

해외출장자료

89-03-012

제1차 ESCAP개발계획 및 통계위원회 참가보고서

1989.9.

통계청자료실



B0005174

경제기획원 조사통계국

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I. 개발계획 및 통계위원회 참가보고

1. 보고서 작성자

- 소 속 : 경제기획원 조사통계국
- 직위 및 성명 : 통계분석과장 한 성 찬

2. 회의 개요

가. 회의명

- Committee on Development Planning and Statistics

나. 회의주관

- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

다. 회의성격

- ESCAP 지역국가의 개발계획 및 통계책임자 회의
- ESCAP 지역국가의 통계 및 행정전산화 활동검토

라. 회의기간

- 1989.7.24 - 7.28 (5일간)

마. 회의장소

- 태국, 방콕 ESCAP의 서비스빌딩 3층

바. 참가국 및 기관

- 참가국

Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, China, Kampuchea, Fiji, France, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Korea, Samoa, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, USSR, Ireland, USA, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Cook Islands, Hong Kong

○ 국제기관

UNSO, DIESA, UNDP, ILO, FAO, UNESCO, WHO, UNIDO, CEC, IMC,
ICW, ICSW, WFTU, DFD, MCAT, SIAP

○ 업저버

Canada

3. 회의의제

가. 개회식

나. 임원선출

다. 의제채택

라. 지역내 개발정책 및 전략문제

마. 개발계획 : 계획작성, 이행 및 평가

바. 아·태지역 개도국 경제구조 조정을 위한 주요과제

사. 지역내 통계 및 정부 전산화 활동 검토

아. 기타사항

4. 의제별 주요 토의내용

가. 지역내 개발정책 및 전략문제

1) 개도국

- ESCAP 지역내로의 ODA 유입이 상대적으로 감소하고 있는 상황에서 지역내 국가간의 협력의 중요성이 증대되고 있음.
- 지역내 국가간의 교류, 협력 확대를 위한 사회간접 자본시설투자 및 금융제도개선 등에 관한 긍정적 검토가 필요한 시기라고 판단됨.

- 성장의 문제와 더불어 소득분배의 개선도 지속적인 성장기반 구축을 위해 대단히 중요함.
- 소득분배문제에 대한 각국 (특히 신흥공업국과 후발개도국) 의 경험교류를 위한 대화 필요
- 서비스 부문의 발전이 경제 및 국가발전의 전제로서 필수적인 요소라는 인식이 높아지고 있음.
- ESCAP 지역의 환경오염문제는 각국의 경제개발로 핵심산업부문이 노동집약적 산업에서 중화학 공업으로 이행함에 따라 그 심각도가 커질 것임.
- 환경문제에 대한 지역협력사업에 적극 참여할 것임.

2) 최빈국 및 도서국

- 80년대들어 세계경제 환경의 악화는 선진국과 최빈국간의 격차를 더욱 심화시킴.
- 최빈국 경제의 악화는 당사국은 물론 장기적으로 지역내, 혹은 세계의 여타국에도 경제의 안정에 악영향을 미칠것임.
- 최빈국의 경제발전을 지원하는 선진국의 노력은 공급능력 확대와 시장 확대의 양측면에서 동시에 이루어져야 함.
- 생산능력 확충을 위한 자본과 기술의 개도국 유입이 더욱 강화되고, 선진국의 시장이 최빈국 상품에 대해 특혜적으로 개방되어야 함.

나. 개발계획 : 계획작성, 이행 및 평가

1) 거시경제 모델링과 예측, 훈련

- 각국 전문기관과 ESCAP 사무국의 지속적 노력으로 집약된 통계의 양, 질적수준이 높아지고 새로운 통계분석 기법이 모델링에 의한 경제 예측 능력이 제고되고 있음.

- 모델링의 정치화 및 국가간의 연계성 강화를 위해 노력하여야 할 것이며, ESCAP 지역경제를 포괄하는 모델체계의 수립은 각종 경제정책의 효과성을 높이기 위해 필수적임.

2) 재정 및 행정분야의 연구 및 훈련

- ESCAP 지역 국가들에 있어서 재정활동을 포함하는 정부의 경제적 기능은 계속 확대될 것임.
- 재원은 조달과 사용에 있어서 효율성을 제고하는 것이 무엇보다 중요하며, ESCAP은 이러한 각국정부의 노력을 적극 지원하여야 할 것임.
- 지방정부 재정기능의 강화, 과학적인 외채관리 등을 위한 사무국의 연구 교육활동이 확대되어야 함.
- 해당 공무원에 대한 교육은 소수에 대한 장기 프로그램으로 전환하는 것이 그 효과를 높이는데 유리할 것으로 봄.

다. 아·태지역 개도국 경제구조 조정을 위한 주요과제

- ESCAP 지역내 국가들의 지속적 경제발전을 위하여는 대내외 환경변화에 부응하는 경제구조 조정을 이루어야 함.

라. 지역내 통계 및 정부 전산화 활동 검토

【주요 토의 내용】

- ESCAP 사무국내에서 통계 이용의 편리도모와 여러분야 자료의 일관성 확보를 위하여 자료은행을 세우고자 기술조사단 설립하였음.
- 대부분 국가들의 통계조직은 분산형 통계제도로서 통계 생산기관마다 통계의 개념, 정의, 분류 등이 일치하지 않는 경향이 있기 때문에 이를 종합조정할 수 있는 국가통계국 또는 청단위의 중앙통계기구가 필요함을 강조.
- 지역내의 소지역통계, 사회통계, 보건통계 등의 개발이 요구되고 있음.

- 플로피 디스켓과 기타 전자 수단 등으로 상호정보를 교환할 수 있도록 국가 통계 데이터베이스를 개발할 것을 강조.
- 급증하는 정보의 요청에 부응할 수 있는 자료의 시의성, 진실성, 적합성 등을 꾸준히 개선하고 있음.
- 소지역통계에 대한 수요가 계속적으로 늘고 있으므로 소지역통계 개발 작업의 순위를 우선적으로 부여하여야함을 강조.
- ESCAP 내에 국민계정에 대한 지역자문기관 부활은 수정된 SNA 으로 이행하고자 하는 지역내의 국가들에게 기술원조에 주요한 수단이 될 것임.
- 인구센서스, 조사, 자료처리 등의 기술원조를 위한 지역자문단 파견 검토.
- 데이터베이스 개발을 위하여 자료의 유용성, 자료계열의 양식, 자료분류의 표준화, 자료의 개념 및 정의 일치를 강조.

【대표단 활동】

가. 통계분야 활동 소개

- 국민 경제활동의 기초가 되는 국가의 부를 파악하기 위하여 제 3 차 국부통계조사를 1988 년에 실시하였으며 1989 년말 최종보고서를 발간할 예정임.
- 각종 경제지수의 기준년도를 1988 년에서 1985 년으로 개편
- 통계정보의 종합전산망 구축 및 데이터 베이스의 기능을 강화하기 위하여 20 개분야 65 만 계열의 자료를 축적, 활용중에 있음.
- 향후 추진계획
 - 1990 년 세계인구센서스 해에 즈음하여 우리나라에서도 제 14 차 인구 및 주택센서스를 실시할 예정이며, 자료처리의 효율화를 위하여 OMR 방식을 도입, 추진할 예정임.

- 경제활동인구의 특성을 파악하기 위하여 제 3 차 고용구조 조사를 1989년 11월중 전국의 15만 표본가구를 대상으로 실시할 예정임.
- 지역별 소득추계를 1983년부터 시산중에 있으며 1990년부터 공표할 예정.
- 지역별 물가 및 고용통계를 개발중에 있음.

나. 정부전산화 활동 소개

- 우리나라는 1967년 경제기획원 조사통계국에서 처음으로 IBM 1401을 도입한 이래 꾸준히 행정업무에 대한 전산화 작업을 추진해 왔음.
- 1970년대에 들어 정부에서는 공동 전산 이용센터인 정부전자계산소를 설립하였고 1978년부터 1986년까지 정부차원의 전산화 장기계획인 「정부전산화 기본계획」을 수립하여 행정전산화 업무를 추진해 왔음.
- 1986년까지 정부에서는 총 697개 업무를 전산화 했음.
- 정부에서 추진하고 있는 행정전산망 기본계획에서는 주민관리, 부동산관리, 자동차관리, 통관관리, 고용관리, 경제통계 등 6개 부문을 우선사업으로 지정하여 추진하고 있음.
- 88년말 현재 정부 각 부서에는 140대의 주전산기와 8,400대의 단말기가 보급되어 있고 약 4,000명의 전산 전문인력이 종사하고 있으며, 1971년 이래 정부 전자계산소에서 전산교육을 받은 사람은 약 20,000명에 이르고 있음.

Ⅱ. 회의자료 (원문)

FOR PARTICIPANT ONLY

24 July 1989

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Committee on Development Planning and Statistics

First session
24-28 July 1989
Bangkok

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF DISCUSSIONS

Monday 24 July 1989

1000 - 1030 hours

Item 1 Opening of the session by Mr. S.A.M.S.Kibria,
Executive Secretary of E.S.C.A.P.

Item 2 Election of Chairperson, two Vice-
chairpersons, and Rapporteur

Interval of 15 minutes

1030 - 1200 hours

Item 3 Adoption of the agenda E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/L.1
E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/L.2

General statements, if any, on development
planning and statistics

Item 7 Review of statistical and government
computerization activities in the region:

(a) Secretariat activities, including the
report of the Working Group of
Statistical Experts E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/1
E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/17

1330 -1630 hours

Item 7 (a) Secretariat activities...(continued)

(b) National activities COUNTRY STATEMENTS

(c) Other activities AGENCY STATEMENTS

Tuesday 25 July 1989

0900 - 1200 hours

- Item 8 Progress and issues in statistics and government computerization:
- (a) Development of national statistical capabilities E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/14
E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/19
 - (b) Development of economic statistics E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/13

1330 - 1630 hours

- Item 8 Continued
- (c) Development of demographic, social and other statistics E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/6
 - (d) Statistical information services and data base development E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/8
 - (e) Government computerization E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/20
- Item 4 Emerging issues in policies and strategies of development in the region:
- (a) The developing economies E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/11
and Corr.1
 - (b) The least developed economies E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/16
 - (c) The island developing economies E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/18

Wednesday 26 July 1989

0900 - 1200 hours

- Item 4 Continued
- Item 5 Development planning - plan formulation, implementation, and evaluation:
- (a) Macro-economic modelling and projections
E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/10
 - (b) Courses of training in development planning techniques
E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/12
 - (c) Research and training in public finance and administration
E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/5

1330 - 1630 hours

- Item 5 Continued
- Item 6 Policy oriented research and action on problems of development planning of special importance to the region: selected issues in restructuring the developing economies in the Asian and Pacific region
E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/9

Thursday 27 July 1989

0900 - 1200 hours

- Item 9 Terms of reference of the Committee on Development Planning and Statistics
E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/2
- Item 10 Programme of work and priorities of the secretariat, 1990-1991, and consideration of the medium-term plan, 1992-1997, in:
- (a) Development planning
E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/7
and Corr.1
E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/15

1330-1630 hours

- Item 10 Continued
- (b) Statistics
E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/3
E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/4
- Item 11 Other matters

Friday 28 July 1989

1330 hours onwards

Item 12 Adoption of the report

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
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LIMITED



E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/L.1
9 May 1989

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Committee on Development Planning and Statistics

First session
24-28 July 1989
Bangkok

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Emerging issues in policies and strategies of development in the region:
 - (a) The developing economies;
 - (b) The least developed economies;
 - (c) The island developing economies.
5. Development planning: plan formulation, implementation and evaluation:
 - (a) Macro-economic modelling and projections;
 - (b) Courses of training in development planning techniques;
 - (c) Research and training in public finance and administration.
6. Policy-oriented research and action on problems of development planning of special importance to the region: selected issues in restructuring the developing economies in the Asian and Pacific region.
7. Review of statistical and government computerization activities in the region:
 - (a) Secretariat activities, including the report of the Working Group of Statistical Experts;
 - (b) National activities;
 - (c) Other activities.

8. Progress and issues in statistics and government computerization:
 - (a) Development of national statistical capabilities;
 - (b) Development of economic statistics;
 - (c) Development of demographic, social and other statistics;
 - (d) Statistical information services and data base development;
 - (e) Government computerization.
9. Terms of reference of the Committee on Development Planning and Statistics.
10. Programme of work and priorities of the secretariat, 1990-1991, and consideration of the medium-term plan, 1992-1997, in:
 - (a) Development planning;
 - (b) Statistics.
11. Other matters.
12. Adoption of the report.

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UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



LIMITED



E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/L.2
9 May 1989

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Committee on Development Planning and Statistics

First session
24-28 July 1989
Bangkok

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the session

Suitable arrangements will be made in due course.

2. Election of officers

A chairman, two vice-chairmen and a rapporteur will be elected from among the national delegations to officiate at the Committee session.

3. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda will be adopted with any changes deemed necessary.

4. Emerging issues in policies and strategies of development in the region:

(a) The developing economies

Although the developing economies of the region have weathered the unfavourable external environment reasonably well, continuing to uphold their record of vigorous economic performance during the decade of the 1980s, they are facing new challenges and opportunities in the 1990s, in the wake of rapid and fundamental changes in international political and economic relationships. In the short term, persistent imbalances in the world economy, volatile movements in exchange rates, high and unstable interest rates, low commodity prices, continued protectionist pressure, the high level of indebtedness of many developing countries and an insufficient flow of development resources to them, have continued to present obstacles to their growth and development. At the same time, the recent agreement to
/remove

remove the impasse in negotiations on agricultural trade, textiles and the clothing trade, intellectual property rights and safeguards, have brightened the prospects for better trading opportunities prevailing in a more open multilateral trading system sustained and strengthened by successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations. The growing economic strength of and interaction among developing countries themselves and the possibility of expanded economic relationships between the developing countries and the socialist countries could also present new opportunities for growth and development. The lowering of political tension throughout the world, a trend which has been visible recently, could release new resources for development if they could be successfully diverted from meeting the perceived security needs to meeting the development needs of countries. All these require further strengthening of international co-operation and understanding and a better management of international interdependence through wider participation of countries in that management process.

Domestically, many of the developing countries in the region are facing bottle-necks owing to insufficiency of infrastructure, shortage of trained manpower and supplies of other critical inputs, and a growing inflationary threat, in their attempts to sustain the recently achieved high rates of economic growth. At the same time, the persistent problems of poverty, unemployment and many other aspects of social development have yet to be satisfactorily tackled. Furthermore, the problem of protecting the environment or preventing its degradation has emerged as a growing concern in the region.

The secretariat document will address the above issues and their national, regional and international policy implications, keeping in view also the forthcoming formulation of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade. The secretariat will also report its own ideas for research topics on selective issues to be covered within the framework of the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific in 1990 and 1991. The Committee may wish to provide guidance and suggestions to the secretariat on the above matters.

(b) The least developed economies

The 11 least developed countries of the ESCAP region have not succeeded generally in achieving the objectives and targets laid down in various plans and programmes adopted at the national and international levels, especially those contained in the Substantial New Programme of

/Action

Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries. Following a brief review highlighting the reasons for this failure, the secretariat document on this part of the agenda item will present some forward-looking ideas and proposals for further policy action at various levels for the accelerated development of the region's least developed countries, keeping in view the preparations for the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries to be held in 1990. The secretariat paper will focus on the structural problems being faced by different groups of least developed countries and the challenges and opportunities likely to be faced by them in the 1990s. The secretariat document will highlight the arrangements for the preparation of a regional input into the preparations for that conference. The Committee may wish to provide further guidance in this matter.

(c) The island developing economies

The continuing poor record of economic performance in the Pacific island subregion characterized by highly unstable annual rates of GDP (gross domestic product) growth, and sharp economic expansion alternating with periods of stagnancy or decline, is a cause for serious concern as regards policy.

These unfavourable growth characteristics demonstrate once again the subregion's great vulnerability to economic and other disruptions from all sources. Such a high degree of vulnerability to external or endogenous shocks, among other things, has created significant complications, and hence additional costs, for the identification, design and implementation of development policy and planning. This consideration takes on additional significance against a backdrop of the vast changes arising from the technological revolution, and the growing coalescence of major regional and subregional groupings; these changes are expected to accelerate in the 1990s and beyond.

