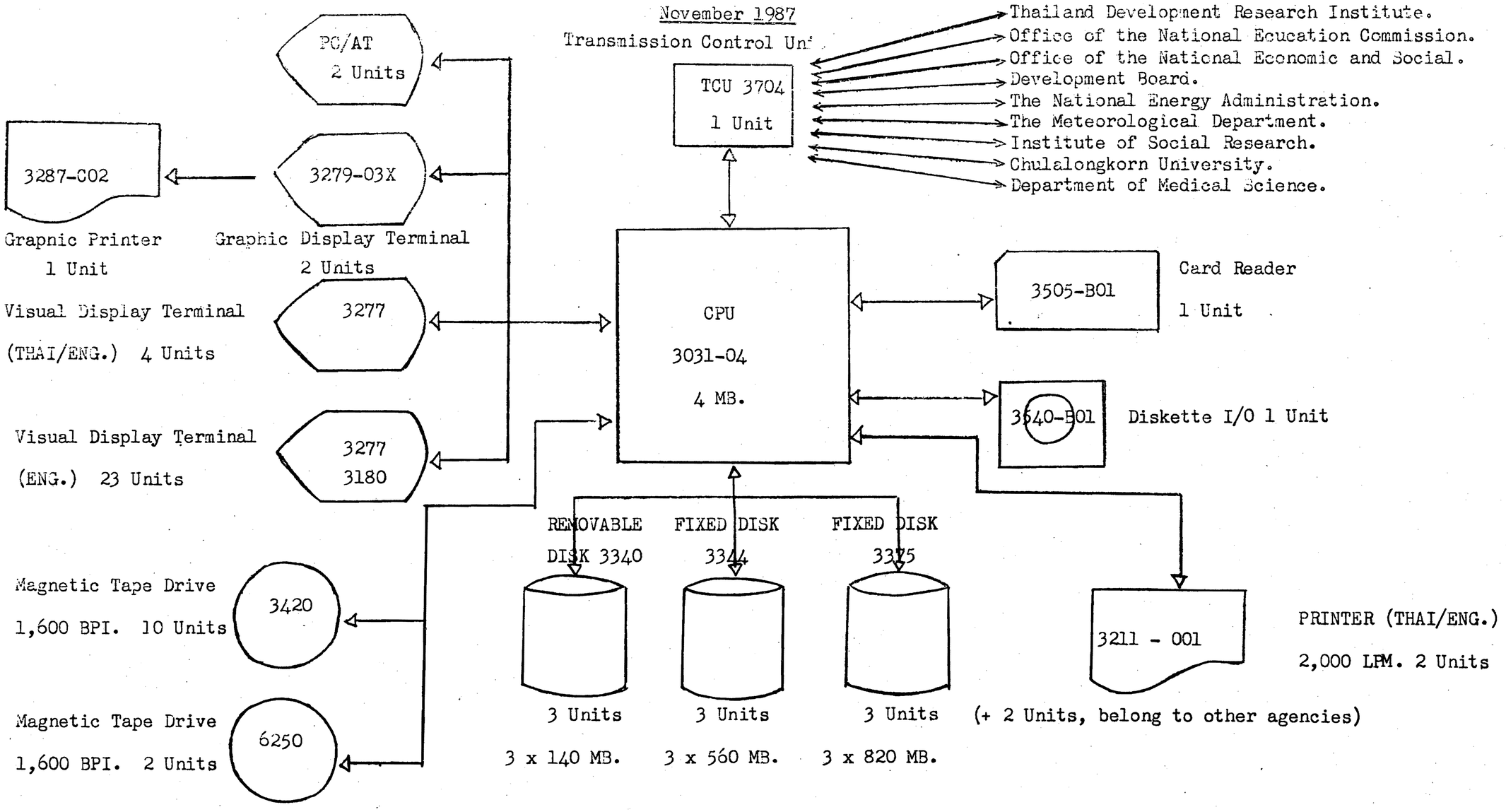
1/ Housing Census was combined with the tradtional Population Census for the first time in 1970.

Configuration

of

Computer system at the National Statistical Office

November 1987



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Committee on Statistics

Seventh Session
24 ~ 30 November 1987
Bangkok, Thailand

# COUNTRY REPORT ON STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES

# IN USSR

# ORGANIZATION OF STATE STATISTICS IN THE USSR

State Committee of the USSR on Statistics

Moscow, 1987

# ORGANIZATION OF STATE STATISTICS IN THE USSR

## I. Organizational structure of the statistical bodies

Soviet state statistics is an important element of state management and planning. It is entrusted with securing reliable statistical data needed for the elaboration of plans for economic and social development as well as with ensuring timely and comprehensive information on the plans fulfilment at all the levels of management.

Solution of fundamental problems of economic, social and political life of the Soviet society is impossible without efficient recordkeeping and well organized statistics.

Organization of the statistical service in this country has been repeatedly changing for the purpose of improving statistics. In July 1987 the Central Statistical Board of the USSR (CSB USSR) was reorganized in the State Committee of the USSR on Statistics (Goscomstat USSR). It is the major recordkeeping and statistical centre of the country which carries out state management of statistics, recordkeeping and reporting in all the branches of national economy and bears the responsibility for creation and functioning of statistical information system on the basis of a unified scientific methodology.

Management of statistics, recordkeeping and reporting on the territory of Union Republics is being executed by the State Committee on Statistics of the Union Republics which are subordinate to the Council of Ministers of the corresponding Union Republics and to the State Committee of the USSR on Statistics. Each region (territory, Autonomous Republic) and large city has a respective Statistical office.

Each administrative district and town has district (town) Statistical division. All these four administrative-and-territorial levels

of the state statistical bodies comprise an integral system of the State Committee of the USSR on Statistics. The Committee is headed by a Chairman who is appointed by the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. He is a member of the USSR Government. The Goscomstat USSR Chairman has deputies who are appointed by the Council of Ministers of the USSR. The Chairman of the Committee and his deputies as well as a number of heads of key departments establish a Goscomstat USSR Board- the major managing body of the Committee.

The structure of the bodies of Goscomstat USSR is built according to the functional-branch principle.

The main staff body of the Committee has sixteen departments and two independent divisions:

| Departments and Independent Divisions | Divisions Included into Departments |
|---|---|
| a) Departments: | |
| Statistical Methodology Improvement | -Methodology<br>-Statistical Work Coordination |
| Summary Statistics | -Summary Statistics and Economic<br>-Regional Statistics<br>-Economic Research |
| Balance of National Economy | -Summary Statistics and Economic<br>-Input-output<br>-Statistics of Population Income and Expenditure |
| Scientific and Technical Progress Statistics | -Statistics of Scientific Potential<br>-Statistics of Technical Progress |
| Population Statistics | -Programme and Methodology<br>-Population Censuses and Surveys<br>-Vital Statistics |

| Departments and Independent Divisions | Divisions Included into Departments |
|---|---|
| Labour Statistics | -Summary Statistics and Economic<br>-Labour Resources<br>-Labour Payment |
| Material Resources Statistics | -Summary Statistics and Economic<br>-Fixed Assets<br>-Equipment<br>-Material Resources |
| Financial and Price Statistics | -Finance<br>-Prices |
| Social Statistics | -Summary Statistics and Economic<br>-Family Budgets (Households)<br>-Culture and Health<br>-Housing and Communal Services<br>-Environment |
| Industrial Statistics | -Summary Statistics and Economic<br>-Machine-building Complex<br>-Fuel and Energy Complex<br>-Metallurgy Complex<br>-Chemical and Forestry Complex<br>-Consumer Goods |
| Agro-Industrial Complex Statistics | -Summary Statistics and Economic<br>-Agriculture<br>-Animal Husbandry<br>-Processing Branches of Agro-Industrial Complex<br>-Procurement and Sales |
| Capital Construction Statistics | -Summary Statistics and Economic<br>-Industrial Construction<br>-Construction of Social Units<br>-Contract and Design-Prospecting Work |
| Foreign Economic Relations Statistics | -Summary Statistics and<br>-Foreign Trade |

| Departments and Independent Divisions | Divisions Included into Departments |
|---|---|
| | -Foreign Countries<br>-International Statistical Cooperation |
| Personnel and Training Institutions | -Personnel<br>-Training Institutions |
| Managerial | -Secretariate<br>-Control Inspection<br>-Juridical<br>-Archives<br>-Typing Office |
| Business | -Planning and Finance<br>-Accounting and Control<br>-Capital Construction and System Material and Technical Supply<br>-Business Services |

b) Divisions

| | |
|---|---|
| Trade and Services Statistics | -Internal Trade and Paid Services |
| Transport and Communication Statistics | -Railway, Air, Motor, Sea, River, Pipe Transport and Communication |

Similar units are in the State Committees on Statistics of the Union Republics and regional Statistical offices.

Subordinated to Goscomstat USSR are: Information and Publishing Centre; Main Computing Centre; Scientific and Research Institute on Statistics; All-Union Scientific-Research and Designing Technological Institute for Statistical Information Systems; Inter-branch Institute for Skill Improvement of Managerial Statistical and Accounting Personnel.

The stated institutes of Goscomstat USSR are entrusted to develop problems of statistical theory and methodology, to carry out work associated with solving tasks in the field of automated proces-

sing of accounting and statistical information, as well as retraining and skill improvement of managerial personnel and specialists engaged in recordkeeping and statistics.

Collection, processing, grouping and tabulation of statistical data in the system of state statistics is effected by the network of computing centers, being under the authority of Goscomstat USSR, including the Committee's Main Computing Centre. These centres collect and process statistical data for the needs of local administrative bodies.

Simultaneously, summary statistical data are forwarded to the State Committees on Statistics of the Union Republics which, in their turn, process them and submit to the authorities of the Republic and at the same time to Goscomstat USSR.

One of the paramount tasks of the state statistical bodies is the establishment of an integrated automated system of state statistics of the USSR (ASSS USSR) with powerful computing centres of joint usage. This involves the solution of an entire complex of intricate scientific, technical and organizational tasks. The introduction of ASSS reduces extensively the time spent for the transfer of statistical data from the source to the user, creates an integrated system for collection and processing of information, thus making it possible to raise the standard of its economic analysis, contribute to the automation of all the principal components of the statistical information processing (input, storage, retrieval and output), ensure closer interrelationships with the automated systems of the planning and other bodies of the USSR and provide an opportunity for a more efficient use of statistical information in preparing plans for economic development and in managing and exercising control over their fulfilment.

## II. Main tasks of the State Committee of the USSR on Statistics

Main tasks of the State Committee of the USSR on Statistics include:

- creation and steadfast improvement of efficient statistical information system at the national, regional and branch levels in the direction of its functioning on the basis of high quality indicators and unified scientific methodology;
- making profound comprehensive economic analysis of statistical information on the basis of studying transformation, economic and social processes in the society; generalizing and forecasting tendencies in the development of the national economy; revealing reserves for higher efficiency of social production and, on this basis, timely furnishing Party, Soviet, economic organizations and general public with reliable information;
- improvement of the entire recordkeeping and state reporting system, making it rational;
- securing glasnost of statistical information with the purpose of democratization of the Soviet society and improving methods of population informing on the development of the national economy and changes in economic and social life of the country;
- strengthening the role of statistical bodies in the system of managing economic and social development of the country;

## III. Functions of the State Committee of the USSR on Statistics

In accordance with the tasks assigned to it, the State Committee of the USSR on Statistics:

- develops with the participation of ministries, state committees and departments of the USSR statistical information system at the national, regional and branch levels and secures its functioning

on the basis of one single scientific methodology; organizes collection, processing and submission to the governmental and managing bodies of scientifically grounded statistical information; ensures higher theoretical level, more complex character and practical meaning of scientific statistical studies, concentrates attention at the development of more actual problems of statistical theory and practice;

- systematically studies and analyses processes of social and economic development acceleration on the basis of scientific and technical progress, reorganization of structural and investment policy, intensification of public production, ensuring proportional and balanced economics, improving the quality of production and making it adequate to the world level, economy of the resources, efficient utilization of acting production potential, natural, material and financial resources, higher labour productivity, turnover of capital, increase in profitability of public production, improvement of administration system and methods of management, implementation of Party social policy and process of socialist way of life improvement;

- organizes statistical observation on the course of the fulfilment of the State plans for economic and social development, of the national and regional programmes; carries out forecasting of the basic indicators of social and economic development of the country, thus providing necessary information for timely and active influence on the processes of social and economic development of the Soviet societ

- analyses the performance of the state orders and contracts for produce supplies, scientific and technical progress, technical level of production and quality of output, introduction in planning practice of long-term economic standards; keeps statistics by branches of the national economy and regions; carries out other statistical

jobs assigned to Goscomstat USSR by the decisions of the USSR Government;

- increases scientific and methodological level of balance work in statistics and, first of all, in building up national economy balances reflecting most important national economy proportions- balances of social product and national income, financial and payment balances of the State, population income and expenditure balances, fixed assets, labour resources;

- improves theory and practice of international comparisons of economic and social indicators, makes more profound the analysis of key problems of economic and scientific-technical cooperation with socialist countries, of foreign economic relations, economic competition between socialist and capitalist systems;

- centralizes foreign economic relations statistics within the system of statistical bodies, makes systematic studies of the world economics, priorities in technical progress and organization of production in the foreign countries;

- furnishes the State Planning Committee of the USSR on an agreed programme:with statistical information needed for the elaboration of concepts for economic and social development of the USSR, for the elaboration of basic directions of economic and social development of the USSR, State five-year plans for economic and social development; with information necessary to build up basic data assigned to ministries, state committees and departments of the USSR and Councils of Ministers of Union Republics for planning and working out national and regional programmes of solving most important national economy problems and control of their fulfilment, as well as with data characterizing available reserves and unutilized possibilities in the course of the plans fulfilment;

- furnishes central economic and other bodies on an agreed programme with statistical information needed for their activities;
- provides scientific organizations and higher educational establishments by a set procedure with state statistical data needed by them according to their plans of research;
- introduces, approves and makes more perfect state statistical reporting, including the reporting collected and assembled in the branch and regional automated management systems; sets up the procedure of introducing new and revising actual statistical reporting in the national economy; on an agreement with USSR ministries, state committee and departments concerned approves state reporting forms for enterprises, amalgamations and organizations;
- approves forms and programmes of episodic statistical studies, surveys and censuses conducted by the bodies of state statistics; publishes instructions on filling up these forms and on other problems of recordkeeping and reporting;
- along with the State Committee of the USSR on Publishing and Printing establishes the order of providing enterprises, amalgamations, organizations and departments with the forms of recordkeeping and reporting documents and instructions on their filling;
- along with the Ministry of Finance of the USSR approves the accounting reports forms of the state, cooperative and other public organizations, enterprises, agencies; considers draft standard plans of accounts subject to be approved by the Ministry of Finance of the USSR on an agreement with Goscomstat USSR; establishes along with the Ministry of Finance of the USSR the time of submission by ministries and departments of annual and quarterly accounting reports and balances;
- provides general supervision over questions of primary recordkee-

ping in the branches of the national economy; elaborates and approve standard forms of primary records on the basis of which ministries, state committees and departments approve the forms of primary record for their subordinate enterprises, organizations and institutions; approves standard interdepartmental forms of primary records;

- checks the status of recordkeeping and reporting and the reliability of report data at all the levels of economy management and coordinates the work of financial, banking, juridical and control bodies on providing complex control and carrying out necessary work to prevent distortion of report data;

- conducts All-Union censuses of the population and other censuses, different sample and demographic surveys and individual statistical studies; gives permission to USSR ministries, state committees and departments as well as scientific-research institutes and other organizations of the Union subordination for the conduct of sample and demographic statistical surveys on an agreed programmes;

- ensures organization of regional statistics with the purpose of submitting reliable and timely information to the authorities at the regional, city, district, territory and republican levels;

- ensures wide application and efficient utilization of computing machines, systems of information tele-processing, communication and data transmission means, automated working places, as well as economic and mathematical methods, system technology in developing statistical data and conducting various sample surveys;

- provides interaction of branch, functional and regional automated management systems with automated system of state statistics;

- organizes information and publicity activities of the statistical bodies in order to inform mass media and population on the development of the national economy and changes in economic and social life

of the country; publishes in the press statistical data on the fulfilment of State plans for economic and social development of the USSR as well as other statistical materials describing the state of economics and sociocultural sphere; issues statistical bulletins and press-releases, publishes on a regular basis statistical yearbooks by major branches of the national economy, Union Republics, territories and districts, as well as subject abstracts on the most important economic and social problems;

- makes preliminary checking of the reports to be published in national press on the plans fulfilment by ministries, departments, Republics, territories, districts and cities, and controls publication of such reports by republican and local bodies of state statistics;
- provides timely consideration of letters, statements and appeals of citizens; takes measures to eliminate revealed shortcomings in the activities of organizations, enterprises and institutions of the Goscomstat USSR system; carries out work to improve the structure of state statistics bodies and utilize efficiently their maintenance costs, to solve social problems keeping strictly to the principle of social justice; makes training and skill improvement of the state statistics bodies personnel; takes measures to fill them up with highly skilled specialists; carries out work on strengthening labour discipline;
- creates councils of state statistics public inspectors attached to the statistical bodies and enlist their services in statistical surveys and work on recordkeeping and reporting improvement;
- effects contacts with national and international statistical, scientific-technical and economic organizations in the field of scientific-technical and economic cooperation with the purpose of studying and practically utilizing up-to-date achievements of foreign

science and engineering and progressive experience, as well as popularizing abroad the achievements of the USSR in the field of statistics and automatization of statistical information processing; submits to them statistical information by a set procedure.

Proceeding from the functions mentioned above, the main directions of the state statistics bodies activities may be grouped as follows:

- collection, processing and supplying the users with information (this group includes the problems of improving forms and methods of collecting and processing information);reduction of time for submission of the reports and making their processing less expensive; continuation of reporting centralization; publication and storage of information;
- economic analysis of statistical information: building up balances; studying, on the basis of statistical data, social and economic proce ses and preparing on this basis analytic tables, economic reviews and reports;
- creation of automated system of state statistics with the use of economic and mathematical methods and computers with due regard for the tasks of improving methods of collection and processing of information and economic analysis;
- scientific and methodological work: elaboration of more perfect methodological principles regarding the system of statistical indicators, classifications and nomenclatures; improvement and reduction of reporting.

All the elements of the USSR statistical service work according to one common programme, unified methodology and within coordinated time schedules.

Hence, Goscomstat USSR works out annually and approves a plan

of statistical work which is mandatory and binding on all the links of the system of state statistics.

The plan indicates:

- the designation and, in brief form, the nature of the statistical work in question;
- the time-frame set for completion of the work ( a week,two weeks, a month, three months, six months, a year, by a specified date, etc.
- the manner in which the consolidated statistical data are to be transmitted to Goscomstat USSR ( by telegraph, teletype or mail);
- the type of summary reports to be prepared by the statistical bodies and the type of statistical reporting system;
- the manner in which the summary reports are to be grouped for the USSR as a whole, for the Union Republics or for the regions, with the breaking-down for enterprises (organizations), ministries, departments, etc;
- the schedule for the submission of the reports to Goscomstat USSR.

In addition to the plan of statistical work the schedule for th submission of statistical information to governmental bodies of the USSR is approved.

In the annual plans of statistical work there prevail current operations but included consistently are stages of some perspective work the fulfilment of which is specified for 5-10 years. In fact, annual plans of work indicate stages of automated system of state statistics creation as well as conduct of large censuses and surveys.

As a rule, perspective plans of Goscomstat USSR work are prepared for a period of five years. The basis for their preparation are five-year plans for economic and social development of the USSR, decisions of managing bodies.

Envisaged in the perspective plans is a complex of measures (preparation of additional information, economic reports, methodological and other work) which are necessary to check up the fulfilment of five-year plans for the national economy development.

As a result of thorough preparation and wide discussion of the perspective plans of work, reflected in them are ways of the work organization improvement in the main staff body of Goscomstat USSR and in the local statistical bodies,as well as the problems of statistical work coordination in the country.

In the current and perspective plans priorities of tasks are specified. The criteria for specifying priorities are requirements of the managing bodies as well as the necessity to improve state statistics.

Goscomstat USSR is the central statistical agency and itself solves the task of planning its work in the field of integrated national statistical system creation. It establishes the sequence and links of definitions, classifications and methodology. Planning of statistical work is closely connected with the demands of the statistical data users.

Problems of priorities in statistics are the subject of a profound discussion in all the links of the state statistics system. Thi work is carried out by all the units of Goscomstat USSR including the Scientific-Research Institute of Goscomstat USSR.

The stable character of the major components of the statistical work plan envisages at the same time its correction taking into account the requirements of the governmental bodies. Thus, in the recent years the volume of work was expanded considerably in view of the reconstruction of economics management, transfer of enterprises on self-sustained and self-financing basis and giving more consideration

to social problems. The volume of work connected with statistical study of efficiency and quality of public production increased considerably.

Thus, the system of current and perspective planning of statistical work in the USSR is rather flexible.

The main materials which are used in statistical work planning are:

- perspective plans for economic and social development of the countr
-decisions of the Government on different problems of the development of economics and culture in the country;
- information on the character of users needs in statistical data;
- materials on reliability and comparability of data.

As a rule, the above scheme of statistical work planning organization is put into practice in accordance with the procedure acting in the state statistics bodies, i.e. from top to bottom and then from bottom to top.

In case of preliminary decisions which directly indicate the necessity of carrying out these or other statistical works, the statistical bodies consider actual measures to fulfil such works (time limits, elaboration of methodology, forms of generalization, analysis submission of information, etc.).

Usually Goscomstat USSR is informed about the preparation of such decisions drafts taking into account the fact that the Chairman of Goscomstat USSR is a member of the USSR Government. Draft documents prepared by ministries and departments of the USSR, in which interests of statistics are touched upon directly or indirectly, are sent to Goscomstat USSR for approval.

Individual requests of the users ( ministries, departments, research institutions, etc.) are considered as such requests are

received. The essence of each request is studied from different points of view:-whether its subject is of national interest or it concerns a certain department; episodic or permanent receipt of information; availability or lack of such information; volume of work for information suppliers; who will execute the work-statistical bodies or interested party itself, etc.

Later on, if additional information is collected and developed by the state statistics bodies, it is included into the plans of statistical work of Goscomstat USSR.

If there is no possibility to satisfy these requests completely optimum compromise is being looked for ( partial satisfaction of the requests, utilization of indirect data to obtain the information needed, permission given to the requesting organization for getting information itself once-only or several times for definite periods, etc.).

As a rule the most important criterion in solving the question on the collection and development of additional information is a search of the way not to overload the information supplier ( factory, state-farm, institution, individual person or family).

## IV. Indissoluble connection of statistics and planning

Planned economy is impossible without well organized statistics. Elaboration of plans and their implementation need to organize collection and development of a system of statistical indicators characterizing all the aspects of social and economic life of the country.

Especially great is the role of statistics in the USSR because it gives necessary basic materials for the elaboration of the plans and ensures every day control and observation of their fulfilment.

Statistical data are developed for the territory of the Soviet Union as a whole and separately for each Union Republic, each large

economic region, districts, territories and Autonomous Republics.

State Committees on Statistics which are available in all fifteen Union Republics guide the matter of recordkeeping and reporting on the territory of corresponding republics. In their activities they follow a common plan of statistical work approved by Goscomstat USSR and a single statistical methodology. Taking into account specific conditions they may introduce additional indicators in the reporting as well as carry out individual statistical works.

State Committees on Statistics of the Union Republics develop statistical data for territory of the republics and organizations subordinate to the republican Governments, make records of economic and social development plans fulfilment.

Subordinated to the State Committes on Statistics of the Union Republics are regional and territory Statistical offices which organize statistical work on a corresponding territory.

Each administrative district has district Statistical division which collects and processes statistical reports for a given district. District Statistical divisions in all their work are subordinate to the regional Statistical offices.

In all the Statistical offices there are computing centres for processing report data. Great importance is attached to the problems of mechanization of recordkeeping and reporting. The work is carried out on the creation of the state network of computing centres.

The necessary statistical service is organized at the enterprises, in construction units and organizations. In contrast to the state statistics bodies this service is used to be called departmental statistics. The statistical service of enterprises and institutions organizes primary recordkeeping, develops primary reporting, follow the correctness and timeliness of report data presentation.

Statistical materials are utilized for the elaboration of plans and control of their fulfilment in all the links of the economy manag ment and planning. For example, in order to elaborate the plan of an enterprize ,developed are the data on the availability of capacities and their utilization, on the achieved volume of production and labour productivity, rates of raw materials expenditure for the output of production, ect. At the agricultural enterprizes,which are collective and state farms in the USSR, collected and processed are the data on the availability and composition of arable lands, availability and productivity of animal husbandry, availability and productivity of agricultural machines, etc.