All these developments and changes will inevitably have a direct bearing on the Pacific islands, a subregion which is heavily dependent on commodity trade, investment and other economic and financial transactions (for example, inward tourism, private remittances and official aid) with the external world. Accommodation will have to be made to such changes - through appropriate adjustments and responses, among other measures, in development policy and planning to ensure the most efficient transition possible into the 1990s and beyond - in accordance with available local resources, the current stage of economic growth, and national development objectives and priorities.

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The paper will examine in detail the patterns of economic performance and some of the wide-ranging changes in economic structure required to be undertaken in the Pacific island subregion, with special reference to the heavy investments in human and physical capital needed to enable island economies to undertake and complete any significant measure of restructuring in the 1990s.

5. Development planning: plan formulation, implementation and evaluation:

(a) Macro-economic modelling and projections

The document prepared by the secretariat on this sub-item will provide information on its current and proposed activities in macro-economic modelling and projections. It will contain a brief account of the secretariat's activities in providing technical assistance to national institutions in developing countries of the ESCAP region for the construction of short- and medium-term macro-economic models for forecasting and policy analysis. It will report on the activities undertaken under the UNDP-financed ESCAP interlinked country model system project, which ends in December 1989. The document will provide an outline of a follow-up project to be submitted for financing by UNDP and other donors, if necessary.

The document will also contain a discussion of the secretariat's activities in providing technical assistance to planning agencies for the construction of consistent macro-economic planning frameworks and models. The outline of several project proposals in this field of work will be discussed. The document will also contain a general critical discussion of modelling techniques and methods and will present a number of suggestions concerning possible future orientations of the secretariat's activities in the field of modelling and projections.

The document is expected to be of assistance to the Committee in appraising the usefulness of the activities of the secretariat both in research and in providing technical assistance under this subprogramme. The Committee's recommendations will be sought on the direction in which the secretariat's activities in the field of macro-economic modelling should proceed. Suggestions for co-ordination of such activities in member States and by other agencies will also be sought.

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(b) Courses of training in development planning techniques

Under this sub-item, the Committee will discuss the technical assistance which the Development Planning Division has rendered to developing countries of the ESCAP region in the form of training courses, seminars and workshops in development planning and policy-making. The subject of seminars and workshops for the benefit of the least developed countries and island developing economies will also be discussed under sub-items 4(b) and (c). The paper will contain an account and analysis of training courses, seminars, and workshops which have been carried out or are planned. The training courses discussed span three bienniums: 1986-1987, 1988-1989 and 1990-1991. The seminars and workshops which have been conducted during the first two bienniums will be analysed by purpose, attendance and assessment of the performance. For those planned for 1990-1991, the information provided covers the purpose and expected participation. The Committee may wish to take note of these activities and advise the secretariat with a view to improving the usefulness and effectiveness of these activities.

(c) Research and training in public finance and administration

Efficient mobilization and management of public finances are important for the achievement of national socio-economic objectives. With that consideration in mind, the secretariat has started work on a programme of research and training approved by the Commission at its forty-fourth session. The approved programme, inter alia, includes areas of resource mobilization, budgetary policy and control, public enterprise evaluation, financial accountability and review pertaining to both national and local government finances, and debt management. The secretariat has already initiated research on "Fiscal decentralization, resource mobilization and effective use of national resources for development", and also on "Control and management of public expenditure". There is a further proposal that the Commission approved at its forty-fifth session, pertaining to "Upgrading public administration for human resources development at the local level" in the context of human resources development in the region. That proposal could also be accommodated as an element of work under the subprogramme on research and training in public finance which this Committee has the mandate to review.

In the document on this sub-item, the secretariat will elaborate the issues thus far conceived and the progress of ongoing work. The Committee

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will be requested to provide further guidance to the secretariat on the current and future programmes in this important policy area.

6. Policy-oriented research and action on problems of development planning of special importance to the region: selected issues in restructuring the developing economies in the Asian and Pacific region

In reviewing the secretariat's study on the theme topic "Restructuring the developing ESCAP economies in the 1990s", the Commission at its forty-fifth session, urged the secretariat "to make a more detailed investigation and analysis of a number of issues that had not been accorded adequate emphasis" in the study (E/1989/33 - E/ESCAP/693, para 182). Among these issues, the Commission particularly identified "social and environmental issues, rural development, barriers to trade in the region and the service sector" (*ibid*). The paper will, accordingly, examine the problems and implications of taking into account rural development, social welfare considerations, and environmental concerns, in the restructuring process. These issues require intensive investigation; more specifically, policy-oriented research to evolve pragmatic responses to possible trade-offs between GDP growth per se and the pursuit of a more broadbased development perspective is needed. Such studies may thus be related to the analyses of, among others, agricultural restructuring possibilities, factors underlying the apparent expansion of the service sector, the distributional impact of structural reforms, linkages between structural adjustment and social development issues, or the mode of incorporating environmental concerns in the restructuring process. The Committee may wish to indicate the priorities to be given in the secretariat's work on these issues in the future programme of work of the secretariat.

7. Review of statistical and government computerization activities in the region

The Committee will review broadly the development activities of the secretariat and the countries in the field of statistics and government computerization, as well as the work of international agencies having significant statistical activities in the region. The Statistics Division will prepare a comprehensive paper on its activities since the seventh session of the Committee on Statistics, highlighting promotional activities relating to statistical capability-building through technical meetings, regional advisory services and training courses, and work in the area of regional data collection and dissemination and data base development, as

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well as indicating issues and constraints encountered. Work done in the field of government computerization, especially since June 1988 when functional responsibility was transferred to the Statistics Division, will also be covered, along with an account of the statistical work of EPOC (ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre) among the Pacific island countries. Because of an impending cutback in manpower resources, it will probably not be possible for the Statistics Division to maintain the present pace and breadth of development work. New areas of work proposed by the Commission at its forty-fifth session, or undertaken in support of global statistical programmes, such as environment statistics, can only be pursued through reducing or terminating mandated work in other fields.

The paper will also contain some analytical measures of the secretariat's work in statistics. The principal conclusions and recommendations of the United Nations Statistical Commission at its twenty-fifth session, held in New York in February 1989, specifically in so far as these conclusions and recommendations have implications for the ESCAP region, or where the global standards need regional adaptation, will also be described. Such topics, and those referred by the Committee on Statistics to the 1988 session of the Working Group of Statistical Experts and contained in its report, will be before the Committee for its consideration and endorsement.

The Committee will also hear short (5-minute) statements from country participants who may speak on their major achievements in the fields of statistics and government computerization, and on the problems and constraints faced. These statements will generally be based on country papers, of which delegations should provide sufficient copies for distribution as conference room papers. The United Nations specialized agencies and other international organizations undertaking statistical work in their sphere of responsibility may also relate their regional activities briefly (3 minutes).

8. Progress and issues in statistics and government computerization:

(a) Development of national statistical capabilities

A secretariat paper will form the basis for the Committee's review of several interlinked issues under this sub-item, including general data processing topics and the relationship between producers and users of statistics. It will also describe progress in the implementation of the United Nations global National Household Survey Capability Programme

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(NHSCP), including issues related to the NHSCP-related training courses organized in India, for which UNDP is providing financial support for least developed and Pacific island countries. The document will cover the secretariat's plans to develop statistics on human resources development as part of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region. It will also discuss the secretariat's role in the formulation, technical backstopping and possible execution of country projects in statistics and computerization.

The Committee will also review the activities of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) through a report from the Project Manager/Director on statistical capability building through training of personnel. The Committee will further have before it for information the reports of the SIAP Advanced Course on Projections for Social and Economic Planning, and of the technical meetings organized by ESCAP on the timeliness and quality of statistics and on employment and unemployment statistics.

(b) Development of economic statistics

The most important current development in the domain of economic statistics, the revision of the United Nations System of National Accounts, is now in progress and scheduled for completion in 1991. The secretariat is attempting to ensure that the needs and capabilities of the developing countries of the region are adequately reflected in the review process, through expert representation at a series of global technical meetings and the planned convening of a regional seminar in 1990. A secretariat note will present the salient features of the review and revision process, and will also cover planned activities relating to phase VI of the International Comparison Programme in the ESCAP region, for the Committee's comments, endorsement and guidance. In addition, developments in other fields of economic statistics, notably energy and transport statistics, will be discussed. Available for the Committee's information will be the reports of SIAP advanced courses on statistics relating to poverty, inequality and basic needs and on planning, implementing and evaluating agricultural censuses, and of the ESCAP workshop on transport statistics.

(c) Development of demographic, social and other statistics

A secretariat paper will cover progress and issues in a wide range of demographic, social and cross-sectoral statistical topics. The secretariat is expanding an already active programme of technical assistance in demographic statistics, delivered through regional advisory services,

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technical meetings and publications. The Committee's guidance will be sought on future directions for this work, which currently focuses on the 1990 round of population and housing censuses, data processing of censuses and surveys, and other areas of concern, such as civil registration and vital statistics systems and migration statistics.

The increasing demand for statistics and indicators to measure progress in social development was brought to the fore in the discussions at the forty-fifth session of the Commission, as was the urgent need to stimulate work on environmental data. These issues and the secretariat's role in assisting countries in responding to these needs, in a situation of severe resource constraints, will also be discussed in the paper for the Committee's review and guidance. The Committee will have before it for information the reports of ESCAP meetings on software packages for processing census and survey data, computer-assisted coding, and social statistics in the Pacific subregion, and of a joint UNICEF/ESCAP expert consultation on social statistics and indicators for children and women.

(d) Statistical information services and data base development

The document on this sub-item will describe developments in the statistical information and data base areas of the secretariat's work, against a background of changes in both the technological environment and perceptions of the target audiences for the secretariat's statistical products. The paper will address, for the Committee's consideration, issues such as the dissemination of regional data to users within and outside the secretariat, access to statistical data bases elsewhere in the United Nations system, and progress in creating a network of data banks within ESCAP.

(e) Government computerization

The Committee will consider progress and issues in the field of public sector computerization on the basis of a secretariat paper. There have been a number of important developments since the topic was discussed by the Committee on Statistics in 1987 and the Working Group of Statistical Experts in 1988, and the Commission has demonstrated growing interest, most recently in the transfer of technology through expert systems. However, a lack of extrabudgetary support has delayed the start of substantive activities. The paper will seek the Committee's guidance on how best to proceed with work in this new subprogramme. The report of the Expert Group

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Meeting on Computerized Information Systems for Governments will be available for the Committee's information.

9. Terms of reference of the Committee on Development Planning and Statistics

The Committee on Development Planning and the Committee on Statistics had separate terms of reference detailing their respective functions. The document on this item will contain the draft terms of reference of the merged Committee, for its consideration.

10. Programme of work and priorities of the secretariat, 1990-1991 and consideration of the medium-term plan, 1992-1997 in:

(a) Development planning

The programme of work and priorities in the field of development issues and policies, 1990-1991, as endorsed by the Commission at its forty-fifth session, will be reviewed by the Committee. The Committee may wish to comment on and to recommend changes to the programme for 1990-1991, for consideration by the Commission at its forty-sixth session.

The Commission at its forty-fifth session also considered and recommended a new programme structure for the medium-term plan, 1992-1997. The draft plan text of the subprogramme on economic development issues and policies for the medium-term plan, 1992-1997, drawn up within the framework of that new programme structure, will be presented to the Committee for its review and comments before submission to the Commission at its forty-sixth session.

(b) Statistics

The programme of work and priorities, 1990-1991 in statistics, as endorsed by the Commission at its forty-fifth session, will be presented to the Committee in a paper which will contain detailed comparative information on the implementation of work programmes of the past two bienniums. It will contain a general description of the training programmes of SIAP and ESCAP. The draft programme of work, 1990-1991, was thoroughly scrutinized by the Working Group of Statistical Experts in November-December 1988. The Committee may wish to recommend any changes in the draft programme of work that it deems necessary, for consideration by the Commission at its forty-sixth session.

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The Committee may decide to convene a further session of the Working Group of Statistical Experts, as recommended at its sixth session, and in that event will assign topics to be considered by the Working Group. It may also wish to take into account the Commission's recommendation that a second working group should be established to consider government computerization and information technology. Constraints on the regular budget have so far precluded the creation of this working group.

The next biennium signals the completion of the current medium-term plan, 1984-1989, as extended to 1990-1991 by decision of the General Assembly. The secretariat will present a document covering the next medium-term plan, 1992-1997 in statistics, for the Committee's review and comments.

11. Other matters

The Committee may raise any other matter not covered under the above items.

12. Adoption of the report

The Committee will adopt a report for submission to the Commission at its forty-sixth session in 1990.

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24 July 1989

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Committee on Development Planning and Statistics

**First session
24-28 July 1989
Bangkok**

**STATEMENT BY MR. S.A.M.S. KIBRIA
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC AT THE COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT
PLANNING AND STATISTICS, 24-28 JULY 1989**

Distinguished Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It gives me great pleasure to inaugurate the first session of the Committee on Development Planning and Statistics. I am delighted to see such a large number of countries attending, and among them a very fair representation from the Pacific island countries. There is also a predominance of statisticians among the representatives; perhaps the important statistical seminar arranged for next week has contributed to their participation. I am also glad to see the Director of the United Nations Statistical Office, Mr. William Seltzer, at this session of the Committee. These factors augur well for a fruitful dialogue between the producers and users of statistics.

As you are aware, the new Committee on Development Planning and Statistics has emerged as a result of Commission resolution 262(XLIII) in which it was decided to bring about changes in the Commission's conference structure which would economize on the resources devoted by the secretariat to its consultations with member Governments. The changes have been made after careful deliberations by the Commission and have been motivated, given the need for economy, by a number of considerations. Development planning and statistics are closely related areas of concern and in many countries of the region they are administered by the same Ministry. Nevertheless, the distinctive problems covered by the two disciplines should not be lost sight of. I would like to assure you that neither the Commission nor the secretariat sees the bringing of the two disciplines under the same legislative committee as any diminution in the role of either. In any event, the

Commission is due to review its conference structure again in 1990 and member Governments will have an opportunity to express their views at that time. In the mean time, I would like to request you to try to see what benefits a closer relationship between the two subject areas can bring to the work of the secretariat.

Economic developments in the region, since they were last reviewed by the Committee on Development Planning at its sixth session in November 1986, have been generally favourable. The international economic environment faced by the developing economies of the ESCAP region, despite the heightened uncertainties and increasing risks of a sharp downturn in the world economy, did not deter them from achieving high rates of growth. Indeed many developing countries of the region were able to take advantage of the currency realignments, real interest rate declines and softening of oil prices, which, however, failed to have a generalized favourable effect on the developing countries. There was considerable improvement in the last two years in the growth of world trade and in the growth of developed market economies, despite the scare caused by the October 1987 stock market crash. These two factors have had a strongly favourable external effect on the developing ESCAP region's economic growth in 1987 and 1988, when its aggregate GDP grew by 6 and 8 per cent, respectively. Growth in 1989 is expected to slow down as a result of unfavourable developments affecting some of the region's more dynamic economies in recent years, namely, the newly industrializing economies and China. Nevertheless, the ESCAP developing region is likely to continue to uphold its record of dynamic growth well into the next decade.

While the region's overall growth record in the 1980s justifies some degree of optimism, it would be a mistake to be complacent or to rejoice too much about its recent successes. Indeed, a closer look at the pace and pattern of growth would reveal that there is a lot to be concerned about. First, the region's growth performance, especially in the last two decades, has been highly uneven and has given rise to considerable disparities. It is by now a well-known fact that much of the region's reputation for economic dynamism and resilience in the 1980s has been based rather narrowly on the growth experienced in the region's few middle-income developing economies, which have increasingly acquired a large weight in the region's overall economic performance. Most of the region's low-income economies, including the least developed and Pacific island countries, endured painfully slow, and in some cases negative, growth. Intra-regional disparities were assuaged to some extent by the considerable improvement in growth performance of two of the region's largest countries, China and India. Nevertheless, the average per capita income of the least developed countries of the region relative to the more dynamic economies of the region fell markedly - to about one thirteenth of that of the Republic of Korea and about one fifth of that of Thailand.

The next major weakness in the region's past development pattern has been the increasing cleavage between growth and the utilization of its fruits to raise living standards. Too often growth has been treated as an end in itself, rather than as a means of improving the quality of life in many of our developing economies. Despite an enviable growth record, our region's progress in achieving improvements in such crucially important variables as infant survival, adult longevity and literacy, as well as in access to basic amenities such as safe drinking water, sanitation, transport and electricity, has been painfully slow. Shortage of resources is often claimed as the main reason for the slow progress in achieving these goals. This may well be so, but a more important impediment, in my view, is the mistaken perception that the needed investment for such purposes has to be assigned low priority in poor countries. This perception is also reflected in the poor quality of data available on quality-of-life indicators. It is with a view to remedying this deficiency that the ESCAP secretariat has launched a major inter-disciplinary effort to conduct a quality-of-life survey in the developing ESCAP region. I would like this Committee to give its views on the need and usefulness of such a survey in planning a better future for the developing economies of the region.