Managing staff of the enterprizes should constantly have data on the plan fulfilment. These data are provided by the statistical service of the enterprizes.

The national planning body in the country is the State Planning Committee of the USSR (Gosplan USSR) which elaborates draft State plan for economic and social development of the USSR and effects the verification of its fulfilment, develops the methodology of planning the national economy and its individual branches.

In all the Union Republics there are republican planning bodies which deal with planning total republican economy, and in regions and territories there are local planning commissions.

In the course of the draft State plan elaboration Gosplan USSR thoroughly studies statistical materials developed by the State Committee of the USSR on Statistics.

Gosplan USSR and Goscomstat USSR as well as their bodies carry out all their work in close contact. The programme of the statistical work is discussed with Gosplan. In its turn, Gosplan, while working

on the problems of planning organization and methodology improvement discusses them with Goscomstat USSR.

Utilizing the advantages of the socialist system of economy the State plans are aimed at the securing rapid growth of all the branch of the national economy and steadfast continuous improvement of well-being of the people. Economic policy of the Soviet State is realized through the plans.

Planning is the unity of elaboration, verification and fulfilment of targets. At all these stages of planning an important role is played by recordkeeping and statistics.

The elaboration of the plan is appropriately preceded by a profound and comprehensive study of the national economy development initial level, generalization of practical experience in the plan fulfilment of the previous period. In the course of this work analyzed are utilization of production capacities and equipment, fulfilment of the expenditure rates of raw materials, labour productivity, the extent of satisfying the requirements of the national economy in material, labour and financial expenditure; revealed as well are changes taken place in the links and proportions of the economy and outlined are the ways and means of reserves utilization for further production development acceleration. All the necessary data to study the initial level of the national economy development are produced by statistical bodies and submitted to those of planning not only as a whole for the national economy but for territories, branches and departments as well. In such a way the initial statistical basis is created which is needed for the elaboration of the plans.

The important component of the statistical basis for the plan are time series:- report data characterizing one or another aspect of economic activities for a long period of time. In this connection

statistical data are prepared on the output of production in quanti-ty and value, number of personnel, labour productivity, utilization of equipment, output of produce from a unit of raw materials, etc. The analysis of time series makes it possible to judge on the appropriateness of individual branches and production development.

Linking of resources and requirements of the national economy is effected by means of plan and report materials, labour and summary value balances.

The report balances developed by the statistical bodies serve a a basis for the plan balances not only because they determine initia base period proportions, but because they also give quantitative characteristics of their changes depending on the influence of various factors, for example, scale of the development of one or another branch of economy, rise in efficiency of capital investments, increa of solvent demand of the population, etc.

Each enterprise or organization should by a specified date submit to the state statistics bodies a report on its fulfilment for corresponding indicators.

For that purpose current and annual reporting forms are estab lished by all the branches of the national economy.

Important is the question on the deadlines for the submission of report data on the fulfilment of plan targets. The earlier such materials are received, the more opportunities will be for taking efficient measures to eliminate lagging of certain sectors and ensuring general fulfilment of the plan targets. The deadlines for the submission of reports are established by Goscomstat USSR and are indicated on the report forms. Keeping strictly to the deadlines for the submission of the reports is as obligatory as the reliability

of the report data.

The necessary condition for the correctness of plans elaboration and control of their fulfilment is full coverage and accuracy of the statistical data, securing their reliability in all the links of the economy management.

Statistical work on checking the plan fulfilment is based on the report data as well as on the data of the censuses, sample and demographic surveys.

On a number of questions connected with the development of the national economy but not shown in the periodic reporting statistical bodies conduct censuses, sample and demographic surveys (census of equipment, residues of materials and fuel, sample surveys of the quality of production, conditions of operation and usage of the equipment, etc.). In particular, when a census of the equipment is conducted, recorded is not only its quantity but technical condition, age, extent of utilization and a number of other factors as well. While studying conditions of operation of machine-building enterprises, for example, analyzed are extent of the equipment utilization by shifts, losses of the working time in each shift and a number of other indicators.

The most important place among the above mentioned works is taken by population censuses which by their importance as a source of social information have no equals in the system of statistical observations. The censuses enable to receive complete and exact data on the number op population, labour resources, distribution of population by the territory of the country, its composition by sex and age, nationality, occupation in the branches of the national economy, education level and many other. The population censuses data are widely used by the bodies of state management and planning to solve

a number of important national economy tasks. Especially great importance these data have for a profound analysis of demographic processe in the periods between the population censuses.

The report data of the enterprises are developed by branch, territory and department, i.e. in the same way as the plan targets. This ensures address and detailed control of the plan targets fulfilment by all the executors as well as possibility to reveal the reasons for non-fulfilment of the targets and take necessary measures.

The statistical data are intended not only for direct serving of planning. In a number of cases they are used for further development of the important problems of political economy, for studies of the new phenomena in the economic life. For that purpose not only the national report data are used but also the data of episodic censuses, sample and demographic surveys conducted by the statistical bodies.

Of great importance for planning and atatistics is the question of the system of indicators.

As it was mentioned already, planning and statistics in the conditions of the socialist system of economy are inseperably linked and integrated. This involves, first of all, the creation of an integral system of the national economy development economic indicators which are used both in planning and statistics. The tasks to improve planning and management of the national economy which face all the elements of planned and economic management demand that this integral system of indicators meets three main requirements: first, both planning and statistics need such a system of indicators which could cover the process of extended socialist reproduction with all its diversity and links, and would have proper data characterizing entire national economy and its individual branches (branch context); second, up-to-date organization of the national economy management

demands that the plan and recordkeeping indicators are formed up by subordination of branches and individual ministries, departments and organizations (departmental context); third, organization of management by branches of the national economy means the necessity of rational distribution of productive forces on the territory of the country as well as availability of proper data characterizing the development of economic regions of the Soviet State (territorial context).

The indissoluble connection of planning and statistics finds its specific expression in the integral system of indicators and in the unified methodology of their estimation. This means that national economy planning and state statistics should operate identical indicators charging them with the same content. Only under such a condition comparability of the report data and the plan indicators is secured.

The indissoluble connection of statistics and planning in the USSR is characterized as well by the fact that statistical bodies are entrusted with preparation of conclusions on the draft plans at the stage of their elaboration. In these conclusions many plan indicators are checked critically in relation to corresponding indicators of the country's national economy development during the years preceding the planned period; in necessary cases well-grounded remarks and proposals on individual indicators in the draft are given and reserve available in the national economy are pointed out. These conclusions are utilized by the planning bodies for the revision of the draft plan, defining more exactly the growth rates of the national economy development indicators and living standards of the people.

V. Goscomstat USSR rights

Goscomstat USSR has the following rights:

- to effect the control of the fulfilment by ministries, state com-

mittees, departments and enterprises subordinate to them, institutions and organizations of the Party and Government decisions on the questions of statistics, recordkeeping and reporting;

- to hear at the Board sittings the accounts of the managing personnel of ministries, state committees and departments, enterprises, amalgamations, institutions and organizations on the state of recordkeeping and reporting, securing reliability of state reporting and give them compulsory directions to eliminate the revealed shortcomings in this work;

- to receive from the ministries, state committees and departments, enterprises, amalgamations, institutions and organizations the statistical and accounting reports, the data of intradepartmental reporting as well as the data and materials on all accounting and statistical works ( in any stage of their processing) and explanations to the submitted reports;

- to check in the ministries, state committees and departments the state of work on the organization of primary recordkeeping, securing reliability of the report data in their subordinated enterprises, amalgamations, institutions and organizations, as well as availabilit of illegal reporting; the officials of the state statistics bodies have the right to visit by a set procedure the units under checking;

- to demand written explanations and other materials on the revealed violations from the managing staff and other officials of the ministries, state committees and departments, enterprises, amalgamations, organizations and institutions;

- to give to the managing personnel of the ministries, state committees and departments, enterprises, amalgamations and organizations compulsory for the fulfilment instructions on the elimination of violations of the reporting discipline and primary recordkeeping organi-

zation as well as on carrying out in necessary cases financial and economic activities inspections of the enterprises, amalgamations, institutions and organizations;

-to move amendments to the state reporting in case of revealing distor tions of the report data;

- to cancel the reporting not approved by a set procedure. Instructions of Goscomstat USSR on the cancellation of such reporting are compulsory for the ministries, state committees and departments, local Soviet and economic organizations as well as for the enterprises, amalgamations, organizations and institutions irrespective of their departmental subordination;

- to make recommendations on the cancellation of orders and instructions of the ministries, state committees and departments on the questions of recordkeeping and reporting if they contradict the legis lation currently in force;

- to draw financial, banking, control and juridical bodies to participate in checking reliability of the report data, state of recordkeeping and reporting at all the levels of management, and in case of revealing distortions in the report data send appropriate materials to the juridical organizations to make guilty persons answerabl in accordance with the legislation currently in force;

- to prepare for the ministries, state committees and departments conclusions on the timeliness of submission and quality of the reports of their subordinate enterprises, amalgamations, institutions and organizations; to effect the control of making managing personnel and other officials of the enterprises, amalgamations, institutions and organizations answerable for the submission of unreliable report data and violation of a report discipline.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Committee on Statistics

Seventh Session
24～30 November 1987
Bangkok, Thailand

# COUNTRY REPORT ON STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES

# IN VANUATU

E.S.C.A.P.

Committee on Statistics, seventh session,

Bangkok, 24-30 November 1987

# COUNTRY STATEMENT - VANUATU

by

Mary Strode
Acting Principal Statistician
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ITEM 4b Review of statistical activities

## 1. ORGANISATION

The Statistics Office forms part of the National Planning and Statistics Office (N.P.S.O) which is headed by The Director of National Planning and Statistics. NPSO is part of the Prime Minister's Office. The Departmental head of the Statistics Office is the Principal Statistician, a post which has been generally held by expatriates excepting a period in the mid 1980's. The Principal Statisticians post is vacant, and the Survey Statistician is at present the Acting Principal Statistician. The Survey Statistician and Financial/Economic Statistician are both filled by expatriates. The remaining 13 more junior staff, including secretarial staff are local, although two are currently studying overseas. The Statistics Office has, therefore, a small staff, and the work it can undertake is limited. One particular problem is that of continuity, with all the senior posts being held by expatriates on two year contracts.It is hoped that, the training currently underway will enable local staff to rise to more senior positions in the future.

## 2. PROJECTS

Aid funded projects have contributed to the development of Statistical activities in Vanuatu in recent years.

### 2.1 AGRICULTURAL CENSUS

The report of the agricultural census was published in September 1986. The project was funded by the British Government, the initial fieldwork took place in 1983 and was the first full agricultural survey ever undertaken in Vanuatu. The census was carried out in close co-operation with the Department of

Agriculture, and agricultural extension officers undertook some of the fieldwork. There have been a number of follow-up surveys to the agricultural census, including plantation surveys and a smallholder cattle survey in 1985, although none have occurred since, due to staff shortages. The Agricultural Census acted as a test site for U-SP, a user friendly survey analysis package developed by the University of Kent, Great Britain. The data was processed in the Statistics Office using this package.

## 2.2 URBAN CENSUS 1986

The favorable experience of using the U-SP package for the Agricultural Census, led the Statistics Office to conduct a Census of the two urban areas of Vanuatu. Almost 20,000 people were enumerated in January 1986. The main report including analysis and basic tabulations, was published within six months of fieldwork. Although USP used on a microcomputer can be slow in producing tabulations of a complex nature. The Statistics Office has found the level of flexibility and in-house control offered by this package, to be a major factor in the rapid production of survey results.

## 2.3 NATIONAL POPULATION CENSUS 1989

The Vanuatu Council of Ministers has approved in principle a National Census, to be held in 1989. The Statistics Office is now making preparations for the Census. It will be the First National Census of Vanuatu, carried out by ni-Vanuatu. It is expected that the census will provide an opportunity to train local staff in the conduct of surveys and censuses and establish a continuing capability for regular household surveys in the rural areas. Vanuatu is spread over 80 islands and transportation and communication difficulties hamper the collection of data outside the urban areas. It is hoped that Regional Co-ordinators can be established to improve statistical operations in the rural areas after the Census. The last National Census was held in 1979, just before Independence. There is now an urgent need to provide recent national population data to feed into the development and planning process. One feature of the Census, will be its steering committee composed of senior government officials and the head of the National Council of Chiefs. The National Census Steering Committee has overall responsibilty for the Census. Reporting to the main committee are four sub-committees one of which is a users forum ; another is responsible for publicity and obtaining the public's full co-operation in the Census. The purpose of the users forum is to aid communication between the data users, and Census team. Funding for this project will the sought in the near future.

## 2.4 Vital Statistics Survey

The Statistics Office and Department of Health are currently involved in a sample survey funded and designed by the South Pacific Commission, to monitor birth and death rates in Vanuatu. The sample of 3,000 households are being revisited every six

months over a two year period, as a means of obtaining accurate birth and mortality rates, particularly infant mortality rates, which have proved difficult to collect in previous surveys. Universal registration of births and deaths in Vanuatu has still to be achieved, the survey will improve demographic information and assist the Health Department with resource allocation.

### 2.5 National Accounts

To assist the Government, to attain and sustain a capability to estimate income accounts for Vanuatu, a set of national accounts for 1983 to 1985 was compiled as part of a Technical Assistance Agreement project funded by the Asian Development Bank. The services of a full-time consultant was provided for two years between 1985 and 1987. A report of the project was produced for comment in 1987, and at the request of the Government a World Bank Mission has commented on the results. Work on the National Accounts is continuing with the aid of a UN volunteer who arrived earlier in the year. She will continue work on the 1983 to 1985 accounts which will be published early next year and has started work on 1986 National Accounts.
The National Accounts project included an urban Family Income and Expenditure Survey, which also enabled the Statistics Office to begin to revise the weights of the Consumer Price Index, with the aid of the EPOC statistics adviser. Similarly a quarterly survey of establishments was begun, this survey is being extended to the rural areas, and continues to supply data for the National Accounts. Local staff are now being training in the production of National Accounts.

## 3. STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES

The Statistics Office continues to produce regular publications, including the quarterly "Statistical Indicators". Publications include coverage of the following statistical series : -

1) Major Monetary indicators
2) Money supply
3) Imports (1 digit classification)
4) Exports (1 digit classification)
5) Direction of Overseas Trade
6) Copra in stock and received for export
7) Consumer price index
8) Wholesale price index for construction materials
9) Building construction approvals
10) Civil aviation
11) Energy
12) Hotel and Tourism
13) Migration
14) Exchange rates

An Annual Trade report is produced yearly, with analysis at the five digit level. In addition there are two new publications, a pocket sized Vanuatu Facts and Figures glossy leaflet, and a Vanuatu Year Book which is about to be printed.

## 4. ESCAP RESOLUTION 246 (XLII)

The Statistics Office in Vanuatu, welcomed resolution 246. However strengthening the Statistics Office has proved difficult in the face of staff shortages and budgetary reductions. 1986 and 1987 have been a time of severe budgetary crisis for the Vanuatu Government. Many of the new developments in the Statistics Office have been totally aid-funded in the last five years, and this funding has included senior personnel. Neverthless there has been progress. The remainder of this paper outlines some of the small steps which have been taken to implement this resolution, taking each recommendation in paragraph 1 in turn.

a) The Statistics Office is located within the National Planning and Statistics Office, so has been able to work closely with the planners in the National Planning process. The Urban Census is a good example of close co-operation with those planning, implementing and monitoring economic and social development. It was carried out in order to provide information to feed into the Second National Development Plan. Likewise the 1989 Census is being timed to provide data for the Third National Plan for Vanuatu.

b) Information users will determine the priorities in the National Census, by means of a Steering Committee. A sub-committee of members, drawn from many Government Departments and other organisations expected to use the data will determine priorities for the inclusion in the National Census.

c) Training in a small statistical office is difficult, particularly where staff resources are limited. Training is given a high priority and currently two staff members are studying overseas. This November Vanuatu hosted the S.P.C Fourth Sub-Regional Training Course in Overseas Trade Statistics. The two members of who staff attended this gained greatly from the course and learned from the experiences of others in Pacific Statistics Offices. Training in the last two years has included : -

- An Assistant Statistician, currently taking a degree course in economics at USP, Fiji.
- Two Statistics Clerks took diplomas in applied statistics and data processing at USP, Fiji.
- One student at UPNG studying demography.
- Statistics clerk at US Bureau of Economic Analysis taking a one year course in national accouts, another Clerk is expected to attend the same course in January.

All staff have attended computer familiarization courses, and most have also attended in country courses on specific pieces of software.

d) Wherever possible Vanuatu utilizes guidelines and standards, however some of the capability building programmes require

resource commitments beyond what is possible in Vanuatu.

e) The statistical infrastructure has been improved dramatically since 1985, by the development of data and word processing facilities. There are now 60 microcomputers in use in the Public Service. The Statistics Office has five Apricot and 1 Apple microcomputer, plus two dedicated word processors ; a NCR Mainframe computer and one Spectrum minicomputer. All staff make full use of this equipment. The main problem in Vanuatu is maintenance and repair of equipment provided under aid.

f) In a small country formal communication mechanisms for data users are often not necessary. However in the case of the Census a Steering Committee to determine priority and establish the needs of users has been set up as a first stage in the census programme.

Whilst Vanuatu has received a great deal of help from the United Nations and its specialised agencies, sometimes it is difficult for that support to provided at the required time. Workloads of support staff are heavy, and occasionaly small countries must wait for technical assistance to be provided for projects.

Vanuatu Statistics Office is small, major projects are often difficult to resource, and the reliance on expatriate senior staff has meant a loss of continuity, particularly when aid funded posts remain vacant for long periods of time. The Resolution 246, whilst very valuable is sometimes forgotten in the struggle to maintain existing statistical series in the face of constantly changing staff.

The future must look towards ni-Vanuatu men and women to take up these senior positions, the training and guidance to local staff provided by The United Nations, its specialised agencies and other aid giving organisations must take highest priority in Vanuatu. The main project facing the Statistics Office is the 1989 Census, which will create new opportunities for training local staff and will update much of the social data available to the Statistics Office. The ESCAP Adviser on Censuses and Surveys has already prepared a strategy paper for the Census, and a funding proposal is currently being written. It is intended to use the services of both ESCAP and SPC in the preparation for the Census and the analysis of the results.

# Ⅲ. 會議結果 報告文

FOR PARTICIPANTS ONLY

30 November 1987

ORIGINAL : ENGLISH

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Committee on Statistics
Seventh Session
24-30 November 1987
Bangkok

# DRAFT REPORT

# OF THE COMMITTEE ON STATISTICS

# ON ITS SEVENTH SESSION

# I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

1. The seventh session of the Committee on Statistics, organized by the secretariat of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), was held at Bangkok from 24 to 30 November 1987.

2. The session was attended by representatives of the following members and associate members: Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, China, Democratic Kampuchea, France, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Cook Islands and Hong Kong. By virtue of rule 3 of the Commission's rules of procedure, observers from the Federal Republic of Germany were also present.

3. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies attended: United Nations Statistical Office, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations UNDP Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin and Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP). The International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) were represented. The South Pacific Commission (SPC), the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) and the Munich Centre for Advanced Training in Applied Statistics for Developing Countries were also represented.

4. The session was inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Chaisiri Ruangkanchanaset, Minister to the Prime Minister's Office, Royal Thai Government. In welcoming participants to Thailand, he noted that 1987 marked the sixtieth birthday of His

Majesty the King, as well as "Visit Thailand Year". Thailand had continuously supported the role of the United Nations and ESCAP in all sectors, including statistics. Within Thailand's decentralized statistical system, the National Statistical Office had been strengthening its statistical development and survey capability so as to provide the Government with reliable and up-to-date survey information to help tackle problems such as poverty and unemployment.

5. The Minister indicated that Thailand had benefitted substantially from technical assistance provided by ESCAP and SIAP in the form of regional advisory services and statistical training, as well as from the statistical and methodological publications produced by the secretariat. He also noted that the technical meetings organized by ESCAP provided excellent opportunities for member countries to exchange experiences. He therefore hoped that those and similar ESCAP activities would be maintained. In declaring the meeting open, the Minister wished participants a successful session and a pleasant stay in Bangkok.

6. In his opening statement to the Committee, the Executive Secretary of ESCAP welcomed the very high participation of member and associate member countries in the session. Such participation had been a regular feature of the Committee and demonstrated the importance that governments attached to statistics and government computerization. The Executive Secretary paid tribute to the distinguished contribution that the Committee on Statistics and its predecessor bodies had made to the development of statistics in the Asia-Pacific region, through 22 meetings held over the past 36 years.

7. He noted that the increasing interdependence of nations posed new challenges to statisticians, placing greater emphasis on international comparability of data. At the country level, there were growing needs for complex and disaggregated statistical information which continued to meet the criteria of reliability and timeliness. Those factors had been mentioned in Commission

resolution 246 (XLII) on statistical services in Asia and the Pacific, adopted by the Commission in 1986; the Executive Secretary sought the Committee's assistance in reporting on the implementation of the resolution.

8. The Executive Secretary touched upon several other matters on which he hoped the Committee would give guidance to the secretariat. Those included the development of human resources in the field of statistics, particularly in relation to computer applications and in connection with SIAP's training activities; the review and development of national accounts; statistics on services; and the 1990 round of population and housing censuses. Further, the Executive Secretary observed that dwindling financial resources were affecting statistical work. In the national context, the concept of net financing meant among other things that statistical agencies had to concentrate on delivering saleable products to users. Within the United Nations system, financial constraints had caused the ESCAP Commission to reduce the member of legislative committees from nine to seven, with possible implications for the future functioning of the Committee on Statistics. He noted that this matter was scheduled for consideration by the Committee.

9. In recalling that the Committee was meeting for the first time under revised terms of reference which included review and evaluation of secretariat activities in the area of government computerization, the Executive Secretary noted that the effective use of modern information technology was critical for accelerating development. There was a need for ESCAP to establish communications with relevant national focal points responsible for computerization developments in the government sector. The Committee should also advise on the role of national statistical agencies in applying information technology to statistical and other government activities.

10. The Executive Secretary hoped that the Committee's discussions on those

and other agenda items would be appropriately reflected in the secretariat's work programme for the 1988-1989 biennium and beyond. He expressed confidence that, in line with its distinguished history, the Committee would respond effectively to the formidable challenges that lay ahead. Finally, he thanked the various donor countries and agencies for their assistance to ESCAP's statistical work, and urged their continued support.

11. The Committee elected Mr. Azwar Rasjid (Indonesia) Chairman of the session. Mr. Andrew Turua (Cook Islands) and Mr. P. Venugopal (Malaysia) were elected first and second Vice-Chairman, respectively, and Mr. W. McLennan (Australia), Rapporteur.

12. The Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session.

2. Election of officers.

3. Adoption of the agenda.

4. Review of statistical activities in the region:

(a) Secretariat activities, including the report of the Working Group of Statistical Experts;

(b) National activities, covering also the implementation of the resolution on statistical services in Asia and the Pacific;

(c) Activities of other international organizations;

(d) Matters arising from the South Pacific Commission's Seventh Regional Conference of Statisticians;

(e) Matters arising from the twenty-fourth session of the

Statistical Commission.

5. Development of national statistical capabilities:

(a) National Household Survey Capability Programme;

(b) Relationship between statistical producers and users;

(c) Data processing;

(d) Statistical training and education.

6. Development of economic statistics:

(a) Review and development of national accounts;

(b) International Comparison Project phase V activities;

(c) Progress and issues in energy statistics.

7. Development of demographic and social statistics:

(a) Civil registration and vital statistics;

(b) 1990 World Population and Housing Census Programme;

(c) Social statistics and indicators: progress and issues.

8. Government information systems.

9. Programme of work and priorities of the secretariat, 1988-1989, and consideration of the medium-term plan, 1990-1995, in statistics.

10. Other matters.

11. Adoption of the report.

13. The Committee decided to establish an informal working group, to meet

concurrently with the plenary, to discuss agenda item 8 on government information systems. It subsequently set up a second informal group to assess the functioning of the Committee, with particular reference to the effects of proposed changes in the ESCAP conference structure. Both working groups reported back to the plenary and the results of their discussions are incorporated in sections VII and IX, respectively, of the Committee's report.

14. A list of documents submitted to the Committee is given in annex I of the report.

15. Participants expressed their warm gratitude to the Secretary-General and staff of the National Statistical Office of the Royal Thai Government for the generous hospitality displayed during their stay in Bangkok.