Distinguished representatives, there are other aspects of the development performance of the region which also require continuing attention and guidance by this Committee. Many of the region's developing economies have successfully weathered the continuing storms brought about by an increasingly uncertain external economic environment. This has been possible by undertaking the necessary adjustments in the economic and institutional structure required to ensure their continued resilience and dynamism by meeting the challenges and seizing the opportunities created by a rapidly changing world economy. However, this ability to make timely shifts in the economic structure in an organized manner, rather than haphazardly or under duress, is very limited in many of the region's narrowly-based developing countries, especially the least developed and Pacific island economies. Their capacity to take advantage of the emerging changes in the international division of labour has been greatly handicapped by the persistent weakness of commodity prices and inadequate concessional inflows, which have aggravated their structural weaknesses and vulnerability to external shocks as well as to natural disasters. These issues have been discussed in detail in the secretariat's major study on restructuring the developing economies, which was presented to the Commission at its forty-fifth session a few months back. The secretariat will continue its work on restructuring, which remains the Commission's theme topic for its next session in Kuala Lumpur in March 1990. The Committee may wish to provide guidance to the secretariat on its current and follow-up work on the theme topic.

A notable recent development affecting developing countries of the ESCAP region has been a marked reduction in the political tensions and military confrontations in the region, as well as among the major powers. This will not only release resources for productive use but will bring hope to millions of people for a peaceful and prosperous future. Peace should provide considerable opportunities for development in the region, especially for those countries which have suffered directly in the past from violence and civil strife.

The decade of the 1980s had seen considerable erosion of commitment to multilateral initiatives in favour of developing countries. It is heartening to see that there has been a revival of global support for development. This is most clearly seen in the recent decisions of the General Assembly to hold two interrelated meetings in the 1990s: first, a special session of the General Assembly devoted to international economic co-operation, in particular to the revitalization of economic growth and development of developing countries is being convened from 23 to 27 April 1990; second, the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade, preparations for which have already started, will be submitted for approval to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session in 1990. The ESCAP secretariat will provide regional inputs into these global meetings. I would like to request the Committee to guide the secretariat on the preparation of these inputs.

The secretariat is also actively engaged in preparations for the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in Paris, which will help to highlight the problems of this group of disadvantaged countries. The secretariat document on this issue gives details of these preparations. I would like to earnestly request all member countries to give advice to the secretariat as to how it can best prepare a case for the accelerated development of these countries.

Distinguished representatives, the broad review of the regional economies that I have just given implies the availability of factual information for assessing and monitoring past and current economic performance and developments, and based on these, for undertaking comparative studies particularly related to national disparities, and for projecting into the future. However, not every member country in the region is blessed with good statistical information. Many fall short in their capability and capacity to produce reliable and timely data, and nearly all are constrained by inadequate resources, both financial and manpower, for statistical activities. We in the secretariat have recognized these factors for some time, and have accordingly adopted the strengthening and building of statistical capability among national statistical services as the principal thrust in our statistical activities and programmes. A major component of the thrust has

been to promote training in national statistical offices. This has been supported by the provision of extensive regional advisory services and through conducting technical meetings, workshops and seminars. Our achievements, which are reflected in what the countries can produce and disseminate, have been modestly significant, but there remains some cause for concern, which we must address.

During the last two or three decades, statistical developments at the national level and statistical activities of the secretariat have had considerable support from developed countries and donor agencies. While such support has been much appreciated, a conflict is apparent between the objective of certain categories of donors or lenders of development assistance, and that of the secretariat. We believe that so long as technical assistance in statistics promotes and contributes to national capability building, it will be cost-effective and beneficial in the long run. Assistance provided to national statistical agencies with the prime objective of producing quickly a set of data required for a specific study or a project, although meeting an immediate need, is less productive if it does not contribute to the overall development of statistical services. I should like to hope that such differences in approach will be gradually narrowed, even eliminated, in the coming decade. The Seminar on Managing National Statistical Services in the 1990s, which will be held next week and to which I referred earlier, will need to consider this issue. Any views or guidance the Committee can provide will no doubt be useful and highly opportune.

There have been some important developments internationally and regionally in the statistical field since the last time the Committee on Statistics met, in November 1987. The United Nations Statistical Commission has promoted the use of the Standard International Trade Classification Revision 3 (SITC Rev. 3) and the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS), by all member countries from 1988. Early this year, the Statistical Commission approved and recommended the adoption of the third revision of the International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (ISIC Rev. 3). A comprehensive review of the United Nations System of National Accounts (SNA) is in progress under the aegis of the Statistical Office of the United Nations, with the completion date targeted for 1990. Also in progress is the development of methodologies for compiling service statistics, including trade in services. Regionally, the secretariat is fully engrossed in assisting countries in planning and conducting their 1990 round of population and housing censuses and the processing of the data generated by these censuses, as well as other socio-economic surveys, through the use of modern, fast-developing computer technology. Efforts are also being made in the area of social statistics and indicators, principally through greater use and analysis of existing

data and exploitation of the less costly sources of information, such as administrative records.

To my mind, the Committee should be profoundly interested in these developments for two fundamental reasons. First, international standards and methods promote greater intercountry comparability of information, which facilitates dialogues and negotiations on an informed basis. Second, the results from censuses and surveys could help towards the study on the quality of life that I mentioned earlier. Distinguished participants would no doubt want to consider how best this study could be facilitated. Currently it is planned around a quality-of-life survey which would require a multi-disciplinary approach, with statisticians playing a prominent catalytic role in facilitating the coverage of all facets of life relating to economic and social well-being.

I referred to computer technology a moment ago. To the statisticians this technology is presenting a challenge in collecting, processing, analysing and disseminating data. It also offers an opportunity to exploit administrative procedures for statistical purposes. When administrative procedures are computerized, one important by-product would be the up-to-date information on the programmes and the activities therein. The secretariat has thus added a subprogramme on government computerization to its statistics programme, and the Commission has endorsed it enthusiastically. Also supported by the Commission is the programme on developing a data bank in the secretariat for which the use of computer technology is essential. We are a late starter in this area; however, we believe we can learn from the trials and errors of those who preceded us so as to develop a system which will, *inter alia*, take cognizance of the several sectoral data base systems currently existing in the secretariat. When successfully developed, it could also form a prototype for the smaller and statistically least developed countries to adopt and use.

Distinguished representatives, it is the constant endeavour of the secretariat to be helpful to member countries in their development efforts by highlighting and increasing awareness of selected issues. The secretariat has attempted to use a variety of means such as research, dissemination of information through its publications, technical co-operation, and seminars and workshops. The exchange of country experience on specific issues has often proved a most useful form of technical assistance, which also contributes to the building of permanent national capabilities among participating countries. The secretariat would also like to expand its activities as a catalyst in promoting basic research on development issues. A shortage of resources and continually increasing responsibilities for carrying out operational projects have somewhat diluted this role. I hope the Committee will make appropriate recommendations in striking the right balance in the secretariat's activities. I also look forward to your comments on the

medium-term plan for two major subprogrammes relating to development planning and to statistics.

A large number of activities of the secretariat in the last two years have been financed from extrabudgetary sources. I wish to take this opportunity especially to acknowledge the value of these resources for the work of the secretariat. The Governments of Australia, Canada (International Development Research Centre (IDRC)), China, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, India, Japan, the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea have contributed resources for the programmes on development issues and policies. Several of these countries, as well as New Zealand and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, have also contributed to the secretariat's work programme in statistics, while Tonga hosted one statistical meeting for the Pacific island countries. Among the donor agencies, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) were significant contributors of extrabudgetary resources. I also wish to mention several research and other institutions in our host country, Thailand, which have collaborated with the secretariat in implementing its work programme in development policies and issues. I wish to thank all of them very much and express the hope that this co-operation, which benefits the developing countries in the region most, will continue into the future.

Finally, I wish to thank member Governments, United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, which have co-operated in the implementation of these major programmes of ESCAP and which have sent representatives to this meeting. I am sure that at the present session the Committee will make valuable recommendations and suggestions for strengthening the secretariat's activities in the areas of development planning and of statistics. I look forward to the results of your deliberations with utmost interest. I wish you every success and a pleasant stay in Bangkok.

Thank you.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC.

Committee on Development Planning and Statistics

First session

24-28 July 1989

Bangkok

COUNTRY PAPERS ON STATISTICAL AND GOVERNMENT COMPUTER -
IZATION ACTIVITIES

- 1) Afghanistan
- 2) China
- 3) Hong Kong
- 4) Fiji
- 5) Iran
- 6) Japan
- 7) Korea
- 8) Loa PDR
- 9) New Zealand
- 10) Pakistan
- 11) Philippine
- 12) Samoa
- 13) Tonga
- 14) USSR
- 15) Viet Nam
- 16) Vanuatu

Statistical Activities in Afghanistan

Since it is hardly necessary to stress the need for timely reliable data and information for planning, decision making, research and administrative purposes, therefore, all countries of the world have presently set up very elaborate institutional machinery for the collection and processing of their statistical data and information. In developing countries, including Afghanistan, after the acceptance of planning as a policy tool and development instrument the demand for timely and accurate statistics has gone up and subsequently attention has been focussed to the improvement of their statistical systems.

A centralized statistical system has been organized in Afghanistan with the establishment of the Central Statistics Office (CSO) in the country since 1972. Since then to meet the ever-increasing need of the country the CSO has been reorganized few times. Special attention has always been paid to streamline the CSO programmes priorities.

The Statistical Law of Afghanistan which was promulgated in 1975 and revised in 1984 gives wide power and authority to CSO in strengthening and developing statistical activities and in providing programme priorities. The Law calls for coordination of statistical activities and institutes the right to get statistical information and guarantees the confidentiality of information to the respondents.

Statistical Activities:

The government of Afghanistan has given due priority to the development of statistical activities and programmes. The present statistical activities of CSO as a main statistical institution in the country, cover the data collection and processing of statistical information on agriculture and livestock, industry and mining, transport and communication, trade and procurement, constructions, prices, national accounts, population and manpower, and social services. Constant efforts have been made to improve data collection procedures, estimation techniques, processing and publication of the required statistics to make reliable statistics available to users, mainly to planner in time and on a sustained basis. Also in order to develop the technical capabilities and awareness of the statistical staff of the country CSO conducts training courses, workshops and seminars. However, the demand for statistical information is growing in Afghanistan but due to the prevailing circumstances and budgetary constraints the scope for improving statistics is limited. It has to go a long way in developing a fully integrated and articulated statistical system to meet the increasing demand for statistics. Despite that CSO has always been trying to provide the most essential statistical information required for planning and decision making purposes.

Afghanistan participated in ESCAP seventh Session of the committee on statistics, held in Bangkok in 1987. Since then some of the main

statistical activities of the CSO are described below:

1. In the area of current statistics

Due to the fact that administrative records are a valuable source of information, therefore emphasis has been placed to the collection of information mainly through this source. The activities in this regard consist of collection, compilation, analysis, publication and dissemination of all sectoral statistics, and the statistic related to the implementation of the developmental projects and planned indicators in accordance with their specified reporting periods.

2. Censuses and surveys

Owing to the present condition in the country and non-availability of sufficient funds it was not possible to carry out any census or large scale sample survey in the last two years. However, attempt has been made to conduct a few sample surveys in some cities of the country as follows:

- weekly and monthly survey of prices of consumer goods.
- monthly and quarterly survey of registered industrial enterprises and establishments.
- household income and expenditure survey of Kabul city.
- handicrafts survey of Mazari-Sharif city.

The first two surveys mentioned above are part of the routine activity of CSO. The other two activities will be described briefly.

CSO started to carry out the household income and expenditure survey in Kabul city in the year 1987. The survey was organized to be implemented in Six phases. The first three phases were accomplished during the same year and the rest was completed thereafter. This survey covers the income-expenditure pattern of the household along with various other parameters. The design of the survey adopted was stratified in two stage-random sampling. The districts in 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 objectives of the survey were to construct and revise weighting coefficients for the consumer price index, to provide data on distribution of income and expenditure pattern of the household and to provide information for the estimations of national accounts etc. Data processing of the survey was done on computer in accordance with the tabulation programme of the survey which was formulated in advance. The analysis and the final report of the result of the survey became ready in 1988.

It was intended to carry out similar survey in other cities as well as in some rural areas of the country. Unfortunately, due

to the unfavourable condition such a survey has not been extended in the enviaaged areas so far.

Since a great proportion of population in Afghanistan is engaged in small scale and handicrafts industry, therefore there is a wide scope for broadening of this branch of the economy to provide more and diverse commodities for local use and for exprot as well.

Keeping this in view, CSO has been in the process of carrying out handicrafts and small scale industry in Kabul city. In series of such a survey the handicrafts survey was conducted in Mazari-Sharif city in 1988. Prior to the conduct of the survey, prelisting of the housing units,shops and handicrafts establishments were completed. Subsequently, the relevant households and shops were interviewed. The survey questionnaire contained information on the type, amount and value of production and raw materials as well as information on labour force and demographic characteristics of the crafts men. The collected data was processed on computer. The result will be published soon. This survey is intended to be conducted in other cities and some rural areas of the country in future.

CSO of Afghanistan has its own computer center which is functioning as a self-supporting enterprise under the name of Computer Services Enterprise (CSE). It is the only main computer center in the country which provides all type of data processing services to CSO and other interested users. The activities and the available hardware and

software facilities and some other relevant information have been described in detail in a separate paper entitled, "Government Computerization in Afghanistan", which will be distributed for further information to the participants of this committee.

Dissemination:

To maintain good relations with the data users CSO of Afghanistan always tries to disseminate the collected and processed data to various users. Since at present the main internal users are planners, therefore attempts has been made to fulfil their very essential data requirements. CSO disseminates the statistical data and information through preparation and distribution of statistical tables, charts, pamphlets, circulars, folders, analytical reports and regular statistical bulletines, pocket books, yearbooks, etc. to national and international users. In addition statistical informations are supplied to the interested international organizations through forms, questionnaires etc, whenever requested from CSO. Exchange of information between CSO and external users have always been beneficial for the improvement and broadening of statistical activities in the country. Atempt is also made to foster and maintain exchange of information among countries to improve data quality and comparability in the context of the government information system.

Training:

To upgrade and improve the skills and knowledge of the statistical staff CSO continuously endeavours to organize training programmes and to provide training facilities within and outside the country for the statistical and computer staff. Several statistical training courses and seminars are organized for the statistical and computer staff of CSO and other statistical personnel of other organizations to update their knowledge on the programme priorities, various aspects of the statistical activities, problems and difficulties encountered in statistical activities.

CSO is also actively participating in all UN and other international organizations training programmes, seminars, conferences, symposiums and other relevant training functions whenever CSO is invited to participate in such functions. Also some of our staff are trained in various faculties of Kabul University and some are sent to friendly countries annually. But in spite of all the endeavours still we are facing lack of qualified staff to fulfill our statistical objectives. Regretfully, despite our urgent needs for qualified staff some of the international training institutions particularly SIAP which used to train a number of our staff annually, has suspended its training cooperation since 1979. As we have always requested in international forums and meetings, availing of the opportunity once again it is requested that such training cooperation be resumed.

Future activities and proposals:

In order to identify the data gaps on a continuous basis in the context of priorities, CSO feels responsible for carrying out various statistical activities in future. Some of the major functions and activities of CSO in short and long term are considered as follows:

- Strengthening of statistical organization through establishment of statistical offices in all administrative units of the government and non-government organizations. Likewise, enhancing the role of coordination, guidance and control of statistical units and cells at ministries and organizations in the country.
- Continuation and expansion of training efforts for training of statistical and computer staff and improvement of procedures of recording and reporting of current and vital statistics.
- planning of conducting censuses and surveys, such as extension of Handicrafts and household income-expenditure surveys, second population and housing census, agriculture and livestock census etc.
- Strengthening of the computer center of CSO and establishing computer center networks in Kabul city and in provinces consecutively.

Some of these undertakings such as population census, agriculture census and extension of the computer services are long term priorities,

They would be implemented when political and economic stability is maintained and the essential fund is made available.

Afghanistan is a developing country for the execution of big statistical undertakings, such as the First Population Census and the computer project have previously benefitted from technical and financial assistances of some UN organizations. Thus, for the implementation of the major future statistical tasks we are looking forward for such assistances. In addition, the multi-lateral and bilateral donor agencies are urged to continue their assistances toward strengthening statistical services in the ESCAP region.

BRIEFING ON CHINA'S STATISTICS AND COMPUTERIZATION
DURING LAST TWO YEARS
STATE STATISTICAL BUREAU (SSB)
(JULY, 1989)

I. STATISTICAL SITUATION OF CHINA

Since the Seventh Session of the Committee on Statistics in November, 1987, remarkable successes have been achieved in China's statistical work, particularly in the field of continuously implementing the national economic reform and open-door policies, providing qualified services, promoting the open-statistical model, improving the quality of statistical data, playing an important role in economic development, reforming statistical regulations and methods, strengthening the responsibility of statistical supervisor and comprehensively increasing the level of statistical services etc.

1. FURTHER STRENGTHENING THE FUNCTIONS OF STATISTICS IN
ECONOMIC POLICY-MAKING AND MANAGEMENT

Though China's social economics have been continuously developing during the last two years, there are still many problems occurred. In order to solve the problems, the statistical departments at all levels adopted various measures to reflect timely the problems of excessive speed of industrial development, excessive demands of the society, quickly going up of the prices as well as insufficiency of staying power for agricultural development etc. As for the important issues in economic development such as the strategy of coastal development, agricultural development and inflation, the investigations and studies of special subjects were conducted, which provided a large amount of information for statistical analysis, meanwhile it provided scientific basis for the economic policy-making.

2. PROVIDING STATISTICAL INFORMATION
FOR THE WHOLE SOCIETY

The quantity of statistical information disseminated to the society was improved. The State Statistical Bureau(SSB)

supplied, on an average, 1.17 Statistical articles or information to be disseminated every day by newspapers, radio, TV or other mass mediums. In some provinces or municipalities, two statistical articles or information have been disseminated every day. The SSB organized one news release conference each quarter to introduce the current situation of China's economic development to Chinese and foreign correspondents and to answer the questions at the same time. Each provincial and municipality statistical bureau has formulated regulations for disseminating regularly statistical information at the news release conference. Irregular news release conference was also held by some departments. The State Council of China decided that, from 1989, the State Statistical Bureau is responsible to promulgate 8 items of economic indicators of each province and municipality with the joint action of State Planning Committee, the Ministry of Finance and the People's Bank of China. Besides the Statistical Yearbook of China was improved and enriched in 1988, the SSB added some of publications like the professional statistical yearbook of price, Statistical Yearbook of Family Income and Expenditure in Urban Areas, Statistical Yearbook of Industry and Transportation. Some of the Statistical Yearbooks were selected to be exhibited in international book fair. China Statistical News started publication in July 1988.

The Consultancy Service Network has been primarily formulated within statistical system of China. In order to provide China's statistical information for abroad, a representative office of China Statistical Information and Consultancy Service Centre (CSICSC) was set up in HongKong in 1988.

3. FURTHER IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF STATISTICAL DATA

A system to assess quality of statistical data has been established in more than 2/3 provinces and municipalities of China. All statistical data were checked up periodically, therefore, the statistical data of China is basically reliable and can reflect the real situation of China's economic development.

4. ACHIEVEMENTS ON REFORM OF STATISTICAL SYSTEM AND METHODOLOGY

After the new programme of China's system of national accounts revised, the local account and report forms have been designed and tests have been conducted in 9 selected provinces and municipalities. Meanwhile, the State Statistical Bureau has started to carry out the research on formulating one set of report forms for rural areas and industrial enterprises respectively with the assistance of many provincial statistical bureaus.

We have also discussed and revised the accounting method and framework of statistical indicators for the growth rate of industrial production and so on, formulated the basic requirement of indicators in special economic zones, and some provincial and municipal statistical bureaus in coastal region have formulated and tested the new statistical system of world market-oriented economics.

In order to complete and systematize the statistical system and methodology, in July 1988, the State Statistical Bureau centralized the responsibility of the professional statistical system and methodology, primarily allocated to subject matter departments, to the Department of System and Methodology so that the unified design, promulgation and management of the statistical system and methodology have been further strengthened.

5. REFORMING OF STATISTICAL ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The statistical network at township level has been further strengthened and expanded during recent two years. According to the statistics, there are 37,000 statistical stations at town and township level by the end of 1988, making up 63 percent of the total number of towns and townships. The statistical information network at the district level under the jurisdiction of the city was also developed quickly.

A new progress has been made in the test work of establishing statistical committee at county level. So far, the total number of the statistical committee at county level was increased from 10 counties in 3 provinces in early 1988

to more than 80 counties in 13 provinces.. The establishment of county statistical committee has strengthened the comprehensive coordination and the responsibility of management, it plays an important role to coordinate the statistical relations between the government and other department concerned, and at the same time it provided the valuable experiences for the reform of statistical managemnet system.

6. FURTHER STRENGTHENING STATISTICAL LEGAL SYSTEM

Nine provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities have formulated the local statistical laws or regulations which have been approved by the standing committee of the people's congress at the same level. Some departments under the State Council have also formulated corresponding statistical rules and regulations. The State Statistical Bureau has issued rules and regulations such as "TEMPORARY PROVISIONS FOR CHECKING-UP OF STATISTICAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS", "ANNOUNCING SYSTEM ON ILLEGAL STATISTICAL CASES" and "THE METHOD OF APPOINTING SPECIAL STATISTICAL INSPECTORS". The number of local statistical inspecting organizations and statistical inspectors have been greatly increased. Two-third statistical bureaus of province, autonomous region and municipality have set up laws and regulation-checking organizations, full-time inspectors have been provided in many places as well.

7. FULFILLMENT OF ALL PREPARATIONS FOR THE FOURTH NATIONAL POPULATION CENSUS

The Fourth National Population Census will be conducted in China in 1990. We have done great deal of preparations for the population census. After repeated tests, we have finalized the programme, questionnaire and working flow-charts for the Fourth National Population Census, worked out the data processing programme and conducted a pilot population census. The leading group of the population census have also been set up from central level down to the grass root level.

However China achieved satisfactory results in statistical work during last two years, but in comparison with other countries in ESCAP region, many problems still

remain to be solved, among which followings are most prominent:

a. The present national economic accounting system and the statistical systems and methods can not fit the economic reform, open-door policy and the national economic development. The accounting bases of some important economic indicators are not sufficient. The accounting methods remain to be improved.

b. The contradiction between target and present situation is relatively prominent. As we are in the transition period with two type-price system functioning, in which both new and old management systems still existed in statistics, the old accounting system and indicator system can not be abolished for the moment, while the new ones are going to be established step by step. The statistical tasks have been increased during recent years, but the means of data collection, transmission and processing in statistical agencies are in general still at the stage of semi-manual tabulation. The working conditions for statistical agencies are also very poor, and the statistical funds can not meet the needs of statistics.

c. The quality of statistical personnel is urgently to be improved. Recently, a survey result indicated that the government statistical agencies at various levels have employed more than 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 million statistical personnel working in statistical agencies of other specialized government departments and of enterprises and institutions. The educational and professional background of these 2 million people is even worse. Only 3 percent of them have university or equivalent education and 20 percent have secondary education. In recent years, good results have been achieved in training of statisticians by using all possible means. However, as China is a large country with a backward economics, the input for education and training is limited. This resulted many difficulties in training work. Therefore, great efforts should be made to improve the quality of statistician at each level in future.

II. GOVERNMENT COMPUTERIZATION

Along with the development of the planned commodity economy, computers are more and more popularly used in economic management and policy-making in government agencies at each level. Followings are the main progress and problems of computerization in China's statistical system in particular:

Thanks to the support from the Chinese Government, great achievements have been made in recent years within government statistical system in acquisition and installation of computer facilities, setting up of corresponding organizations, personnel training and software development and applications. It should be mentioned that the United Nations and other international organizations provided an effective assistance in the development of computerization in China.

By the end of 1988, there had been 5,000 micro-computers which installed in more than 3,000 government statistical bureau at central, provincial, prefecture and county level. As for the development of software, it also achieved a remarkable progress. We developed a number of softwares for the statistical work, at the same time, a standard software was exploited for the statistics. The experimental work of setting up statistical data base has also been a successful results.

In 1987, an Overall Programme of State Statistical Information Automation System (SSIAS) was drafted by an expert group consisting of computer specialists, statisticians and economists. The State Statistical Bureau was authorized to implement this programme so as to promote the establishment of information automation system more effectively within government statistical agencies. The major task at present is to allocate facilities, establish organizations and train personnel in accordance with 1988-1990 plan for implementing the programme of (SSIAS).

PROBLEMS FOR URGENT SOLUTION:

1. Insufficient funds for SSIAS development
2. Insufficient capacity of computer facilities
3. Scarcity of trained technical personnel
4. Lack of effective statistical software packages
We hope to have more supermini-computer-based software packages such as TPL, SAS, SPPS, etc., and better database management systems for microcomputer network.

The Chinese Government has attached great importance to the work of statistics and computerization. In order to fit the needs of the modernization and economic reform, initiative measures will be taken to solve the problems in our work, at the same, any assistance and cooperations from the international organizations and friends of other countries will be welcomed.

COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND STATISTICS
FIRST SESSION, 24-28 JULY 1989, BANGKOK

COUNTRY PAPER - FIJI

A. AN OVERVIEW

Much of the developments in Fiji's statistical services since November 1987 follows the recommendations of the Statistical Review Committee's report to the government. The review team carried out its work from January 20 to March 14 1986. The impetus for a review of the Bureau's services arose from questions about its efficiency and professional competence. This review focussed not only on problems real or perceived but also on the role and the structure of the Bureau. It suggested ways which would enable the Bureau to respond readily to the changing needs of statistical data users.

2. The Review Team's major recommendations were as follows:

- (a) The Bureau should be restructured in order to strengthen its professional capabilities and organise activities along subject matter lines. (The new structure increased the professional and sub-professional complement and decreased its clerical staff.)
- (b) Since professional competency must necessarily be built through training and fresh recruitment, it suggested that the increase should be through a phased programme over the next 2-3 years, and should be determined by contemporary needs.
- (c) The post of Deputy Government Statistician should be reinstated as there was a clear need for managerial as well as technical support to the Government Statistician.
- (d) The Bureau should set up a Co-ordination, Research and Development Division to carry out the co-ordination and integration functions imposed upon the Government Statistician by the Statistics Act.
- (e) The Bureau to maintain its own in-house computer hardware, peripherals and software so that it is self-sufficient for file creation, editing, processing, tabulating and preparation of scripts, analyses and table contents for all of its ad-hoc surveys and on-going short term sample surveys and derived statistics, as well as for its less frequent programme of censuses and surveys of establishments and households.

3. For the period November 1987 to date the Bureau has continued to widen the base of its statistical activities by developing new statistical series. In addition to this it has maintained the timely output of its regular statistical services and wherever possible it has attempted to improve the quality of available data. A total of 45 publications were released in 1988. As of this date in 1989 another 18 statistical series were released.

B. STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENTS SINCE NOVEMBER 1987

4. Restructuring

As mentioned briefly in the overview reorganisation and staff training during 1988-89 continued successfully. Discussions were held throughout the year with the Public Service Commission and the Minister of Finance regarding the Bureau's manpower planning and the acquisition of more computing equipment as suggested in the Review Report. As a result of these discussions and consultations the post of a Deputy Government Statistician was approved and provisions for substantive appointment was included in the budget for 1989. This post was to be effective from January 1989. A post of an Assistant Accounts Officer was also approved as from January 1989 and the posts of twenty-two clerical and senior clerical officers were regraded to statistical officers. In addition to all these above the Bureau was to become a self-accounting department from January 1989.

5. Training

The development of professional statistical capability continued unhindered throughout 1988-89. Two staff members successfully completed a post graduate diploma course in development economics at the Australian National University. Another officer was completing a masters degree in economics and data processing at the university of Sussex whilst three other officers were still completing their diploma or degree courses at the Australian National University. Staff members were also encouraged to take part-time degree courses at the University of the South Pacific. These training programmes are designed to equip staff with adequate theoretical statistical knowledge so that they are able to contribute towards the development of better statistical services in Fiji.

6. Computers

The acquisition of additional computing power as well as the computerisation of statistical censuses and surveys continued throughout this period. Two additional IBM personal computers were purchased during this period and one IBM Personal System/2 Model 60 was temporary given to the Bureau by the local agents for IBM products in Fiji. The Bureau thus had seven IBM personal computers each with 40 mb hard disks, one IBM Model 60 with 80mb hard disk and the NCR Tower network with 90mb hard disk. Several statistical applications were successfully developed and are now up and running. These included the vital registration system, the census of industries, the census of building and construction, the survey of distributive trades and the quarterly employment survey. The computerisation of these jobs have led to a greater turn around of information. Besides tedious manual tabulations and editing have also become a thing of the past.

7. Statistical Adviser

With the adoption of the Statistical Review Committee's report by the Public Service Commission, a former Government Statistician from New Zealand joined the Bureau on 27 February 1988 as an Statistics Adviser initially for a period of one year. The services of the Statistical Adviser was funded through the United Nations Development Programme. Towards the end of the contract period of a year it was evident that a large part of the Statistics Adviser's initial terms of reference of duties could not be completed. The United Nations Development programme office in Fiji was approached and a request was made to extend the Adviser's contract for another year. This was subsequently approved by the new UNDP Regional Representative in Fiji.

8. Demographic Analyst and Analytical Report on the Census

In March, 1988 a Demographic Analyst assumed duties in the Bureau again for a period of one year through funding by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities. Under his direction and guidance the Bureau completed work on all the eleven chapters of the analytical report on the census of population 1986. An Occasional Paper was also completed on the population projections for the period 1986-2011. It must be emphasised here that it was the first time since the taking of the various census in Fiji that the analytical report on the census was written by staff of the Bureau. This must be considered as the single most innovative change in the work of the Bureau of Statistics in Fiji. With improvements in its infrastructure both in terms of capabilities and computing resources, it is unlikely that the Bureau will rely on expatriates for future censuses of population in Fiji.

9. Co-ordination, Research and Development Unit

A Co-ordination, Research and Development unit has been set up for the first time in the Bureau and five staff have been recruited to work in this unit. This unit undertook several statistical development projects during 1988-89 such as

- (1) the successful testing and implementation of the Quarterly Employment Survey,
- (2) the setting up of a sample frame and the implementation of the Quarterly Survey of Wholesale and Retail Trades,
- (3) completion of the Report of the Social Indicators for Fiji issue number 5 incorporating six chapters and supporting graphics and charts, and
- (4) computerisation in-house of routine statistical censuses and surveys.

10. Harmonised System of Trade Statistics

Another development of significance during the period 1988-89 was the change from the BTN SITC system of recording trade statistics to the Harmonised System (HS) of trade statistics. The decision to change over to the HS system of trade statistics was taken in early 1986. Preparatory work for the change over continued throughout the next three years. The Harmonised System was finally adopted in January 1989. However, the changeover to the Harmonised System involved more work than was anticipated. For example, all existing computer files had to be converted to the new system. Before any conversion could be carried out the old BTN classification (SITC Revision 2) had to be converted to SITC, Revision 3 as the SITC, Revision 3 had a one to one linkage with the Harmonised System. A series of test checks were carried out on live data to see whether they were significantly different from the old trade system. These checks started in the latter half of 1988 and continued till the first quarter of 1989. The present evaluation is that there are no significant differences between the data as processed by the old system and the new system. Hence a decision has been made to adopt the new system.

11. The adoption of the Harmonised System of trade statistics has led to a greater degree of classification in the categories of goods imported and exported. For example, where the old system had 1000 import/export classifications, the new system has 5000 classifications. The Bureau is therefore mindful of derived statistical data from the trade system such as the terms of trade, classification of imports by broad economic categories and the comparability of data series. The trade-off is therefore in terms of the resources that could now be utilised in areas where there are shortages since several staff will be relieved of the job of manual checking as the system is on-line and trade documents are self-coded. Provisions have also been made for unit value checks to be carried out automatically. This will lead to improvements in the quality of data.