16. Conidolenic to HIC. Rep.

## II. REVIEW OF STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION

### A. SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING THE REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP OF STATISTICAL EXPERTS

17. The Committee had before it two documents: E/ESCAP/STAT.7/1, describing the secretariat's activities in the field of statistics since the sixth session of the Committee, and E/ESCAP/STAT.7/2, the report of the Working Group of Statistical Experts on its fifth session. The Committee commended the secretariat for the activities, including methodological studies, it had undertaken. Its efforts towards enhancing the general statistical capabilities of the countries of the region were greatly appreciated.

18. The Committee commended the statistical publications programme of the secretariat, including the efforts made to improve the quality and timeliness of the output. In view of the budgetary constraints affecting the Organization, the measures suggested for consolidating statistical publications and avoiding duplication by amalgamating others were in the right direction. The Committee also observed that periodic reviews of statistical publications were necessary in order to improve their quality and usefulness, and suggested that the secretariat might attempt to survey purchasers of its publications. With regard to improving the timeliness of the publications it recognized that the co-operation of national statistical offices was vital, since the secretariat depended on member countries as data sources. To reduce the time-lag in disseminating statistics, generally inherent in printed publications, the secretariat might consider utilizing other media such as magnetic tapes, floppy discs, microfiches etc.

19. The Committee noted with interest that preliminary activities towards the setting up of an ESCAP-wide integrated data bank had been initiated by the secretariat. An interdivisional task force had been established through the initiative of the Statistics Division. Initial activities would involve networking the

existing statistical data sets held by different units of the secretariat, and eventually moving towards a centralized data bank holding consistent information. A progress report on the secretariat's data bank would be submitted to the next session of the Working Group of Statistical Experts in 1988.

20. With regard to ESCAP statistical activities in the Pacific, the Committee noted, following an analysis of the detailed information provided in the Annex of E/ESCAP/STAT.7/1, that while the regional advisory services from Bangkok and EPOC, Vanuatu played an important role, the share of technical meetings organized for the Pacific island countries remained very low. Also, a very few Pacific countries participated in ESCAP technical meetings and training courses which were organized in the Asian subregion. It recommended that further attention be paid to increase the participation of the Pacific island countries in ESCAP statistical activities and that more meetings and courses be organized for the Pacific subregion. It further recommended that the post of EPOC adviser in statistics be filled as soon as possible; that advisory service played an important role in the statistical development in the Pacific.

21. The Committee appreciated the highly useful role played by the regional advisers in promoting statistical capability building among countries. It noted that regional advisers were more cost-effective than resident advisers and thus were preferred by donor agencies and countries. Regional advisory services were needed in additional areas such as national accounts, social statistics, sampling and cartography.

## B. NATIONAL ACTIVITIES; COVERING ALSO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTION ON STATISTICAL SERVICES IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC;

## C. ACTIVITIES OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

22. Full descriptions of country activities are available in the country papers

presented to the Committee (see Annex I). However, through short statements, the participating countries presented salient features of statistical activities undertaken since the sixth session of the Committee. The reported activities covered a wide range of statistics, many of which had been obtained through a significant increase in the use of sample surveys. Participants highlighted recent notable achievements of their national statistical services, described some of the problems currently being faced, commented on the implementation of ESCAP resolution 246(XLII), and identified areas requiring further development. The international organizations represented also described their principal activities in the field of statistics. The Committee took note of the methodological, technical assistance and training activities envisaged, which could form useful inputs into the work of the secretariat and countries of the region.

23. Several countries reported that as part of their efforts to improve statistical services, they had undertaken activities such as review and reorganization of national statistical systems, streamlining of procedures, and strengthening of co-ordination mechanisms. The Committee noted that some countries had expanded their statistical organizations through the establishment of offices at subnational levels, particularly for data collection and data entry.

24. The Committee observed with satisfaction that overall there had been significant improvement in the provision of timely data to users. That had been achieved through the streamlining of data collection activity, the use of sampling and the utilization of modern printing and computer technology. Another noteworthy development was the emphasis on human resources development in statistics through training. Several countries reported that they had organized in-house training for new recruits and junior staff, as well as for specific purposes such as introducing microcomputer and software package applications. For the training of senior-level staff, however, overseas training facilities were usually utilized. The Committee noted that the courses offered by the Statistical

Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) and the NHSCP-related training courses at New Delhi were playing important roles in training statistical personnel in the region. The Committee also noted that there was an increase in short-term and on-the-job training provided by some developing countries in the spirit of TCDC, while a number of countries had benefited from training facilities offered by developed countries through bilateral and multilateral arrangements.

25. Other significant developments were the upgrading and expansion of computer facilities in the national statistical organizations of the region and the establishment of computerized data bases. In particular, there had been a tremendous increase in the use of microcomputers; they have been used in conjunction with mainframe computers but also to decentralize statistical activities, to control statistical operations for data entry and validation, and for other housekeeping tasks. There was growing use of statistical and general purpose software packages and of high-level (fourth generation) programming languages.

26. A number of countries reported that the use of computers had helped to improve productivity and reduce costs in statistical offices. Computerization has aided the production of timely, high-quality statistics, has enabled more detailed analysis of the basic data to be undertaken, and has encouraged the dissemination of data through videotext systems and on microcomputer diskettes. The growing use of the new technology also has organizational, staffing and managerial implications. The need for computer-oriented training, both at the user, technical management levels, was stressed, and the role donor countries and international organizations were playing in meeting some of the training needs was appreciated.

27. Many countries reported that they had benefited significantly from the regional advisory services in statistics offered by the ESCAP secretariat, and

strongly urged that those services should be maintained and expanded into other areas of statistics. The Committee also noted with appreciation that countries derived definite benefits through participation in technical seminars and workshops organized by the secretariat.

28. The Committee noted that budgetary constraints had compelled national statistical organizations to increase their productivity to meet the continually growing demand for statistical information. It heard with interest the experiences of countries who had been able to meet that challenge through the adoption of innovative procedures. It noted that some developed countries had implemented the concept of net financing where some national statistical agencies were expected to recover part of their costs by charging the users for statistics. The Committee was informed of several problems countries had faced in the implementation of net financing, such as resistance from public and private users. However, on the positive side of things several countries noted that change reinforced the need to provide more attractive products.

29. While notable progress was reported by several countries, many countries in the region were experiencing difficulties in their efforts to provide efficient statistical services. Some of the problems were linked to the topography of the countries and to insufficient infrastructural developments, particularly in communication and transportation. Apart from those problems, several developing countries mentioned the lack of training facilities and opportunities for statistical personnel. Further, insufficient computer equipment, a lack of trained computer personnel, and unavailability of relevant software had impeded statistical development in some instances.

30. While commenting on Resolution 246(XLII), several countries reported that the Resolution had been helpful in the improvement and strengthening of their statistical services. The Committee noted that in the light of the Resolution,

there was a greater emphasis in the region on strengthening statistical services, on human resources development in statistics, on improvement of statistical infrastructure, on enhancement of the contents and frequency of surveys to meet increasing demands for statistical information, on better interaction between the users and producers of statistics, on the upgrading of the skill of statistical personnel, and on adhering to international concepts, definitions, standards and classifications. Some developed countries reported that in response to the Resolution, they had increased their assistance in the field of statistics to developing countries in the ESCAP region. The Committee noted however that budgetary constraints in some of the statistically less developed countries of the region were hampering implementation of some of the recommendations of the Resolution.

## D. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION'S SEVENTH REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATISTICIANS

31. The Committee considered document E/ESCAP/STAT.7/3 containing the main recommendations of the South Pacific Commission's Seventh Regional Conference of Statisticians. The full report was also available to the Committee. The Committee generally endorsed the action being taken on the recommendations by the SPC, and noted in particular the assistance being given in connection with the introduction of the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System.

32. The Committee also felt that while administrative records were potentially important sources of data on individuals in the Pacific, SPC's recommended involvement in the development of household survey capabilities was also appropriate.

## E. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE STATISTICAL COMMISSION

33. The Committee considered document E/ESCAP/STAT.7/4 which summarized, for the benefit of the region's statisticians, the principal suggestions and recommendations of the twenty-fourth session of the United Nations Statistical Commission held early in 1987. Those suggestions and recommendations related to various topics such as national accounts and balances, international economic classifications, population and housing censuses, social statistics and indicators, development indicators, the International Comparison Project, and statistics relating to industrial activities, energy, and the environment. The Committee noted and agreed with the views of the Commission concerning communications between national and international statistical agencies, development of data bases, and special problems in the statistically least developed among the developing countries. It also welcomed the attempts being made to assess the effectiveness of technical co-operation in statistics and to devise indicators of national statistical capability.

34. The Committee was particularly gratified to note that the Statistical Commission had commended the format of the work programme documents evolved by the ESCAP secretariat under the guidance of the Committee. Those documents contained detailed information on the outputs delivered and the resources utilized, at the programme element level, thereby assisting the Committee to assess the effectiveness of the secretariat's activities. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the United Nations Statistical Office had been requested to follow the ESCAP secretariat format in future.

35. The Committee also noted that, as required by the Economic and Social Council, the Statistical Commission had reviewed its terms of reference, the mode of its deliberations, its effectiveness in the use of resources, and its relationship

with the United Nations Statistical Office and with the statistics divisions of the regional commissions. The Commission had concluded that it was performing an invaluable service to the United Nations and its member states in an over-all cost-effective way and thus required no essential changes. The Committee welcomed the Commission's observation that some decentralization of its work, especially in connection with the development of methodologies and international statistical standards through working groups convened by Esckp commission might be effected.

36. Since the Statistical Commission had undertaken a review of its own role and functions, the Committee felt that it should do the same during the current session. Such a review appeared imperative in any event, in view of the ESCAP Commission's resolution 262 (XLIII) to reduce ESCAP's nine legislative committees to seven, and the current proposal, which had arisen due to financial constraints, to merge the Committee on Statistics with the Committee on Development Planning.

## III. DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL STATISTICAL CAPABILITIES

### A. NATIONAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY CAPABILITY PROGRAMME (NHSCP) - PROGRESS AND ISSUES.

37. The Committee considered document E/ESCAP/STAT.7/6 which discussed the progress of NHSCP in the region, the global evaluation of the Programme, NHSCP and the Pacific and the NHSCP-related training programme in India.

38. The Committee noted that seven countries in the region were currently participating in NHSCP and three others were at various stages of programme development. Some delegations from countries participating in the NHSCP gave an account of the survey activities undertaken and planned. It was mentioned that the Programme helped to build up not only the skills of national statisticians but also their confidence in undertaking large-scale surveys. Other delegations gave an account of the important role played by household surveys in their countries and the training facilities available there.

39. The Committee heard a detailed account of the interim global evaluation of the NHSCP, project achievements, problems experienced and the proposed plan of operations for 1987-1991. The various methodological publications issued under the Programme were mentioned and details were provided about other publications and technical studies in progress or planned. The Committee supported the proposals of ESCAP to seek extrabudgetary resources, for example, for technical meetings and additional regional advisers, for more effective implementation of NHSCP and NHSCP-related activities in the region.

40. The Committee noted that a programme of continuing integrated household surveys, as envisaged in NHSCP, had not been found viable for the smaller island countries in the Pacific. It was suggested that the type of survey programme suitable for such countries deserved more detailed examination. The Committee

supported the early reinstatement of the post of adviser in statistics at EPOC and the creation of a second post of an adviser in data processing there to assist Pacific island countries.

41. Several countries reported that they had benefitted from the NHSCP-related training programme in New Delhi, which contained a substantial TCDC element, and thanked the Government of India and UNDP for their support of the courses. It was pointed out that the most recent course on electronic data processing covered the use of software packages on both mainframe and microcomputers. The Committee strongly supported the extension of the project beyond 1987 and felt that the courses should continue to provide for attendance of countries participating in NHSCP.

## B. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN STATISTICAL PRODUCERS AND USERS

42. The Committee considered the topic on the basis of the relevant part of secretariat document E/ESCAP/STAT.7/5, and on the following papers invited from countries:

"Mechanisms for dialogue between producers and users of statistics in the Philippine statistical system" (STAT.7/CRP.1);

"The relationship of statistical producers and users" (STAT.7/CRP.2) prepared by the New Zealand Department of Statistics;

"Relationship between statistical producers and users in the Islamic Republic of Iran" (STAT.7/CRP.6)

"Relationship between statistical producers and users in the Republic of Korea" (STAT.7/CRP.8).