12. Another important innovation in so far as the trade system is concerned is the flexibility of the new system which allows us to manipulate trade files in the manner in which the requests on trade data may be received and to print a hard copy of such data. In the past each request either had to be manually done or a special request had to be made to the government's electronic data processing centre which was time consuming. Dissemination of trade data will be much faster and the exchange of floppies containing relevant files is a possibility. It is anticipated that it will not take any more than one week now to process and release trade data for any month.

13. Quarterly Employment Survey

The Bureau recognised the need for more up-to-date data on paid employment by sectors. In order to meet the users requirement a frame for a Quarterly Employment Survey was drawn up towards the end of 1987. Tests to determine its accuracy were carried out by using data from the 1985 and 1986 Annual Employment Surveys which were already available in the Bureau. The Quarterly estimates were grossed up to arrive at national totals. The results were quite pleasing. It was found that the differences between the quarterly estimates and the Annual Employment census data were less than one percentage point. Further checks were carried out when the results from the December 1987 Employment Survey became available. Test results showed similar differences which were considered insignificant. A decision was then taken on the basis of tests carried out over a three year period 1985-1987 to inaugurate the Quarterly Employment Survey as from the first quarter of 1988. To-date five quarterly surveys have already been carried out, four in 1988 and one for the first quarter of 1989. These have now become official statistics.

14. The implementation of the Quarterly Employment Survey may also be considered a major innovation for the following reasons. Whereas the traditional Annual Employment Survey covered approximately 8000 establishments, the Quarterly Employment Survey covers less than a 1000. Whereas the results from the Annual Employment Survey took approximately 18-20 months before even the preliminary data could be released, the results from the Quarterly Employment Survey are available within a month after the end of the survey. And finally whereas the Annual Employment Survey is processed by the Government's electronic data processing centre, the Quarterly Employment Survey is processed in-house.

15. Balance of Payments

At the request of the Bureau of Statistics, an IMF Balance of Payments technical assistance mission visited Fiji and spent three weeks from February 27 1989 with the Bureau. The terms of the mission were:

- (1) to review current sources and methods of compiling balance of payments statistics and to make recommendations for improving the coverage, scope, conceptual deficiencies and compilation procedures,
- (2) to identify direct investment companies in Fiji,
- (3) to design appropriate questionnaires for collecting other balance of payments data which were not yet available,
- (4) to put together a training and procedural manual which could be easily understood by staff compiling balance of payments statistics, and
- (5) to train staff in the compilation and maintenance of an up-to-date and redeveloped balance of payments programme.

16. In order to meet these objectives the mission reviewed current balance of payments compilation procedures and in conjunction with the Bureau and other authorities, documented current data sources and methods, introduced some treatment changes and installed key documentation and new worksheets on Lotus 1-2-3. The mission also designed a number of new surveys, revised existing surveys and made recommendations concerning a suitable collecting strategy. It had consultations with a wide range of users and data suppliers including the Central Planning Office, the Ministry of Finance, the Research Department of the Reserve Bank of Fiji, the Department of Customs, the commercial banks, the Fiji Sugar Marketing agency and the various oil companies, etc.

17. An assessment of the data requirements showed that better data were required on the levels of, flows (capital transactions) of, and incomes associated with liabilities to and claims on non-residents. In addition to this, it was also desirable to improve data on services provided by and to non-residents. Consequently the collection strategy proposed small surveys involving 45 to 75 enterprises and to collect from them details on capital transactions, reconciliation items and incomes in respect of liabilities to direct investors, liabilities to other non-residents and claims on non-residents including details of drawings and repayments in respect of foreign borrowings.

18. The Bureau has already printed and distributed appropriate questionnaires to various enterprises in order to strengthen the basis of the balance of payments compilation. The refinements to the existing balance of payments data are being affected and the method of presentation of the balance of payments data have also been modified in line with the mission's recommendations. For example on the capital account direct investments are categorised under four separate classifications as equity capital, working balances, reinvestment of earnings and other. The other category is further broken down as real estate, withdrawal of investments and loans. Likewise official capital and other capital flows now show breakdowns.

19. Household Surveys

In 1981 a Household Survey unit was established in the Bureau. The aim of this unit was to programme a sample survey of both rural and urban households in Fiji so that socio-economic statistics on private households as an institutional sector of the economy could be collected. Amongst other household based statistics, an important objective of these surveys was to make an independent assessment of the household savings for national accounts purposes.

20. The programme started much as was desired in 1982 with a nationwide Employment and Unemployment Survey and was followed in 1983 with a Household Income and Expenditure Survey. Much useful social and economic data about private households in Fiji was collected and has subsequently been used in policy and decision making in Government. The Consumer Prices Index was also revised on the basis of the findings of the Household Income and Expenditure Survey. A revised benchmark was also established on the status of employment and more particularly unemployment in Fiji.

21. This programme was to continue in 1984 with a Household Economic Activity Survey and funds were already approved for this purpose. The programme would then have been maintained on an annual basis. Financial difficulties, however, made it necessary to postpone this survey as money had to be diverted to rehabilitate victims of cyclones and floods which caused widescale destructions to homes and other infrastructural developments in Fiji. No progress could be made in the next two years as the Bureau was preparing for the 1986 population census which tied up a lot of the resources including the Household Survey unit staff. A fresh start was made towards the beginning of 1988 with the arrival of the Statistics Adviser. Preparatory work continued throughout 1988 and a draft questionnaire was available in February 1989. The draft questionnaire has been subsequently pilot-tested. The pilot test involved two enumeration areas with approximately a hundred households in each enumeration area. On the basis of this pilot survey some minor revisions are being carried out on the main questionnaire prior to the printing. The actual survey will begin in September 1989.

22. The Household Economic Activity Survey is primarily an economic survey of the subsistence sector in the predominant rural areas and the cottage industries in the predominant urban areas. Various government departments and other organisations have in the past stated the need for such surveys and for the accompanying surveys of rural credits and indebtedness as well as on access to basic needs and social services. The survey will thus cover all household based economic activities operated by and large by the households on its own without the use of hired labour. In other words it will include all own account activities, leaving aside activities undertaken on an establishment basis. In the case of agriculture, however, it may include the operation of small farms with or without the aid of hired labour, leaving aside sugar and coconut plantations which are generally operated on a large scale. It would include other related activities such as fishing, forestry and hunting and

non-agricultural activities such as manufacturing, trade, transportation, construction and services. The scope of the survey may thus be broadly described as comprising small scale agricultural and own-account non-agricultural households.

23. Information will be collected on the nature of economic activity or activities carried out by the household, fixed assets owned, acquired and possessed, loans taken for economic activity, household and hired labour employed, material inputs and other operational costs, outputs, sales and receipts, etc.

24. A sample of between 3500-4000 households will be selected for this purpose. Samples of households will be drawn by stratified two-stage sampling. The stratification will be as urban, village and settlement areas. The primary sampling units will be the enumeration areas as selected in the 1986 population census. From the operational point of view the sample enumeration areas will be selected in multiples of 12 by rounding up the numbers allocated to each basic stratum. It is further estimated that between 350-400 enumeration areas will have to be included in the sample and in order to get a proportional representation of non-agricultural households in the urban enumeration areas, urban enumeration areas may have to be over-sampled as the expectation is that in the urban enumeration areas only 10-11 households may be self-employed of which 2-3 may be agricultural and 7-8 non-agricultural households. The survey will be staggered uniformly over the year and will be conducted in six sub-rounds of two months each. For this purpose each of the five sub-samples will be divided systematically into a cluster of five enumeration areas each, one to be surveyed in each sub-round. Thus in each sub-round, five clusters comprising of five enumeration areas each will be surveyed making a total of thirty enumeration areas per sub-round.

25. Another important development will take place in the area of data processing and tabulations. In the past the Bureau relied on the services of the electronic data processing centre of the government for data entry, processing and tabulations for such surveys. The Household Economic Activity Survey will be keyed, edited and processed in-house. This would be the first time that the Bureau will be processing a hierarchical survey of this type. However, we are confident with the team of data processing staff that we have. It is proposed to use FSEDIT for data entry mode and SAS PROC Tabulate and SAS PROC Summary for table generations.

C. CONCLUSION

26. The above paragraphs provide a synopsis of the major activities of the Bureau over the period November 1987 to date. Quite apart from the above the Bureau was heavily committed in the work of the Macro-Economic Committee and in the work of the National Economic Summit. There was as usual heavy demands for macro economic aggregates such as gross domestic product, balance of payments, prices, production, employment and unemployment, etc. These were made available to the Macro Committee on a quarterly basis. At the same time demands were also made for more disaggregated and analytical data from the 1986 census of population. In trying to discharge its functions as stipulated both in the Statistics as well as the Census Act, the Bureau experienced sustained pressure especially to develop new areas of work. However, it was pleasing to note that even under such trying conditions the Bureau was able to satisfy the needs of most data users.

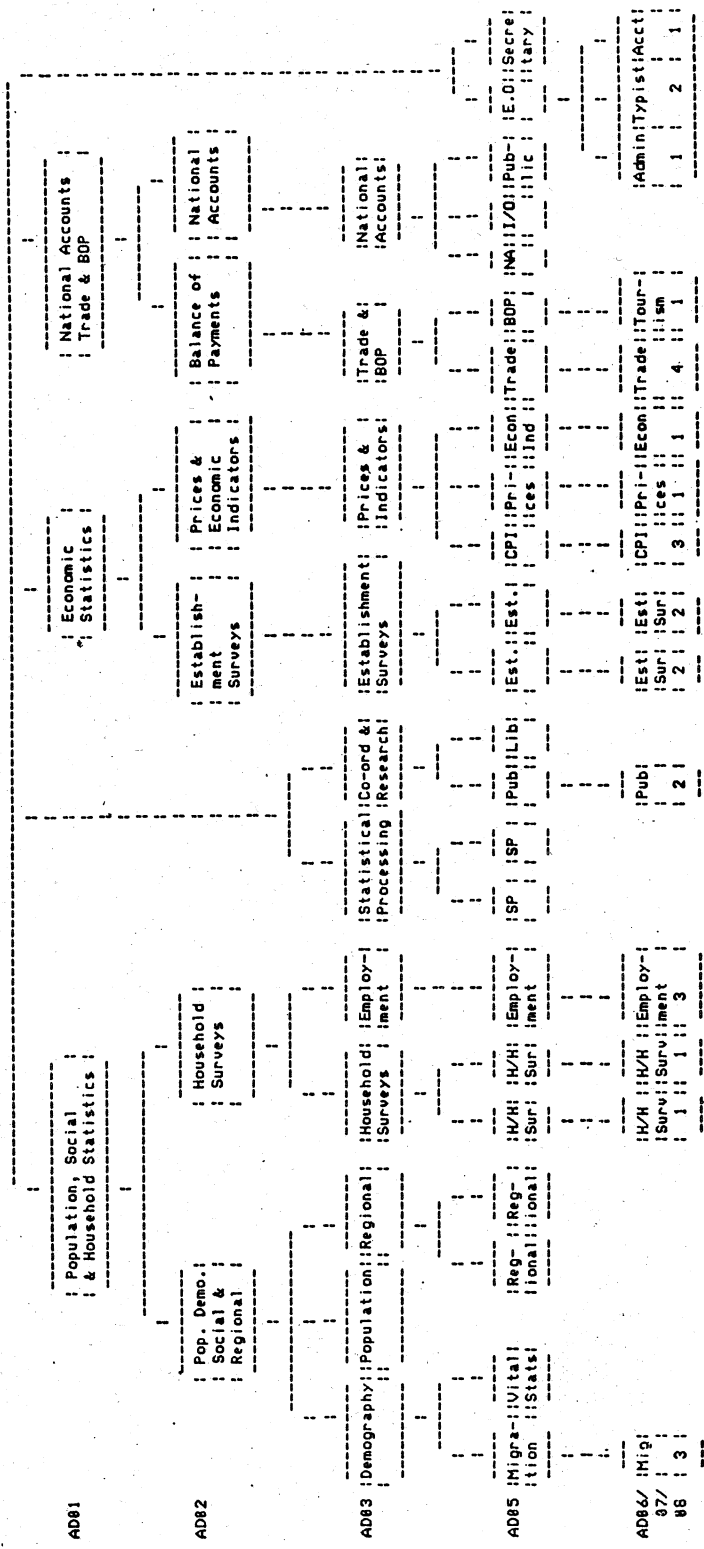
APPENDIX B

BUREAU OF STATISTICS ORGANISATION CHART AS AT 1/1/87

US83

TO OTHER MINISTRIES/DEPARTMENTS

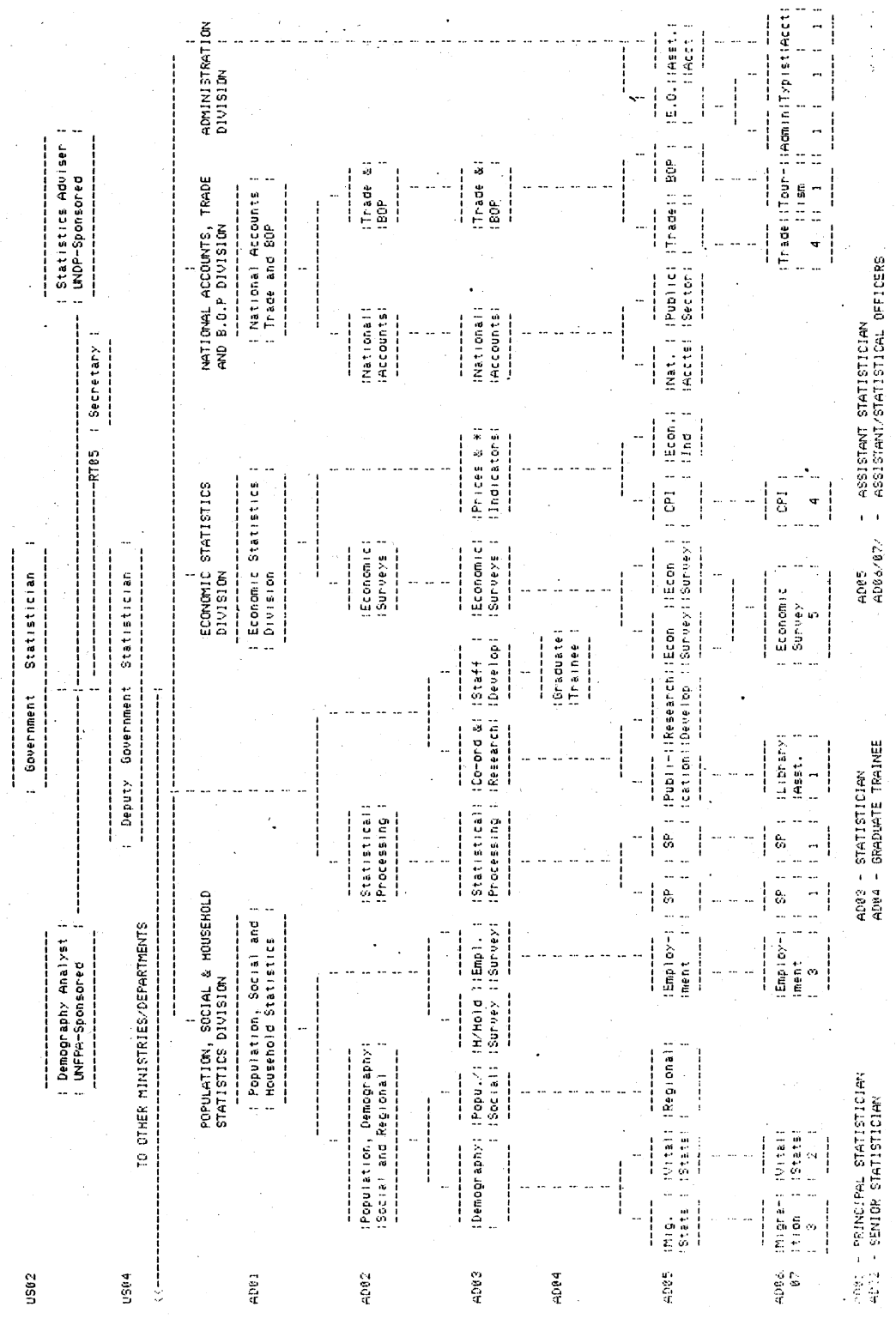
Government Statistician



- AD01 Principal Statistician
- AD02 Senior Statistician
- AD03 Statistician
- AD05 Assistant Statistician
- AD06/7/8 Clerical Officer

BUREAU OF STATISTICS APPROVED ORGANISATION CHART AS AT 1/1/89

APPENDIX C.



First Session of the ESCAP
Committee on Development Planning and Statistics, 1989

Statement of Statistical Activities and Developments

HONG KONG

1. Introduction

1.1 Hong Kong accords a high priority to the development of statistical services. Over the years, efforts continue to be made in developing statistical activities and enhancing existing ones. This statement serves to give a brief description of the major activities that have taken place since 1987.

1.2 Section A describes the major developments in the past two years. In Section B, an account is given on the progress of and issues concerning the development of statistical capabilities, economic statistics, social statistics, statistical information services and data base development.

Section A Review of Statistical Activities - Major Developments

2. 1991 Population Census

(i) Introduction

2.1 It is an established practice in Hong Kong, just as in many other places, to carry out a full-scale population census every ten years, with a sample by-census in between two full censuses. The last population census was conducted in 1981 and preparation work for the 1991 Population Census has commenced since late 1987.

2.5 To assess the adequacy of new procedures and techniques to be employed in the 1991 Population Census, a pre-test was carried out in February 1989. Among the many areas to be tested, the pre-test concentrated on studying the various aspects of using mail-out enumerator-collect approach; the wording, coding, classification and public acceptance of the questions, in particular the new ones; the quality of coding, coding form and machine requirement of using Optical Character Recognition (OCR) technology to replace the traditional key-to-disc method for data input; and organization aspects of the 1991 Census including the method of assignment, instruction manual, training, field checking, etc.

(iii) Future Development

2.6 The 1991 Population Census is a complex and costly single operation. To ensure that the various aspects of the census operation are in order, a pilot census will be conducted in November 1989, which is a major step in the preparation for undertaking the population census in 1991.

3. Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS)

(i) Background

3.1 Before 1988, Hong Kong had been using the United Nations' Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) Rev. 2 for both trade declaration and statistical output. Since most of Hong Kong's major trading partners, many of which are engaged in bilateral agreements with Hong Kong, have either adopted the HS on 1 January 1988 or have indicated that they would adopt the HS, the advantages of Hong Kong adopting a Customs terminology in common with that used by other countries are obvious.

(ii) Hong Kong Harmonized System

3.2 Hong Kong has implemented the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System developed by the Customs Co-operation Council (CCC) for trade declaration purposes as from 1 January 1988. With little experience in using a tariff nomenclature for statistical reporting, it is prudent to adopt only a partial application of the HS initially.

3.3 Upon the implementation of the HS, all commodities imported or exported have to be declared using the new codes. These codes are also used to define the commodities for trade data input. Trade statistics, however, continue to be published in SITC Rev. 2. Statistics analysed by HS are also available on computer printouts.

(iii) Future Development

3.4 Following the implementation of the partial Harmonized System in 1988, the adoption of the full Harmonized System is being planned. Concurrent with the changeover to the full Harmonized System for declaration purpose, it is planned that the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) Rev. 3 will be used for publishing trade statistics. At present, the SITC Rev. 2 is used. In anticipation of these changes, preparatory work has to be carried out, including a detailed study of the classification requirements in the full Harmonized System and a review of the computer system for producing trade statistics.

4. Household Expenditure Survey 1989/90

(i) Background

4.1 In pursuance of established policy, another Household Expenditure Survey (HES) will be carried out from October 1989

to September 1990, five years after the last round was conducted in 1984/85. A special team of indoor and outdoor officers was formed to undertake the project.

(ii) Survey Methodology/Operation

- 4.2 Planning for the survey started in September 1988. The survey methodology and other related aspects adopted in the 1984/85 round were reviewed, and consultations with a large number of potential users of HES data were held. A pre-test was conducted in April and May 1989 to try out the proposed survey method and questionnaire.
- 4.3 Some 8 000 living quarters will be selected for the survey using a stratified proportionate sample design, with "census district" and "type of housing" as the stratifying variables. These living quarters will be divided into 26 batches, each for enumeration in a bi-weekly cycle of the survey. All households accommodated in the sampled living quarters will be requested to participate in the survey by keeping diaries of expenditure for 2 consecutive weeks and furnishing information on some household and housing characteristics. All unco-operative and non-contact households which do not keep expenditure diaries will be requested to complete a supplementary questionnaire on simple household information to facilitate the estimation process.
- 4.4 In order to secure a satisfactory response rate, inducement pay of HK\$50 is given to each household which participates in the survey. Several publicity measures, including a press conference, announcements on radios, press releases, feature articles and publicity leaflets, will be taken to make the survey known to a wide spectrum of the population. It is expected that response from about 5 000 households will be secured.

(iii) Revision of Consumer Price Indexes

4.5 Results of the 1989/90 HES will be used to revise the weights used in the compilation of the Consumer Price Indexes (CPI's). New CPI's are scheduled for release to the public in April 1991, while a full report on the HES will be published around mid-1991.

5. Trade Declaration on Microcomputer Diskette

(i) Background

5.1 The volume of trade documents has been increasing at a significant rate to the extent that processing of these documents strains the resources available to the limit. To cope with the high volume of trade documents, the Diskette Submission Scheme has been implemented since 1 July 1989, whereby traders are provided with an option to submit import and export declarations on microcomputer diskette.

5.2 With the trade declarations submitted in computer readable form, some manual procedures in processing them can be automated, thus resulting in improvements in efficiency and the quality of trade data. This scheme, apart from its immediate benefits, represents a means to help traders adapt to the trend towards computerization of trade documents.

(ii) The Diskette Submission System

5.3 Under this scheme, microcomputer-based input programme is provided to facilitate traders in preparing trade declaration using IBM or IBM-compatible microcomputers.

5.4 The programme should facilitate traders in data input. For example, particulars (such as names and addresses) of traders and of their customers are pre-stored and thus can be retrieved easily. It also allows each trading firm to construct a product file which contains those commodities it trades frequently. For each commodity, the product code and product description used in the company are stored together with the correct code of Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System. Furthermore, it also calculates declaration charges automatically so as to assist traders in preparing the cheques before submitting the declarations.

5.5 After a batch of trade declarations have been input, the programme automatically produces a microcomputer diskette containing the declaration data. The programme also produces the corresponding computer hard-copies and a summary declaration. Only one signature on the summary declaration is required for the whole batch of declarations. Hard-copies are still required for legal reasons but they can be made on plain computer stationery.

6. Computer Assisted Telephone Interview

(i) Introduction

6.1 Field visit has been employed extensively as a mode of data collection method within the Census & Statistics Department. Though generally believed to produce high response rate and good data quality, this data collection method is expensive. In this connection, the Computer Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI) approach is designed to follow up on respondents failing to respond by mail in the Survey on Employment, Vacancies and Payroll. Field follow-up will still be required for non-responding firms in the CATI phase.

6.2 By adopting the CATI approach, it is believed that there will be savings through less travelling in data collection. The quality of data will be improved through immediate verification of dubious cases over the telephone, on-line monitoring of performance of CATI operators by supervisors and reduction in non-contact cases due to a longer data collection period.

(ii) The Approach

6.3 Under the CATI approach, automatic scheduling and allocation of assignments to operators will be implemented on a daily basis. Designed with automatic telephone dialling, the approach allows operators to collect data over the telephone directly while editing of data can be carried out at the same time. Equipped with voice and image processing facilities, it is possible to jot down remarks by operators in Chinese or other symbols, rendering the system more flexible and versatile in data capture.

6.4 About 54 microcomputers with telephone headsets for CATI operators will be required for interview, data entry and on-line validation. Six will be used by supervisors for on-line monitoring of the telephone interview, handling call-backs from respondents and on-line enquiry as well as retrieval of management statistics. When completely set up, the microcomputers will be connected to a host minicomputer and a local server through a network. A bar code scanning device will also be installed for updating postal returns.

Section B Progress and Issues in Statistics

a. Development of Statistical Capabilities

7. Training of Statistical Staff

(i) Training of Statisticians and Sub-professionals

7.1 For Statisticians, courses on statistical methods, such as sampling techniques, time series analysis and statistical quality control, are organized from time to time. Statisticians also attend training courses on management and related subjects run by the Civil Service Training Centre. In addition, professional officers are sent on training courses overseas.

7.2 With the assistance of an expert from the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, a course on the computer package Statistical Analysis System (SAS) was organized for Statisticians while an appreciation course on the SAS package was arranged for Senior Statisticians in 1988.

7.3 For members of the Statistical Officer grade, Statistical Officers I were chosen to attend the Group Training Course in General Statistics organised by the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific in Tokyo. Selected Statistical Officers II were sponsored to study Statistics subjects in Year 3 Of the Higher Diploma Course in Mathematics, Statistics and Computing at the Hong Kong Polytechnic on a part-time day-release basis. In-house or commissioned training courses on management, data processing, Statistics, etc. were organised.

7.4 To prepare Student Statistical Officers for the Ordinary Certificate of Statistics examination of the Institute of Statisticians, a part-time day-release course jointly organized by the Department and the Hong Kong Polytechnic was conducted. As a means to enrich the professional knowledge of members of the Statistical Officer grade, the Department publishes a quarterly technical bulletin called 'Statminder' with articles contributed by both professional and sub-professional staff.

8. Statistical Data Processing

(i) Computer Facilities

8.1 The Census and Statistics Department is a major user of data processing facilities. For many years, the Department relies heavily on the Government's ICL 2988 mainframe computer housed at the Government Data Processing Agency. In 1988, the Department has acquired its own VAX 8250 minicomputer for processing new small and medium-sized jobs. In addition, about 30 microcomputers have been installed in various sections to support small statistical systems and simple applications. It is planned to acquire additional microcomputers in 1989/90 to meet the demand of users.

8.2 Networking of minicomputer and microcomputer resources is now under active study whereby data processing resources can be shared. Off-line data transfer between the bureau ICL 2988 and the in-house VAX minicomputer on the one hand and diskettes for use in microcomputer on the other hand is effected through a PC tape drive, thus facilitating users to carry out their computer jobs more flexibly.

8.3 The Census and Statistics Department is planning to acquire further in-house computer facilities to support the data processing needs arising from major projects in hand such as the 1991 Population Census. A powerful computer system with the necessary hardware and software facilities will be set up. Optical character recognition techniques are being explored for capturing the majority of data collected in the 1991 Census. Optical disks (Write-Once-Read-Many) will be used for data storage and retrieval. A fourth generation language and database management, project management and desk-top publishing software packages will also be acquired to provide the required support.

(ii) End-user Computing

8.4 With the proliferation of microcomputer installations, the Department has adopted a policy to promote end-user computing whereby users are provided with mainly microcomputers and terminals to perform data processing or developing models for simple statistical applications directly. This development, made possible by the increasing power and decreasing cost of the technology, is of particular relevance in view of the availability of powerful and user-friendly software packages.

8.5 To tie in with the development of end-user computing, statistical staff are provided with training on basics of computer techniques to enable statistical staff to make use of the microcomputer for simple statistical applications. Training on the use of the more user-friendly statistical software packages such as SPSS, SAS & CENTS 4 is also organised.

9. Dissemination of Statistical Data

(i) Introduction

9.1 The primary function of the Census and Statistics Department is to collect and compile social and economic data for statistical purposes. It also plays the role of disseminating these statistics for use by other Government departments and the general public. To meet the different needs of users, statistics are disseminated in different forms, exploiting modern technology wherever deemed appropriate. In the course of disseminating statistical data, the aspect of confidentiality of information on identifiable individual units will be strictly kept.

(ii) Existing Practices

9.2 At present, most of the statistical data are made available to the general public in the form of publications. Through this conventional approach, statistics are published in the form of statistical tables, giving summary and cross-tabulated statistics of interest to the general users. For selective users interested in detailed statistical breakdowns, photocopies of computer printouts are also available at a charge. Depending on the need of users, data can be disseminated through magnetic tapes which may be produced through tailor-made computer programmes on request at a charge to cover the manpower and resources expended.

9.3 In addition to publications, trade statistics can be made available in the form of Computer Output Microfiche, starting from April 1988. This is one of the measures implemented by the Department to expedite the dissemination of statistics and diversify the means of dissemination. In collaboration with the Congressional Information Service Inc. of the United States (CIS), the Hong Kong Annual Digest of Statistics is available in microfiche in the United States since 1981.

9.4 In early 1988, a joint project has been undertaken with the Space Time Research Pty. Ltd. based in Australia to produce and market in Hong Kong and worldwide a CD ROM (Compact Disk Read Only Memory) containing databases pertaining to the Hong Kong 1981 Census and the Hong Kong 1986 By-census. The CD ROM, about 12 cm in diameter, has a total storage capacity of 540 megabytes and is much less vulnerable to damage as compared with diskette. Included in the product are digital base maps of Hong Kong and a software capable of producing tabulation and mapping outputs.

9.5 Press releases of findings of regular surveys are issued on pre-determined dates, which are being adhered to very closely. Statistics disseminated through press releases as well as free statistical leaflets can now be accessed through the electronic mail system DIALCOM, developed and maintained by a local company. Subscribers of DIALCOM can now easily gain access to the up-to-date key statistics on social and economic topics through this electronic mail system.

(iii) Future Development

9.6 The Department will continue to adopt a multi-media approach in disseminating official statistics, with particular reference to practicability as well as economic viability. Undoubtedly, the printed media will continue to play an important role in the dissemination of statistical data. Consideration will also be given to enhance and expand the scope in the use of electronic media. It is planned to make greater use of microcomputer diskette and compact disk, in addition to microfiche. Pending on the result of a forthcoming review, additional statistical data can be accessed through the electronic mail system DIALCOM.

b. Development of Economic Statistics

10. National Income Statistics

(i) Progress

10.1 Estimates of the Gross Domestic Product (G.D.P.) have been produced for the years 1961 to 1988 using the expenditure approach. The production-based G.D.P. are produced for the years 1980 to 1987. While the expenditure-based G.D.P. estimates are published at current prices and at constant prices, production-based estimates are published at current prices only owing to the absence of adequate price data.

10.2 Hong Kong has taken part in Phase V of the International Comparison Programme (ICP) of the United Nations (UN), the aim of which is to enable per capita G.D.P. of different countries/territories to be compared using the concept of purchasing power parity. Necessary data relating to Hong Kong for 1985 have been compiled and forwarded to the UN. Final results of the ESCAP regional comparison of the ICP are still being prepared by the UN.

(ii) Future Development

10.3 The compilation framework of the G.D.P. estimates has been rather well established. Nevertheless, the methods and data sources for compiling the expenditure-based and production-based G.D.P. estimates will be kept under constant review. Effort has been made in recent years to collect data on re-export trade margin and imports and exports of services relating to merchanting/merchandising activities. Studies will also be conducted to find ways to adjust the results of Annual Economic Surveys so that they can be more appropriately used to compile G.D.P. estimates on a calendar year basis. Currently, results of Annual Economic Surveys contain statistical information reported by private firms on both calendar year basis and non-calendar year basis.

10.4 The construction of commodity flow table will help identify sources of statistical discrepancy between the expenditure-based and production-based G.D.P. estimates. Having constructed a commodity flow table at a broad commodity level for 1984, attempts are being made to construct more detailed commodity tables for 1983 and 1985. Based on detailed analysis of the results of the commodity flow tables, future improvements to the data sources and methodology for compiling the G.D.P. estimates can be made in a more effective way.

11. Survey on Exports to China for Outward Processing

(i) Background

- 11.1 The Census and Statistics Department has been conducting a survey since the second half of 1988 to estimate the amount and proportion of Hong Kong's exports to China of outward processing nature. In view of the prominence of the outward processing activities in China, the results of the survey will enable a better understanding and assessment of Hong Kong's trade performance with China.
- 11.2 Outward processing in China can be regarded as sub-contracting of the local manufacturing processes to China. For the purpose of the survey, exports to China for outward processing refer to the exportation of raw materials and semi-manufactures (including near-finished goods) from or through Hong Kong to China for processing (including assembling, packaging, etc.) and the subsequent re-importation of the processed goods into Hong Kong under contractual arrangement.

(ii) Coverage and Data Collection

11.3 The survey covers all merchandise trade except commodities and transactions not classified according to kind. Trade declarations in respect of exports (both domestic exports and re-exports) to China are employed as the unit of analysis of the survey. In order to obtain sufficiently precise estimates and to facilitate more detailed analysis, the declarations are categorized into 18 non-overlapping strata by 9 broad commodity groups and 2 trade types (i.e. domestic exports and re-exports) for sampling purpose.