43. The secretariat paper pointed out that because of past tendencies for statistical offices to be somewhat introspective in their approach, or through haphazard growth of statistical activities over the years, the data produced by national statistical agencies were sometimes not sufficiently linked to the requirements of users. Frequent discussion between producers and users of statistics, generating a greater awareness of needs and limitations on both sides, was necessary to achieve an effective national statistical services. The Committee concurred with the secretariat's view that while such a dialogue could be promoted and encouraged in the regional context, it could be implemented effectively only at the national level.

44. The invited country papers described various mechanisms for promoting interaction between producers and users of statistics. Those included national statistical conferences, interagency advisory committees to review statistics in various fields, subnational development councils, consultative panel meetings, special reviews for large operations like censuses, and a wide range of less formal means. Other participants described similar bodies in their countries. The Committee observed that national statistical advisory or co-ordinating boards, or committees to review national statistical systems, inevitably had strong user representation. Statistical offices in some countries had also forged strong links with professional statistical associations.

45. The Committee agreed that effective, continuing user/producer interaction was essential for maintaining the relevance of statistical products and for ensuring their maximum utilization. Well-articulated definitions, concepts, classifications and standards which took into account the needs of users helped the process of communication. The Committee also recognized the importance of satisfying the needs of major users, generally other government departments, on a priority basis. It acknowledged that introduction of a charging policy was bound to affect user/producer relationships, and underscored the balance to be

struck between the cost of acquiring the statistics and their value to the user.

## C. DATA PROCESSING

46. The Committee considered the relevant portion of document E/ESCAP/STAT.7/5, and the following invited papers:

"Data processing - Australian statement" (STAT.7/CRP.3)

"Data processing in the Republic of Korea" (STAT.7/CRP.4)

"Evaluation and selection of computer software for statistical use - experiences of the Cook Islands Statistical Office: (STAT.7/CRP.7)

"Computerised and Manual Data Processing" (STAT.7/CRP.9), provided by the Department of Census and Statistics, Sri Lanka.

Some common themes emerged from those papers. The Committee noted the pivotal role of data processing in the timely capture and preparation of data, and the growing importance of microcomputers and packaged software in national statistical offices.

47. Sound long-term planning was urgent to ensure that new technologies could be properly integrated into statistical development. The process of change was one of continuous evolution bringing with it the need to establish proper mechanisms to review and evaluate statistical hardware and software and data processing training requirements. The data processing environment had changed significantly in recent years, particularly as a result of the development of microcomputers and software packages for statistical applications. Rational decision were needed in the selection of machines and software, in the introduction of other technology, and in determining the optimal distribution of data processing facilities throughout each country.

48. Demand for well-trained and experienced data processing staff was high throughout the region. The growth in use of computers by statisticians had added to the need for training and the need to ensure that dialogue between technical and subject-matter personnel was ongoing. Training of computing staff was crucial, although due to relatively poor pay in the public sector staff turnover was high; the training facilities in some national statistical offices seemed to serve as nurseries to the private sector.

49. The choices confronting countries in selecting or developing software were wide, which had led to the use of a bewildering array and diversity of non-uniform software packages, sometimes for similar applications in area such as editing and validation. Generalized software packages were not always appropriate and often were not designed to permit easy modification. The dependence on packages did not always encourage change. There was a need for the development of more portable and flexible modules that could be adapted readily to meet special needs of countries. The Committee felt that the secretariat could play a major role as broker in encouraging the development of portable software and in improving mechanisms for software sharing.

50. To a large extent decisions made by statistical offices were dictated by the strategies of computer manufacturers. National statisticians and top management of statistical offices seldom had technical backgrounds in data processing. Data processing managers were usually overly enthusiastic in their support for development and upgrading of data processing facilities. Much of the software was tied to specific systems and thus locked statistical offices into the development programmes of large corporations. As a consequence of that loss of control, there was a widespread tendency to understate the cost of introducing new technology or updating facilities, most often associated with late delivery. There was an urgent need therefore for better guidance by qualified personnel, to determine what was most significant for statisticians in computing

developments, and in deciding how fast national statistical offices should move in responding to possibilities offered by new technologies.

## D. STATISTICAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

51. The Committee had before it document E/ESCAP/STAT.7/7, prepared by the Project Manager/Director of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), and secretariat paper E/ESCAP/STAT.7/8 which contained the findings and suggestions of the ESCAP/SIAP Expert Group Meeting on Statistical Education and Training, held at Bangkok in May 1987.

52. As regards SIAP, the Committee was pleased to note that the Institute had been able to serve many training needs of countries in the region. Country courses in particular were a cost-effective training method. The Committee observed with satisfaction that SIAP's training course structures were well-balanced and that its activities since the last session of the Committee had reached many more countries and trainees than had been possible in previous phases of the Institute. The Committee hoped that difficulties preventing the participation of one country in some of the core statistical programmes would be removed in the future. It also observed that the number of training participants from most countries including the island developing countries of the Pacific had increased significantly, thereby indicating the increased interest and need in these countries for statistical manpower training.

53. The Committee noted the technical difficulties met by the Institute in regard to its audio-video production activities, but nevertheless encouraged SIAP to pursue its efforts in that regard. It welcomed the collaborative activities of the Institute in organizing subregional courses jointly with the South Pacific Commission and in convening an expert group meeting and a workshop jointly

with the Statistics Division of ESCAP, thereby contributing greatly to the building up of statistical capability among the countries of the region.

54. The Committee welcomed the invaluable guidance of SIAP's Advisory Council on the training programmes and activities for the rest of the fourth phase and the continuing efforts to review the objectives and purpose of the Institute to ensure that they met the widely varying needs among countries for statistical training. It noted that the Advisory Council had endorsed the programmes and activities planned for the rest of the fourth phase of the Institute which were presented in summary form in the annex to E/ESCAP/STAT.7/6.

55. The Committee expressed appreciation to the donor countries for providing the necessary support for SIAP. It was especially appreciative of the contribution of the host Government of Japan in providing cash and in-kind contributions. It was also grateful for the offer of short-term lecturers to SIAP's training programmes from France and India and from such traditional donor countries as the United Kingdom and Australia. In thanking the Netherlands for its substantial programme support over the years, the Committee noted with regret that such support was now terminating owing to policy shifts in technical assistance priorities. The Committee deeply appreciated UNDP's recent approval of $US2,000,000 for programme support to SIAP during the fourth intercountry programme cycle (1987-1991).

56. As the Project Manager/Director was retiring at the end of 1987, the Committee expressed its deep appreciation of his contribution to the Institute and wished him happiness and continued good health in his retirement.

57. The Committee generally endorsed the recommendations of the expert group meeting on statistical education and training. It noted the heterogeneity of countries in the region in terms of statistical development and educational facilities, which affected statistical training needs. It further noted that those

needs would increase over the years and that regular reassessments would be required.

58. The Committee observed that academic institutions in countries of the region were producing large numbers of graduates well versed in statistical theory but lacking practical knowledge in statistics. It therefore noted with satisfaction that official statistics had been introduced in the curricula of graduate and post-graduate courses in statistics in some countries of the region. Regular interaction between academics and statistical practitioners was also recommended to reduce the gap between theory and application in statistics.

59. The Committee noted that most national statistical offices in the region organized in-house training activities for their statistical personnel. Many offices lacked adequate training materials, however, and it was therefore suggested that training materials developed nationally or by international training institutions such as SIAP should be disseminated for country use.

## IV. DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS

### A. REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL ACCOUNTS

60. The Committee considered document E/ESCAP/STAT.7/9, a summary of the report of the Seminar on Review and Development of National Accounts, held at Bangkok in July 1986. It thanked the Government of Japan for providing financial support to the Seminar. The Committee generally endorsed the report of the meeting and supported the recommendations made by the Seminar.

61. The Committee acknowledged the role of national accounts statistics and input-output tables for planning and policy formulation. It noted that while the revision of the current (1968) System of National Accounts (SNA) was underway, work on the System of Balances of the National Economy (MPS) was also being carried out, and in particular an expert group meeting on SNA/MPS links had been scheduled within the work programme of the SNA revision. The Committee noted that there had been considerable progress in the compilation of national accounts and input-output tables in the region and that such progress had been achieved through both financial and technical assistance provided by bilateral and multilateral donors and training institutions. It suggested that training courses on SNA should be held on a regional or subregional basis. It urged that another workshop on the compilation of input-output tables should be held.

62. The Committee strongly reiterated the Seminar's recommendation to reinstate the post of the ESCAP regional adviser on national accounts. It noted that the compilation of national accounts remained a weak area in many national statistical services and that the services of an adviser were essential, especially at a time when the 1968 SNA was being revised. It further noted that in view of the importance of input-output tables, their compilation should be included within the scope of the proposed advisory services.

63. The Committee endorsed the recommendations of the Seminar regarding the work relating to the revision of SNA. It reaffirmed that drastic changes in the 1990 SNA revision should be avoided, so that continuity of national accounts data series could be maintained, as agreed to by the twenty-fourth session of the Statistical Commission. In particular the Committee endorsed the recommendation to convene one or more further regional meetings before 1990 to review the progress of the SNA revision. The Committee urged the secretariat to actively seek financial support for further technical assistance activities in national accounts.

## B. INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON PROJECT PHASE V ACTIVITIES

64. The Committee considered document E/ESCAP/STAT.7/10, a progress report on Phase V of the International Comparison Project (ICP) in the ESCAP region, which summarized the report of the ESCAP/SIAP Workshop on the ICP Phase V Activities held in Bangkok in September/October 1986. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the United Nations Development Programme for providing financial support for the meeting, and to the Government of Japan for producing the basic document used for that Workshop. It generally endorsed the report and the recommendations of the meeting.

65. The Committee was informed that in pursuance of those recommendations, the ESCAP secretariat organized a follow-up workshop at Bangkok in October 1987, to review the preliminary results of the Phase V ICP project for the region. It thanked the Asian Development Bank and UNDP for providing financial support for that workshop. The Committee welcomed the progress made, and noted in particular that a report on the ESCAP regional comparison would be available towards the end of 1988.

66. In discussing Phase VI of the ICP, which would henceforth be known as International Comparison Programme, the Committee urged the ESCAP secretariat to continue its co-ordinating role. It recommended that preparatory work, including a regional workshop, should be commenced as soon as possible so that the list of specifications for data collection could be finalized in order to give countries sufficient time to plan their data collection activities for the reference year of 1990. The Committee noted also that ICP participating countries were facing both technical problems and budget constraints in collecting data on producer durables, which were generally not included in regular national price data collection lists.

## C. PROGRESS AND ISSUES IN ENERGY STATISTICS

67. The Committee considered document E/ESCAP/STAT.7/11 on the progress being achieved and the issues arising in the field of energy statistics, as identified from the delivery of advisory services as part of the UNDP-funded Regional Energy Development Programme (REDP). Because energy matters tended not to be confined to one ministry, particular emphasis was placed on the need for a sound infrastructure for the collection and dissemination of energy statistics. In addition training needs on energy statistics were stressed; hope was expressed that such needs could be met under different programme elements of REDP between 1988 and 1991. The Committee was informed of various areas in which central statistical organizations could take an active role, even when they were not responsible for the collection of the majority of energy statistics.

68. The Committee heard with interest the progress which had been made in energy statistics by various countries since the last session of the Committee on Statistics. It expressed appreciation for the work of the regional adviser and endorsed the continuing need for assistance in that field.

## V. DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIAL STATISTICS

### A. CIVIL REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS;

### B. 1990 WORLD POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS PROGRAMME

69. Two papers, "Population and Housing Censuses and Other Sources of Demographic Data" (E/ESCAP/STAT.7/12) and "Revision to the Asian and Pacific Recommendations for the 1980 Population and Housing Censuses" (E/ESCAP/STAT.7/13) were considered under the agenda items.

70. The Committee endorsed the recommendations of the Asian Seminar on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics convened in December 1985. It noted that civil registration coverage was still poor in many countries in the region and that as a result many countries were developing sample registration systems or multi-round surveys to obtain vital statistics estimates. The Committee noted that in one country, where such a system had been established for a long period, further expansion of scope and geographic coverage was being considered.

71. The Committee also endorsed the recommendations of the two working groups on the 1990 World Population and Housing Census Programme, which were felt to be very useful in preparing strategies for the next census. Among those recommendations, the use of sampling with population censuses was highlighted, and several countries indicated their intention to make greater use of sampling in the future. Some topics, such as mortality and fertility, were often difficult to measure accurately from full enumeration, but based on experience among ESCAP member countries, it was suggested that on occasions better data could be collected if sampling were used.