11.4 Some 10 000 trade declarations in respect of exports to China are sampled and enumerated each quarter. While basic information regarding the selected consignments (such as trade type, type of commodity) can be derived from the declarations, the required information on outward processing is obtained by telephone interviews. For the purpose of ensuring the accuracy of the data collected by telephone interviews, verification by field visits to a sub-sample of enumerated cases are also carried out.

c. Development of Social Statistics

12. Population and Demographic Statistics

(i) Progress

12.1 Based on results obtained from the 1986 By-census and revised assumptions on fertility, mortality and migration, a new set of population projection estimates were produced. The results of this projection give a better basis for planning. Studies were also undertaken to examine the headship rates and household size distribution, based on which revised sets of household and household size projection for the period 1987 to 2006 are also produced.

(ii) Future Development

12.2 Planning is in progress to undertake a study on local fertility situation. Essentially, the study will involve the construction of a fertility table using birth parity of women as the criterion to summarize the reproduction experience of the population. This analysis of birth parity should provide useful information to supplement the traditional fertility analyses conducted almost merely in relation to women's age.

13. Social Data Collected by the General Household Survey

(i) Background

13.1 The General Household Survey (GHS) is a continuous survey which has been conducted since 1981. Some 5 000 households are selected each month scientifically to represent the land-based, civilian, non-institutional population. The primary objective of the survey is to collect statistics on employment, unemployment and underemployment for the purpose of monitoring developments in the economy. Results of the survey are released on a moving-quarter basis.

(ii) Social Data Collected

13.2 The GHS is a survey of sizable scale and to make full use of it, various social data are also collected. Such data are required by Government for planning and policy formulation. In general, the additional social topics are included in the survey on a quarterly basis and vary from quarter to quarter.

13.3 The questionnaire of the GHS consists of two parts : a core questionnaire designed to collect the basic characteristics of the population and detailed labour force statistics and a set of supplementary questionnaires, covering social topics

requested on an ad hoc basis. During the past two years, social topics covered include participation in part-time education, attending cultural performance, use of taxis, cigarette smoking pattern, part-time employment, sick leave pattern of employees, etc.

14. Crime Victimization Survey

(i) Background

14.1 The Crime Victimization Survey will be conducted from 8 January to 22 January 1990, covering crimes that take place during the calendar year 1989. It will be the fourth survey of this kind, the previous three surveys being conducted in 1979, 1982 and 1987.

14.2 The aim of the survey is to provide administrators of criminal justice with updated information on the nature and extent of crime, the characteristics of victims and the victims' reporting behaviour.

(ii) The Survey

14.3 The survey covers a random sample of the land-based, civilian, non-institutional population aged 12 and above. A total of about 40 sub-samples of about 450 living quarters each will be selected, constituting a sampling fraction of around 1.2%.

14.4 For the purpose of the survey, victimization is defined as a specific criminal act affecting a single victim. Two questionnaires will be used in the survey : a Screening Questionnaire and a Crime Incidence Report. While the former serves to obtain information on the characteristics of each household and its members as well as to screen all instances of victimization, the latter is used to obtain details of each revealed incident.

d. Statistical Information Services and Data Base Development

15. Re-design of Central Register of Establishments

(i) Background

15.1 The Census and Statistics Department has kept and maintained a computerized Central Register of Establishments (CR), containing information on name, address, geographical code, industry, employment size, ownership and quarterly payroll of over 300 000 establishments. The register serves as an up-to-date frame of business undertakings for the conduct of establishment-type censuses and surveys.

15.2 In view of the growing complexity of users' demands, the Central Register has become inadequate in meeting survey and operational needs. Re-development of the computer system design and programming has been underway since 1985. The re-design of the CR was finally completed and the re-designed CR was successfully implemented in January 1989.

(ii) Features

15.3 In the re-designed CR, the address of an establishment in addition to its name and the 13-digit record identifier are used as the matching keys for the purpose of updating. In this automated matching process, new cases will be identified for insertion while those requiring amendments will be updated accordingly. Names and addresses are coded in standardized format so that matching can be conducted in a more efficient manner.

15.4 The register now supports a larger data content which is about four times the previous one. Definitions of concepts

and classification systems (e.g. unit concept and industry code) for all surveys using the register are standardized. Unlike the previous register which contained only establishment records, the re-designed CR has a hierarchical file consisting of 3 levels of records, namely, companies, establishments and multi-registration business units. From this hierarchical file, two survey frames, viz. one on companies and another on establishments, can be reconstructed.

15.5 The system's capability to produce information on the register and to sample establishments has also been enhanced. In the previous register, the number of variables for sorting or tabulation was limited to three. Now, users can sort the output sequence for up to a maximum of 10 variables. Depending on the package used, users can cross-tabulate a wider selection of variables from the Central Register. Furthermore, since records at various levels of the company hierarchy are stored in the register, users can tabulate information on the organizational structure of the units stored therein and the relationship among them. Output on microfiche is also available.

15.6 While stratified systematic sampling is supported as before, a more flexible stratification method is introduced. Users may define their target population of a selected time period in terms of the type of statistical unit, the date of commencement and the operating status of an economic unit. By making use of information about company hierarchy, users can organize the register into either a company- or an establishment-frame for sample selection purpose.

(iii) Future Development

15.7 Following the implementation of the re-designed CR, continued effort will be made to enhance its capability, including the

plan to turn it into a database. Plans are also in hand to further automate and expand the operations in the maintenance of the register and provision of services to users. In the longer term, consideration will be given to making use of the register in minimizing and controlling respondents' burden in establishment surveys conducted by the Department.

16. Computerized Frame of Living Quarters System

(i) Background

16.1 The computerised frame of living quarters (COM-Q), which covers all known permanent and temporary structures in Hong Kong, was constructed in late 1985 to serve as the sampling frame for the 1986 By-census. It contains the detailed addresses and other information on some 1.5 million quarters. In order to maintain the frame up-to-date and widen its scope of applications, this register has been enhanced into a separate computer system after the 1986 By-census.

(ii) Applications

16.2 The COM-Q serves as a comprehensive and up-to-date sampling frame for conducting household surveys by both the public and the private sectors. It also provides up-to-date and accurate stock data of living quarters at small area level for various analyses.

16.3 Functions provided by the COM-Q include selecting both initial and supplementary samples for household surveys like the General Household Survey; maintaining sample selection history for each living quarter record to exercise tight control on respondents' burden; producing frame and sample statistics for estimation and control purposes; and providing assignment/control listing and address label printing.

16.4 Since it would require both tedious manual effort and computer resources to carry out a sampling run on all the 1 500 000 records in the COM-Q system, it is not advisable to process the master COM-Q too frequently. To meet survey requirements, a sub-frame of 495 stratified systematic sub-samples, each with about 450 units of permanent structure, was created. Each small-sized survey will use a number of such sub-samples.

17. Integrated Law & Order Statistical System

(i) Background

17.1 Statistics on law and order have been collected by major departments responsible for the criminal justice system and correctional programmes, namely, the Royal Hong Kong Police Force, the Judiciary, Correctional Services Department and Social Welfare Department. As a first step to render the statistics compiled by the various departments compatible, a Standardized Law and Order Statistical System (SLOSS) was developed in 1986.

17.2 While SLOSS ensures that the departments involved in the criminal justice system and correctional programmes keep compatible statistics, an integrated system that links their statistical records will provide comprehensive data on offences, offenders and correctional treatments, thereby permitting a more thorough analysis of the characteristics of criminals and the processes of criminal justice and correctional treatments. To this end, the SLOSS was further developed into an Integrated Law and Order Statistical System (ILOSS).

17.3 Broadly, ILOSS serves four functions. First, it supplies important regular data on recidivism and for monitoring and evaluating the penal system. Second, it is an accurate and comprehensive source of conviction data for studies of the criminal behaviour of offenders and its development. Third, it links information on offences with those on offenders so that details of crimes can be cross-referenced with those on the offenders involved. Fourth, it provides comprehensive data needed for the in-depth study of the law and order system itself and for planning purposes thereof, which will have an important bearing on co-ordination of various programmes and policy formulation.

(iii) The Sub-systems

17.4 Within the ILOSS, statistics kept in the four Sub-systems maintained by the Royal Hong Kong Police Force, the Judiciary, Correctional Services Department and Social Welfare Department will be linked by a mini-computer system to provide consistent, compatible and comprehensive data on offences and offenders.

17.5 The ILOSS is planned to be implemented in 1989. One of the major components of ILOSS is the Police Sub-system which is developed from the existing Crime Statistics System maintained by the Royal Hong Kong Police Force. The development of this Sub-system has been in smooth progress and tabulations have been produced since early 1989.

17.6 The computer system for the Judiciary Sub-system has been largely developed and data input is in progress. As for the two remaining Sub-systems pertaining to the Correctional Services Department and Social Welfare Department respectively, testing of the computer systems is underway.

IN THE NAME OF ALLAH
THE COMPASSIONATE AND THE MERCIFUL

Introduction

Established in 1965, the Statistical Centre of Iran is the main statistical organization of the country responsible for designing and execution of censuses and sample surveys in a variety of areas. The Centre has its own electronic data processing Department. It is also equipped with a printing press to publish all its reports and results of statistical projects. So that all the activities related to a statistical undertaking from the early stages of planning to the end are performed in the Centre, independent of any other institution, public or private.

As a rather young statistical organization, the Statistical Centre of Iran has been successful in establishing a sound schedule for the execution of censuses and sample surveys: population and housing censuses are conducted every ten years; whereas current surveys on demographic characteristics, agriculture, household expenditure and income, manufacturing, etc. are carried out regularly every year.

In addition to scheduled programmes, some other occasional or ad hoc statistical surveys are also conducted as and when the need may arise.

Registers and official records of other institutions are collected and processed to be released in the form of subject-matter periodicals.

Besides, some other subjects of national interest are usually brought under study and investigation, which may or may not lead to a statistical survey.

Statistical Activities Performed in 1988-1989

1. Road Transportation Survey

A large-scale survey on road transportation with special emphasis

on cargo transportation was conducted in early 1988.

Preparations had been made a year earlier. In order to make the idea feasible, letters had been sent to regional national and international statistical agencies asking for documents on the subject so that the SCI authorities may avail themselves of practical experiences gained by those already having conducted the same activity. Literature on the subject turned out to be minimal and the survey seemed to be unique in its kind. Thus, the Statistical Centre of Iran had to rely on its own initiative. Therefore, an ad hoc committee was set up with its related specialized working groups to make all the necessary arrangements.

Having conducted the survey and published the results in limited copies, the committee - and naturally its working groups - were dis-established and members were engaged in other studies and research works.

However, a part of the survey is incorporated into the SCI current surveys schedule, to be implemented this year as well.

2. General Census of Agriculture 1988

This Census was conducted throughout the country in autumn 1988 covering all the agricultural and related activities in rural and urban areas. Bringing urban agricultural holdings and related activities under statistical coverage was unprecedented, at least in Iran. Tribal agricultural activities were also taken into account.

The first agricultural census was conducted throughout the rural places and villages of the country in 1973. The frame obtained from this census served as the basis of subsequent sample surveys.

In 1984, the SCI embarked upon a series of studies to make preparations for the next census of agriculture although the Iraqi imposed war was still being waged. A pilot enumeration was conducted in a number of Ostans (provinces) in 1985. Necessary adaptations for the

inclusion of agricultural and related activities currently going on in urban areas were also made because the idea was new and required a lot of detailed considerations. Finally the Census of Agricultural was carried out despite limited funds, manpower and transportation facilities, which have all been involved in the fronts. By the time the agricultural census enumeration started, the imposed war had been halted, thanks Allah.

3. Global Survey of Manufacturing

The Statistical Centre of Iran used to conduct a manufacturing establishments survey every year on the basis of a population questionnaire, definitions and concepts, which had been kept fixed over years. The comparability of data obtained from successive surveys were ensured in that way. But the survey covered only establishments employing ten workers and more. Thus, a great number of smaller manufacturing establishments were left uncounted and the results obtained did not provide an all-embracing profile of the manufacturing sector. Therefore, studies were made to change the design so that all the manufacturing establishments operating nationwide could be incorporated into one comprehensive survey. The outcome was the Global Survey of Manufacturing Establishments, which covers all the establishments with less than ten employees as well. In rural areas, this survey enumeration is conducted as a census, counting every and all establishments.

In urban areas, a census is taken of all the establishments with fifty and more workers while a sample of establishments employing one to forty-nine workers is selected for the enumeration.

This survey is intended to be conducted regularly every year.

4. Input-Output tables

Early in 1988, the Statistical Centre of Iran started a series of research work on the construction of input-output tables for the country's economy. For this purpose, a committee was established with several specialized working groups to work on different sectors of

economy. Besides, letters were sent to a number of national and international institutions, including United Nations Statistical Office and ESCAP, to ask for any documents, including instruction manuals and reports on actual experience.

The construction of input-output tables turned out to be either not considered or in embryo stages even in more developed countries.

However, some very useful and valuable documents were received from United Nations Statistical Office which are being considered and used by related experts and working groups.

The SCI itself had an experience in this area: in 1975, an input-output table was constructed for the economy of the country in 1973. Ever since, the calculation of national accounts and construction of I-O tables were left to the care of other organizations such as the Central Bank, Ministry of Plan and Budget, etc.

In early 1988, the SCI decided to resume working on the subject.

So far, the base year has been determined among other issues. Due to a wealth of data and information available for 1986 (1365), specialized working groups unanimously accepted to adopt the year 1986 as the base of calculations.

The number of economic sectors to be incorporated into the table were also determined. For this purpose, all the economic activities falling under 160 four-digit codes of the International Standard Industrial Classification were integrated into 78 sections. This activity is still under the process of development.

5. Project for Designing Fishery Statistics Information

The Committee on Fishery Statistics was also established in early 1988. In this case, too, letters were mailed to a number of national and international statistical organizations and a lot of valuable documents were received.

The Committee intends to design the fishery statistics information system. But the plan is still in embryo stages. Parallel with this activity, experts are preparing a fisheries survey design to conduct sample survey in this area and to lay a precedent for a current

survey.

6. Survey of Household Socio-Economic Characteristics

This survey is conducted four times every year in the first month of every season, so that the same sample households will be visited and interviewed 13 times in three successive years.

The procedure is therefore referred to as follow-up method.

After processing the data, changes in characteristics are indicated in socio-economic indexes. By the time the project is completed, comprehensive information will be collected on such changes. For the execution of this survey, local enumerators were employed for the first time.

7. Sample Survey of Population and Labour Force 1989

The purpose of this survey is to study the age-sex structure of population and labour force and to determine active population's employment and unemployment rates and indexes. Meantime, the quality of changes in job structure, economic activities of the employed, and characteristics of the unemployed seeking work, as well as the reasons for unemployment in urban and rural areas are brought under investigation.

The statistical frame of this survey is obtained from the 1986 Census of Population and Housing and 12000 households will be selected as samples. It has been suggested that enumeration districts with about 450 households be divided into eight parts forming a cluster each. Thus, each cluster will consist of 50 to 60 households. A number of clusters will be selected as samples and all the households therein will be listed (Form 1). The sample households will be selected from among households in each sample cluster and household questionnaire forms (Form 2) will be completed for them.

Another questionnaire form for the employed or unemployed seeking work (Form 3) will be completed for every person qualified as such in the sample household.

All the forms have already been prepared, sampling method has been determined, and sample clusters are being selected. The survey is scheduled for execution in September 1989.

8. Measurement of Population Changes

This is a follow-up survey to be completed in five phases, during the first phase of which retrospective questions will be asked on fertility. The interval between every two phases is six months. Households are listed during the first phase and the same sample households and respondents are interviewed each time. Every round of interviews is used to eliminate probable errors of the previous round.

Objectives

A. General objectives:

1. Measuring annual changes in population;
2. Measuring fertility rate of married women.

B. Detailed objectives:

Considering the general objectives, the most important detailed objectives to be achieved on national level as well as larger Ostans, by urban and rural areas, are as follows:

1. Birth rate;
2. Death rate;
3. Natural population growth rate;
4. Rate of migration;
5. Actual population growth rate;
6. Death rate, by sex and age;
7. Infant death rate;
8. Preparation of life expectancy table (preparation of life-table for the total population all over the country);*

* Since the number of samples is calculated so as to achieve the general objectives, this calculation will be possible only if the estimates relating to item 6 are accurate enough.

9. Number of births per year, by sex of infant and age of mother;
10. Number of children born alive, by age of mother;
11. Number of children living, by age of mother;
12. Number of still-births, by age of mother;
13. Fertility rate, by age of mother;
14. Relation between fertility rate and literacy of women;
15. Relation between fertility rate and activity status of women.