72. In considering the need to revise the Asian and Pacific Recommendations for the 1980 Population and Housing Censuses (APR) to take account of developments in the past decade, the Committee noted that both sub-reginoal

Working Groups had acknowledged its usefulness and had agreed that the basic document remained valid for the 1990 census round. Although some differences existed in the Working Groups' recommendations on the revision to the APR, the Committee felt that they were not sufficiently significant to justify the production of two subregional versions. Even if important subregional differences were to emerge, such as from any special recommendations arising from the proposed SPC/ESCAP expert group on the Pacific census programme, specific and clear references to variations could be made in the revised APR.

73. The Committee acknowledged the usefulness of assembling and distributing edited country papers, prepared for the ESCAP meetings, as official publications. Many countries had found the publication Status of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific of value and the Committee hoped that a similar publication would result from the Working Groups on the 1990 World Population and Housing Census Programme.

74. The Committee noted with appreciation that the regional advisory service in censuses and surveys had covered almost all developing Asian & Pacific countries over the past few years. In view of the likelihood that demand would grow further, it welcomed the probable addition of a third adviser to the demographic statistics advisory team. It nonetheless felt that technical assistance in other specialized areas such as migration and cartography would also be required. The topics covered in the programme of technical meetings proposed for the next four years were felt to be of high relevance to the demographic statistics programme. While recognizing both internal and external problems with scheduling, the Committee expressed some reservations over the proposed timing of the meetings, especially in regard to the workshop on computer assisted coding, which could be too late for countries holding censuses in 1990 or 1991.

75. The Committee acknowledged that with advances in computer technologies

and data base management, population statistics might be improved in the future through existing the establishment

through existing DB Idividual the establishment of registers of individuals. Many countries cautioned, however, that the attempt to establish such registers could lead to adverse public reaction. People were often very sensitive to the risks of misuse of official information and there were many instances of mistust of government claims of confidentiality.

## C. SOCIAL STATISTICS AND INDICATORS: PROGRESS AND ISSUES

76. The Commission considered the item on the basis of a note by the secretariat entitled "Social Statistics and Indicators: Progress and Issues" (E/ESCAP/STAT.7/14). The Committee noted that the demand for statistical information on social issues and concerns had increased considerably. It further noted that despite the recent growth in interest in social statistics and indicators and general improvement in the range of such statistics available, many user needs had remained unmet. Even where data were available for various sectors of social concern, the optimum utilization of the information was often hampered because of inadequate user-producer interaction, difficult access to data, and unavailability of data in the form and format required by the users.

77. The Committee emphasized that countries should pay increased attention to the development of relevant and useful social statistics and indicators. One important reason was the growing interest at the international level for monitoring progress in various social programmes, especially those supported through development assistance. There was also a need for both users and producers of statistics, to understand clearly the concepts and phenomena which a particular set of social indicators measured. The Committee heard with interest that in 1987 the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics had organized a seminar for developing African countries on social statistics and indicators, and would be willing to consider holding a similar meeting for Asian and Pacific countries in 1988 or 1989.

## VI. GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS

78 The Committee had before it documents E/ESCAP/STAT.7/15 and E/ESCAP/STAT.7/15/Add.1 together with the "Report of the meeting of the informal consultation on government computerization" (STAT.7/CRP 10) prepared by the informal working group established by the Committee (reference para 13 above), which met under the chairmanship of Mr P. Venugopal. Representatives from China, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philipines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Kingdom, Viet Nam and the United Nations Statistical Office had attended the meeting and Mr. C. Greenfield of Hong Kong had prepared the report on its discussions.

79. In discussing document E/ESCAP/STAT.7/15, the Group had accepted that it was a useful practical measure to classify countries in the region as regards their level of computerization as advanced developing, intermediate-level, least developed or developing Pacific island countries. The Group had noted that secretariat missions to various countries in connection with the formulation of an ESCAP/UNDP project on improved government information systems had confirmed that the fundamental problems of computerization in the region were mostly institutional, organizational and human-resource-related, rather than just technical. Presentations by participants in the working group had served to illustrate the issues identified by the secretariat.

80. The Group had recognized that for the potential advantages of information technology to be fully realized, the interlinking of computer systems would be necessary. That implied the development of common definitions and standards, and hence consistency, in which government statistical offices had extensive experience. The Group had thus noted that there was a clear role for the statistics profession, although ultimately information technology had to stand alone as a separate discipline.

81 In considering the planned ESCAP activities in the area of government-sector computerization, the Group had felt that the proposed ESCAP/UNDP project on improved government information systems addressed a central and critical need in the region, and filled a definite gap left by other assistance programmes. The Committee, however, noted that the proposed project, for which UNDP had notionally allocated a sum of US$2.8 million, was currently the subject of intensive study at UNDP. Major revisions were considered necessary, including a bifurcation into two separate projects for the Pacific and Asian regions. The interest of governments would be noted and the activities of the project would be undertaken in tandem with the work of the secretariat. In general, the Committee cautioned that the secretariat's activities on government computerization should remain flexible and not be over ambitious.

82. The Group had found that the descriptions of the projects, and subsequently their detailed consideration, would benefit from restructuring so that they showed more clearly how they addressed the major problems and needs of countries that had been identified. In that connection it had been suggested that the project objectives and outputs should be structured around development of strategies, evaluation of existing developments, stimulation of computerization developments, human resources development, and dissemination of information. The view had been expressed that whilst it was not the primary aim of the project, it could also be of assistance to the advanced developing group of countries, as they also had problems. Therefore, the preparation of full documentation from the various project activities was considered essential.

83. The Group had noted that 25 countries had been consulted in planning the project. It had stressed that there should be continuing consultation with countries as it was essential for them to be given the opportunity to comment on priorities and other aspects of the project. The Committee recommended that in future, a formalized series of regular meetings should be held to enable

substantive discussion of the programme area.

84. With regard to the identification of national focal points for government sector computerization, there was considerable variation between countries, not least as regards the nature of authority exercised by focal points, which ranged from regulatory to advisory. Some countries had several focal points, some only one that was clearly the main organization, and some had none. Given the need noted above, to implement a formal and regular series of meetings, it was also necessary that an appropriate point of contact for the secretariat be identified in each government.

85. The Group noted that virtually any computerization developments involved both centralized and decentralized elements. Whether a top-down or bottom-up approach was better had been considered an issue of some importance by the Group, but time had been inadequate to discuss that fully. It had been pointed out that when considering a central mechanism, there were two types of roles that should be distinguished. One was to promote the use of modern information technology to a level commensurate with overall government objectives. The other was to identify and establish the necessary conditions for computerization, such as technical and data compatibility. For the former, committees could prove adequate, but not for the latter.

86. The Committee particularly supported the report's recommendation for the introduction of a regular expert group meeting on government computerization along the lines of the Working Group of Statistical Experts. The Group had assumed that the topics for the initial expert group meeting would include those major issues which it had only been able to touch upon, at best. In addition, the impact of information technology on the issue of confidentiality in statistics was an item which had been raised, but which it had not been possible to discuss due to lack of time.

## VII. PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES OF THE SECRETARIAT, 1988-1989, AND CONSIDERATION OF THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN, 1990-1995

### A) Programme of Work, 1988-1989

87. The Committee considered secretariat papers E/ESCAP/STAT.7/16, entitled "Programme of Work and priorities, 1988-1989", and E/ESCAP/STAT.7/18, entitled "Statistics and statistics-related work of other substantive divisions". It also reconsidered the relevant parts of secretariat paper E/ESCAP/STAT.7/1, entitled "Secretariat activities in statistics". Those papers covered the work in the statistics sector for the past and current bienniums, 1984-1985 and 1986-1987, as well as the biennium 1988-1989. The papers also provided additional information on resource utilization at the output level. The Committee expressed its appreciation of the comprehensive and detailed nature of the information which had been provided by the secretariat.

88. As suggested in E/ESCAP/STAT.7/16, the Committee considered the following issues in turn:

(a) The broad structure of the proposed work programme in statistics for 1988-1989

89. The Committee supported the broad structure proposed by the secretariat, which had earlier been endorsed by the Working Group of Statistical Experts.

(b) The details of the programme

90. The Committee considered closely the details of the programme provided in Table 1 and the resource estimates provided in Table 2 of document E/ESCAP/STAT.7/16. The proposed programme of work was fully endorsed, with the following specific comments being made:

(i) A working group of statistical experts should be convened late in

1988.

(ii) It was suggested that one of the proposed technical meetings on selected aspects of strengthening overall national statistical capabilities could be oriented towards the needs of the Pacific countries.

(iii) The components of the programme of work in respect of government-sector computerization had been considered by the informal working group on the subject (see para ... above). The Group had supported the shift in focus from government information systems as such to the policy and management issues underlying public-sector computerization. The programme on government computerization for the biennium 1988-1989 had been endorsed by the Group. The importance of the outputs had been stressed, particularly those under the proposed ESCAP/UNDP project on improved government information systems. It had been noted that although the work programme represented what the secretariat expected to happen, it was necessarily conditional on obtaining fundings.

(c) Continuation of the NHSCP-related training courses in New Delhi

91. The Committee recalled that it had expressed for the continuation of the NHSCP-related training courses in New Delhi, and noted that the courses were also very valuable as general training on conducting household surveys for countries not participating in NHSCP. The Committee was informed of the prospects of the courses being funded beyond 1987.

(d) Priorities for additional advisory services

92. The Committee stressed the importance of the advisory services for improving the statistical services of the countries of the region. The order of priority for additional advisory services indicated by various participants was noted, and generally corresponded to that given in paragraph 39 of document

(e) Topics for future technical meetings

93. The Committee, while commenting that it might be possible to amalgamate some of the proposed technical meetings, generally endorsed the programme of meetings specified in paragraph 34 of E/ESCAP/STAT.7/1. It noted the list of meetings represented the maximum number the secretariat could probably service during 1988-1989.

(f) Activities which might be scaled down or terminated if regular budget resources were cut further

94. The Committee expressed concern that there was a possibility that regular budget resources might be cut further. It did not put forward any activities which might be scaled down or terminated.

B) Medium Term Plan, 1990-1995

95. The Committee considered secretariat papers E/ESCAP/STAT.7/17, and Corrigendum 1, entitled "Medium term plan, 1990-1995" which presented a draft of the medium term plan prepared in accordance with the relevant parts of the regulations and rules governing programme planning, the programme aspects of the budget, the monitoring of implementation, and the methods of evaluation. The Committee was informed that, due to the current financial crisis, the current medium term plan had been extended for two extra years and would therefore be operative for 1990-1991.

96. The Committee accepted the general thrust of the medium term plan presented in E/ESCAP/STAT.7/17, and agreed that government computerization should be a separate subprogramme. However, it considered that the plan could be improved and expanded to make it more in the nature of a statement of

strategic directions. In that respect, the Committee recommended that the next Working Group of Statistical Experts consider the topic in depth. It noted that with the extension of the current medium term plan there would be adequate time for that task and for subsequent reconsideration of the topic by the Committee.

97. The Committee made the following specific comments or suggestions on the draft plan:

(a) It should emphasize continued support for the International Comparison Project (ICP).

(b) It should stress improvement in the collection of statistics on the services sector, which had become increasingly more important in recent years.

(c) It should be circulated for comment to other substantive Divisions of ESCAP.

(d) It should reflect the statistical implications of major United Nations thrusts in the economic and social fields.

(e) The content, objectives and strategies of the statistical information services subprogramme should be reassessed.

## VIII. OTHER MATTERS

a) Working Group of Statistical Experts

98. The Committee agreed that the next session of the Working Group of Statistical Experts should be convened during 1988. It decided that the Working Group should review:

i) the medium-term plan, highlighting directions in statistical development;

ii) the role of statistics within a recast legislative committee structure (if that situation eventuated);

iii) the work programme in statistics for the next biennium, and

iv) any other important issues emerging before its meeting.

b) Working Group of Experts on Government Computerization

99. The Committee also agreed that a Working Group of Experts in Government Computerization should be convened to consider some of the important unresolved issues. The Working Group, among other issues, would focus upon ways in which computer development in ESCAP countries could be organized. While the highly technical nature of this Working Group was recognized, it was suggested that some members skilled in administration should attend.

c) Discussions on proposed changes to the conference structure of the ESCAP Commission

100. Following the comments made by the Executive Secretary in his opening statement, the Committee discussed the possible implications for the Committee's functioning in the light of Commission resolution 262(XLIII), adopted in April 1987. The resolution inter alia called for the existing nine legislative committees to be

reduced to seven, which, tentatively, would meet once every two years for five working days. The Committee noted that the Executive Secretary was authorized to take steps to implement that decision by December 1988.

101. The Committee was informed by several delegates that the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (ACPR) had considered the implementation of the resolution on a number of occasions. In particular, it had considered the secretariat's proposal on how the number of legislative committees could be reduced through combination, including merging the Committees on Development Planning and Statistics, and had formed a consensus view that the proposal be adopted. Those delegates pointed out very forcefully that the ACPR view would be reported to the next session of the Commission in April 1988, and that there was no value in the Committee commenting otherwise.

102. While appreciating that viewpoint and the circumstances which had led to the proposed rationalization of the legislative committee structure, many participants who were statisticians from the region expressed very strong views against the proposed merger of the Development Planning and Statistics Committees. They argued that the Committee on Statistics had been very effective, and that the proposed merger would inevitably reduce both the time and opportunity provided to consider statistical issues. They indicated that the countries of the region had shown their support for the Committee through their consistently high attendance, and that there was a clear need for a forum for regional statisticians which might need to be satisfied under other auspices if the arrangements envisaged within ESCAP eventuated. They concluded, therefore, that the effectiveness with which the new committee could review the developments in statistics made by the countries of the region, and evaluate and guide the programme of work of the Statistics Division, would be considerably reduced. Given the important role the Statistics Division currently played in

improving and strengthening the official statistical services in the region, they expressed the view that the merger could be a significant retrograde step. Further, given the Commission's decision that the changes made in the legislative structure should not adversely affect the functions of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies, those participants asked for their strong convictions to be recorded.

Annex I

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| Review of statistical activities in the Region: Matters arising from the South Pacific Commission's Seventh Regional Conference of Statisticians - Main Recommendations of the South Pacific Commission's Seventh Regional Conference of Statisticians | E/ESCAP/STAT.7/3 |
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| Development of economic statistics: Review and development of national accounts - A Summary Report of the Seminar on Review and Development of National Accounts | E/ESCAP/STAT.7/9 |
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Country papers

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# Ⅳ. 附　錄

## 1. 會議 參加者 名單

FOR PARTICIPANTS ONLY

24 November 1987

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Committee on Statistics
Seventh session
24-30 November 1987
Bangkok

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2/ These include Members of the United Nations, participating in a consultative capacity under paragraph 9 of the terms of reference of the Commission.

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ROSTER

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| Customs Co-operation Council (CCC) | |
| Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) | |

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| Mr. Koji Nakagawa | Deputy Executive Secretary |
| Ms. S. Takahashi | Acting Secretary of the Commission and chief of Programme Co-ordination and Monitoring Office |

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| Mr. Laurence H. Lewis | Regional Adviser on Population Censuses and Surveys, Statistics Division |
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# 2．開會辭

24 November 1987

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Committee on Statistics
Seventh Session
24-30 November 1987
Bangkok

# OPENING STATEMENT

## BY MR. S.A.M.S. KIBRIA, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

## ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Your Excellency, Distinguished Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the seventh session of the Committee on Statistics. I am especially pleased to welcome His Excellency Mr. Chaisiri Ruangkanchanaset, Minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office, who is responsible for overseeing the development of statistical services in the Royal Thai Government. We are indeed grateful to you, Excellency, for taking time from your many duties of State to join us today and for inaugurating this meeting.

At the outset, I should like to say that we in the secretariat find it most encouraging that the sessions of this Committee are so well attended, and at such a high level. On an average, some 65 per cent of ESCAP members and associate members have been participating regularly, and over 90 per cent of those country delegations were headed by officials from the national capitals. Among other things, this demonstrates in a concrete way that the member Governments attach importance to statistics and government computerization and to the secretariat's work in these areas. It also augurs well for the quality of the discussions and recommendations emanating from this meeting.

Distinguished participants,

The year 1947 saw the founding of ESCAP, or the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, as it was then known. Forty years later it can be reasonably claimed that the ESCAP region is now endowed with a statistical base, since every member Government now has a functioning statistical service. The progress of ESCAP is certainly noteworthy, as has been vouched for in such forums as the United Nations Statistical Commission and by such prodigious users of statistics as the World Bank and the IMF. To my mind, this progress is in no small measure due to the collective thinking and guidance provided by the Committee on Statistics and its predecessor, the Conference of Asian Statisticians, and, still earlier, the Regional Conference of Statisticians of Asia and the Far East. As a body you are today meeting for the twenty-third time since the first Regional Conference of Statisticians was held in February 1951. The common purpose and the concerted dedication with which you have carried out your work at earlier sessions, have without doubt contributed to the development and improvement of statistics in Asia and the Pacific.

Nevertheless there is much to do and achieve. The world is changing and countries are becoming progressively more interdependent. Statistics produced should therefore be more consistent and comparable across countries. At the national level, the planning of socio-economic development is becoming increasingly complex. It requires quantitative information, not only across the whole range of human activity but also at the minutely disaggregated sectoral level and by small geographic areas. Moreover, those essential qualities of good statistics, reliability and timeliness, cannot be sacrificed.

It is no coincidence that the criteria of adequacy, reliability and timeliness appear in the very first preambular paragraph of resolution 246 (XLII) on statistical services in Asia and the Pacific, adopted by the Commission and subsequently by the Economic and Social Council in 1986. Among other things, the resolution makes several recommendations to countries of the region, and specifically requests me to report to the Commission next year on its

implementation. To enable me to respond comprehensively, I should be grateful if you would devote particular attention to the various aspects of this resolution as you proceed with your deliberations.

The challenge before you, Distinguished Participants, is undoubtedly enormous. Its magnitude is further underscored by the dwindling financial and other resources being allocated to national statistical services. Indeed, some countries of the region are starting to adopt the concept of "net-financing" whereby the statistical service has to generate some income of its own, with the State budget covering the remainder. This development means that statistical information must be a saleable item, and for that to happen the statistics produced by national agencies should be readily usable, and even attractive to those who use them.

As you are aware, the United Nations system is also facing financial constraints of a serious nature. In the wake of the in-depth study of the Organization's intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields, the Commission has decided that the existing nine legislative committees of the Commission should be reduced to seven. You will no doubt be discussing the possible implications for the Committee's functioning in the light of this resolution.

Distinguished participants,

The topic of government information systems has rightly been included in your agenda and you will need to deliberate on the issue of improving the utilization of modern information technology, including the role of national statistical agencies in the application of the technology to statistical and other government activities. However, computer technology alone will not improve the basic availability of statistical data at either the national or the international level. Human resources have to be developed through appropriate and regular training programmes to interface with computers. The secretariat

will be very receptive to any recommendations from the Committee in this regard, since human resources development is the principal theme in the Commission's work this year and the next. The Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, (SIAP), whose report is also before you, will, I am sure, welcome any advice this Committee may give on human resources development, as well as any other suggestions on training contained in the report of the South Pacific Commission's seventh Regional Conference of Statisticians.

Another substantive item on the agenda relates to the review and development of national accounts. Since a major revision of the United Nations System of National Accounts is in progress at the global level, this Committee has the responsibility to arrange to present regional views on the revision. In particular the capacity and characteristics of the smaller developing countries should be adequately catered for. Looking into the future in the context of national accounts, statistical offices would be well-advised to devote additional attention to generating statistics on services, since in many instances the services sector has already become a major component of GNP.

Attention is being increasingly focused on the 1990 round of population and housing censuses. The secretariat has organized several activities in this area, and reports on them are before the Committee for review and endorsement. Among other things, population and housing censuses are important sources of social statistics, including data on shelter and living conditions, target or disadvantaged groups of population, and economic activities among women. The Committee will no doubt want to look at such data needs.

Distinguished participants,

This is the first time that the Committee on Statistics is meeting under its revised terms of reference, which now include the review and evaluation of secretariat activities in the area of government computerization. The utilization of modern information technology in government is a key to social and

economic development; the potential application areas of information technology, at both the national and subnational levels, are vast. However, there are common problems that obstruct the government computerization process in developing countries. The main problems are institutional, organizational and human-resource-related.

The utilization of modern information technology as a tool for accelerating development is a crucial issue of our time. In this respect, there is a clear need to establish liaison between the ESCAP secretariat and the relevant national-level organizational focal points which are responsible in the member countries for the promotion and co-ordination of computer developments in the government sector, in order to provide guidance to secretariat activities in this area. Your advice and guidance on establishing suitable representation will be welcome.

Your deliberations on these and other items should logically culminate in a discussion of the work programme that the secretariat is expected to undertake in the biennium 1988-1989 and beyond. I am very pleased to note that this Committee has always taken a very diligent approach to this task, and I have no doubt that the secretariat's future work will once again benefit immensely from your close scrutiny and advice. The usual detailed paper, based on your past suggestions, has been prepared to assist your discussions on this item.

The statistical work programme, both past and future, depends to a very large extent on the extrabudgetary support the secretariat receives. Before concluding, therefore, I should like to express my appreciation to the donors that have assisted our statistical activities since the last session of the Committee. Australia, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, India, Japan, New Zealand, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United Kingdom contributed manpower and financial resources, and the Governments of the Cook Islands and Samoa hosted two meetings organized for the Pacific countries. Among

the organizations, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the International Labour Organisation (ILO). have all extended considerable support. We are most grateful to all these countries and organizations, and look forward to their continued support.

Distinguished representatives, ladies and gentlemen, I am aware of the onerous responsibilities you carry. However, in view of your past achievements and the ingenuity that has characterised of the work of this Committee, I am confident that the statisticians of the region and officials responsible for government computerization will respond effectively and meet all challenges successfully. I wish you every success in the work that lies ahead of you, and a very pleasant stay in Bangkok.

Thank you.

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INAUGURAL ADDRESS

by

His Excellency Mr. Chaisiri Ruangkanchanaset

Minister to the Prime Minister's Office

at the Opening Ceremony of the Seventh Session of

ESCAP Committee on Statistics (24-30 November 1987)

on Tuesday, 24 November 1987, at 09.30 a.m.

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Mr. Executive Secretary, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of the Royal Thai Government, I should like to welcome all of you to Thailand and to the Seventh Session of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics.

This year is most auspicious for all Thais for we all will have the great opportunity to celebrate the sixtieth birthday of His Majesty the King: Our beloved Monarch who has demonstrated from the very beginning of the reign an untiring interest in the welfare of his people and the development of the nation.

This year, 1987, is also "Visit Thailand Year." To all Thai people, we are more than happy to welcome our visitors from far and near who come to Thailand to tour the country, to learn about the culture and to treasure our heritage. I, therefore, feel very much privileged to be able to welcome

all the delegates who have come from overseas. It is also a great honour for me to be invited to preside over the opening of this Seventh Session of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics.

As the Minister in charge of the nation's Statistics Office, it is my pleasure to be here and associate myself with senior statisticians from the member countries of ESCAP.

Thailand has continously supported the United Nations and its principles. We also support ESCAP activities in all sectors, including statistics, of course. We strongly believe that the United Nations and its regional commission, ESCAP, have a significant role to play in the development of statistics in the countries of the region. In Thailand, our statistical system is rather decentralised in that different government ministries and departments have to collect as well as compile their own sectoral information. Whereas, the National Statistical Office is in charge of such major statistical activities as population and housing censuses, household surveys, labour force survey, business census, and the like. For the past few years, the Government has placed more emphasis on statistical development and survey capability of the National Statistical Office. This will enable the Office to compile necessary information that is important to national policies, and to offer some appropriate information that may help solve

two urgent problems: poverty and unemployment. The Government needs reliable and up-to-date information. Therefore, the National Statistical Office has innitiated various adhoc and regular surveys, for example the national income distribution survey and other socio-economic surveys. It is hoped that the information derived from these surveys will be useful to planners and policy makers.

In this connection, the National Statistical Office as well as a number of other Thai Government agencies, such as the Bank of Thailand, the National Economic and Social Development Board, have received valuable assistance from ESCAP. In particular, we have benefited from the training courses organised by ESCAP and by the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific. These two organisations have trained many Thai statisticians in statistical methods, their applications, as well as data processing. We do appreciate the work of the Regional ESCAP advisors who have rendered advisory and expert assistance to a number of agencies of Thai Government. We also consider of great value the various technical meetings, seminars, workshops and working groups, on a variety of subjects. These meetings provide between member countries excellent opportunities for an exchange of experience and for learning from one another. ESCAP has also produced publications on regional information and methodologies which have certainly benefited Thai statisticians and scholars.