9. Survey of Dams

The survey is planned for execution in 1989. The questionnaire is designed in such a way that in addition to general characteristics of dams, some information may also be collected on the objectives of dam construction projects, type of reservoir basin walls, age of dam, amount of incrustation in reservoir, different expenses for maintenance, silt clearance, and extension of dam, installation of new parts, repair and replacement of parts of old installations, personnel statistics by specialized and non-specialized, as well as damage caused by floods and torrents.

10. Survey of Business Establishments

The survey of business establishments was conducted for the first time in Tehran in 1953 and later on in Esfahan and suburbs in 1957 by the General Department of Public Statistics of Ministry of Interior. The General Department of Trade Statistics of the Ministry of Finance conducted a similar survey in 1965 and published the results soon after. Bureau of Statistics of the former Ministry of Economics conducted a census of wholesale trade establishments of Tehran and suburbs in 1966 and published the results in 1967. From 1967 to 1975, the Central Bank (Bank Markazi) was the only institution that collected information in this field.

In 1976, the Statistical Centre of Iran conducted a similar survey in the city of Rasht as an experiment on the basis of which business establishments in four other cities - Tehran, Zahedan, Khorramshahr, and

Kermanshah - were enumerated in 1977.

After the victory of the Islamic revolution, the Statistical Centre of Iran enumerated 26000 business establishments and 2000 places of eating and drinking selected through stratified sampling on the basis of the frame obtained from the 1986 census of population and housing.

In addition to general characteristics, information were collected on type of management, type of insurance, area, ... components contributing to input-output values, value added, amount of purchase and sale, raw material used for preparing foods and drinks, food sales, payments and receipts, manpower employed, investment, etc.

The SCI plans to conduct the census again in 1989 through stratified sampling on the basis of the same frame on national level, by location of establishments in urban and rural areas.

11. Survey of Housing Cooperatives

This survey was conducted for the first time in 1985 and again in 1988. It provides a detailed profile of workers housing cooperatives as well as cooperatives other than workers. The housing cooperatives, which amount to 4600 in number according to the 1988 survey, are new institutions 87 percent of which were established after the victory of the Islamic revolution. They are engaged in providing living quarters for different population categories in general and low-income public and private sector wage and salary earners in particular.

During this survey, information were collected on the general characteristics of housing cooperatives including data registered, number of members, capital, etc. as well as their achievements during 1985-87 in procuring land, receiving loans from the banking system of the country, construction and purchase of housing units and ceding them to members. The actual cost of land and building, construction materials used, area of land, floor area, number of stories, type of building, financial resources used in construction or purchase of living quarters and problems and difficulties that encountered the housing cooperatives were also brought under investigation. The results are expected to be processed by electronic computers and to appear by the end of the current year in two

volumes-one for general and one for detailed results.

12. Identification of Statistical Needs and Capabilities of the Country

As the main statistical producer of the country, the SCI prepares its statistical plans with a view to the needs of planners and statistical users. After the victory of the Islamic revolution, the SCI made an investigation about statistical needs of major government organizations in 1982 on the basis of which statistical activities of 1983 to 1987 were formulated.

Due to rapid social and economic changes and the SCI's intention to keep well-informed of and up-to-date with statistical needs, it was decided to carry out a new round of investigations on the subject. Therefore, a survey design was prepared and the first phase of it was implemented in 1988 during which statistical capabilities of the country were brought under consideration. The second phase deals with statistical needs and is scheduled for execution in 1989.

Information on statistical capabilities were collected from 2000 public or private agencies through interview and mail. Question items related to the industry, number of workers, manner of management, method of data collection employed by related organization, presence or absence of a statistical unit of any kind in the agency under enumeration, number of persons working in the statistical unit - if any - and their age and literacy status, utilization of computers either mainframe or P.C., characteristics of electronic data processing personnel working for them and features of statistical activities performed by the related agency during 1983-1987.

The results have been processed by electronic data processing equipment according to ESCAP recommendations on classification of statistical activities and subjects and due considerations to national practices. The preliminary findings indicate that 77 percent of institutions brought under coverage did have some kind of statistical activities during 1983-1987 and a number of 1900 statistical plans were performed of which 71 percent have already been completed and 29 percent are still in the

course of implementation.

Final results of this survey are under the process of publication.

13. Sample Survey of Mines under Public Sector Management

This is a current survey conducted regularly every year.

* * *

Other current surveys which have been conducted regularly for years 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 Sale Price and Cost of Agricultural Services in Rural Areas;
- Price Survey of Construction Materials.

Collection and Dissemination of Registers

1. Income and Expenditure of Municipalities Nationwide;
2. Statistics on Livestock Slaughtered in Slaughterhouses of the Country;
3. Statistics on Distribution of Imported Chilled and Frozen Meat;
4. Summary Information on Construction Permits;
5. 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.

Other Activities

- A research on apiculture establishments;
- A research on sericulture establishments;
- A research on paint manufacturing statistics;
- A statistical study of manufacturing establishments producing

valves for use in construction and hygienic installations; 1983-1985;

- A statistical study of aluminium manufacturing establishments, 1983-1986.

In-Service Training Courses

In 1988, the Statistical Centre of Iran brought in a number of personal computers and held P.C. training courses attended by a number of experts free of charge. Besides, English language classes were held in order to enable workers use statistical literature produced by other national and international statistical organizations. Besides, subject-matter courses were also held as and when required.

STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES IN JAPAN

1. Summary of Statistical Surveys

1.1 "Designated Statistics" surveys

"Designated statistics" are those statistics designated by the Director-General of the Management and Coordination Agency as statistics which have an especially important bearing on the people's lives and are necessary for the formulation of fundamental state policies. So far 137 statistical surveys have been so designated, including the Kokusei Chosa (the national Population Census). 63 out of 137 are currently being conducted.

Number of Surveys conducted to compile
designated statistics in recent years

Ministry or Agency	Fiscal year	
	1987	1988
Management and Coordination Agency	7	6
Ministry of Finance	2	2
Ministry of Education	3	2
Ministry of Health and Welfare	5	4
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	7	8
Ministry of International Trade and Industry	16	15
Ministry of Transport	7	7
Ministry of Labour	3	3
Ministry of Construction	2	2
Ministry of Home Affairs	0	1
Total	52	50

1.2 "Approved Statistics"

The statistics whose compilation for the planning and execution of administrative policies of ministries and agencies are required to get an approval by the Director-General of the Management and Coordination Agency.

Number of approvals subject to the Statistical Reports Coordination Law in recent years

Ministry or Agency	Fiscal year	
	1987	1988
Fair Trade Commission	1	1
Management and Coordination Agency	10	16
Hokkaido Development Agency	0	1
Defense Facilities Administration Agency	1	1
Economic Planning Agency	8	6
Science and Technology Agency	2	1
National Land Agency	2	3
Ministry of Finance	5	2
Ministry of Education	9	11
Ministry of Health and Welfare	27	30
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	40	34
Ministry of International Trade and Industry	46	46
Ministry of Transport	12	10
Ministry of Posts and Telecommunication	1	2
Ministry of Labour	33	25
Ministry of Construction	19	15
Joint Administration	6	4
Total	222	208

1.3 "Notified Statistics" surveys

The Statistics Law prescribes that the statistical surveys conducted by the state or prefectural governments, other than those for designated statistics and those for which approval has been obtained subject to the provisions of the Statistical Reports Coordination Law, shall be notified to the Director-General of the Management and Coordination Agency.

Number of "Notified Statistics" surveys
in recent years

		Fiscal year	
		1987	1988
Nation	New	9	3
	Alternation	18	15
	Discontinuation	1	0
Prefecture	New	60	72
	Alternation	33	32
	Discontinuation	0	2
City	New	22	30
	Alternation	14	12
	Discontinuation	0	5
Others	New	0	0
	Alternation	2	2
	Discontinuation	0	0
Total	New	91	105
	Alternation	67	61
	Discontinuation	1	7
Grand Total		159	173

2. Main Statistical Surveys Conducted Recently

Ministry or Agency	Title of Survey	Periodicity	Note
Management and Co-ordination Agency	Housing Survey	5 years	executed in 1988
	Labour Force Survey	Monthly	
	Retail Price Survey	Monthly	
	Family Income and Expenditure Survey	Monthly	
	Unincorporated Enterprise Survey	Quarterly	
	Survey of Research and Development	Annual	
	Employment Status Survey	5 years	executed in 1988
Ministry of Finance	National Survey of Prices	5 years	executed in 1987
	Financial Statistics of Incorporated Businesses	Quarterly, Annual	
	Survey of Wages and Salaries of Private Enterprises	Annual	
Ministry of Education	School Basic Survey	Annual	
	School Health Examination Survey	Annual	
	Social Education Survey	3 years	executed in 1987

Ministry of Health and Welfare	Vital Statistics	Monthly	
	Survey of Pharmaceutical Industry Production	Monthly	
	Survey of Medical Care Facilities	Monthly	
	Patient Survey	3 years	executed in 1987
	Comprehensive Survey of Living Condition of the People on the Health and Welfare (large scale survey is executed every 3 years)	Annual	Abridged surveys were executed in 1987, 1988
Ministry of Agri- culture, Forestry and Fisheries	Survey on Production of Milk and Milk Products	Monthly Annual	
	Survey on Farm Household Economy	Monthly	
	Survey on Crop Production	Annual	
	Survey on Sericulture and Cocoon Production	Annual	
	Survey on Marine Fisheries Production	Monthly	
	Survey of Timber Products	Monthly, Annual	
	Survey on Rice Production Cost	Annual	
	Census of Fisheries	5 years	executed in 1988

Ministry of Inter- national Trade and Industry	Census of Manufactures	Annual	
	Current Survey of Production	Monthly	
	Survey of Textile Distribution	Monthly	
	Current Survey of Coal Demand and Supply	Monthly	
	Census of Commerce	3 years	executed in 1988
	Survey of Domestic Mineral Deposits	4 years	executed in 1987
	Current Survey of Production in the Gas Utility Industry	Monthly	
	Survey of Machine Tools Installation	5 years	executed in 1987
	Current Survey of Non-ferrous Metals Demand and Supply	Monthly	
	Current Survey of Petroleum Products Demand and Supply	Monthly	
	Mode-of-Trade Statistical Survey	Annual	
	Current Survey of Commerce	Monthly	
	Survey of Paper Distribution	Monthly	
	Survey of Machinery Distribution	Monthly	
	Survey of Selected Service Industries	Annual	
	Survey of Oil Consumption in Commerce, Mining and Manufacturing	Monthly, Annual	

Ministry of Transport	Survey on Port and Harbour	Monthly, Annual	
	Survey on Vessels and Seamen	Annual	
	Survey on Shipbuilding and Engineering	Monthly	
	Survey on Current Rolling Stock Production	Monthly	
	Survey on Seamen's Labour	Quarterly, Annual	
	Survey on Motor Vehicle Transport	Monthly	
	Survey on Coastwise Vessel Transport	Monthly Annual	
	Ministry of Labour	Monthly Labour Survey	Monthly
		Outdoor Employees' Wage Survey by Occupation	Annual
Basic Survey on Wage Structure		Annual	
Ministry of Construction	Survey of Building Construction Started	Monthly	
	Survey on Construction Works	Monthly, Annual	
Ministry of Home Affairs	Survey on Wages of Local Public Service Personnel	5 years executed in 1988	

3. Main Secondary Statistics and Revision of Standards

3.1 Compilation of the 1985 Input-Output Tables

The input-output tables have been compiled every five years since 1955 in Japan. The work to compile the 1985 tables started in FY 1985, as a joint task 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.

Then after the Basic Table for 1985 was published in October 1988, various supplementary tables such as the Employment Table and the Quantity Table were also published in May 1989. At present, work to prepare Link Input-Output Tables is under way.

3.2 Revision of the Japanese Standard Commodity Classification

The work for Rev.5 of the Japanese Standard Commodity Classification is underway, scheduled to be finalized within fiscal year 1989.

3.3 Revision of the Indices of the Tertiary Industries Activities

The base year for the Indices of the Tertiary Industries Activities which are compiled by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry was revised to 1985, and the new indices have been compiled since June 1989 on the revised base.

4. Summary of Statistical Budget

The total amount of statistical survey budget of all ministries and agencies in fiscal year 1988 was 22,230 million yen. It was a 38.8% increase compared to fiscal year 1987. Annual fluctuation of the budget is characteristic of statistics because of large scale statistical surveys of different periodicities. In fiscal year 1988, there were many large-scale periodic surveys thereby adding to the budget over the previous year.

Total amount of statistical survey budget

fiscal year	budget (ten million yen)
FY 1982	1 658
1983	1 872
1984	1 996
1985	4 930 *
1986	2 037
1987	1 602
1988	2 223

* The Population Census was executed in FY 1985.

5. The Medium- and Long-Term Plans for Government Statistical Activities

The Statistics Council submitted the 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 clarifies the problems in the government statistical activities and recommends the countermeasures for several decades. The main points of the report are as follows:

- (1) To show the schedule of conducting principal government statistical surveys for the coming ten years in order to maintain consistency of various major government statistical surveys;
- (2) To show the guideline for arrangement of such newly needed statistics resulting from the social and economic changes as assets statistics, service statistics and environmental statistics;
- (3) To review and rationalize current statistics to reduce the public reporting burdens;
- (4) To describe the measures for the development of technique which would contribute to security of the reliability of government statistics and overall efficiency of government statistical services; and
- (5) To present the measures for promoting the use of statistics by such measures as encouraging early release of the survey results.

Upon the receipt of this report, the "Conference of Interested Ministries and Agencies for Promotion of the Medium- and Long-Term Plans for Government Statistical Activities" was set up, consisting of the chiefs of the head divisions of statistics departments of ministries and agencies. As regards statistics on assets and service industries in particular, the inter-office councils of interested ministries and agencies for development of statistics on assets and on service industries were set up.

**COUNTRY REPORT
ON
STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES
AND GOVERNMENT COMPUTERIZATION**

In the Republic of Korea

1. Statistical Activities

A. Introduction

This Report reviews the major statistical developments achieved since the last session of the Committee on Statistics and introduces some future statistical program in the Republic of Korea.

Korea successfully carried out its 5th Five-year Socio-economic Development Plan, and launched its 6th Plan from 1987.

Owing to the nation's rapid economic development and the subsequent socio-economic transition, the demand for more sophisticated data has greatly increased. To meet these needs, the Government has remarkably expanded statistical activities.

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 various regional development and social welfare programs.

B. The 1990 Population and Housing Census

There will be some distinctive features in the 1990 Population and Housing Census, with major plans as follows:

First, we plan to introduce the Optical Mark Reading (OMR) system to

speed up data processing as well as to reduce coding and key-punch errors. We have already adopted this method in two surveys on a trial basis. One was the 1987 Special Demographic Survey, covering 60,000 households, with the other being the Year-ending Population Survey, covering one province having 330 thousand households. Our experience with this system in these surveys was encouraging. Moreover, further pretests will be carried out later this year. For this purpose, we have installed two Optical Mark Readers on 1 July 1989.

Second, we will employ two types of questionnaire: the long form for sample enumeration and the short form for complete enumeration. The adoption of a sample enumeration on 10 percent of the population will be helpful to meet the demands of diverse users.

Third, we will introduce a MESH code for each enumeration district (ED) in order to facilitate drawing up of various statistical geographical maps.

Fourth, audio-visual aids will be prepared to improve the effectiveness of the training materials.

Fifth, we will publish the final results of the Census within one and a half years after the enumeration of the population as of 1 November 1990.

C. The Employment Structure Survey

The third Employment Structure Survey will be conducted in November this year, following the second survey in 1986, on the basis of a sample enumeration of a size of 150,000 households.

The purpose of this Survey is to provide information on the regional structure of employment and unemployment, along with the migration of the

labor force among regions and industries, for the formulation and implementation of various Government programs.

The Survey covers all persons aged 14 years old and over who usually reside within the territory of the Republic of Korea at the time of enumeration. However, the armed forces, prisoners and foreigners are excluded from the Survey.

D. Regional Statistics

As aforementioned, the goal of national development has changed from aggregate economic development to balanced development among regions. Therefore, we must develop many kinds of regional statistics in the fields of income, price and employment. Some experimental estimates of regional income have been made since 1983, while at present, the 1988 regional income of 14 prefectures is under compilation, with final results to be released from 1990.

Regional industrial production indexes have been available from the first quarter of 1989. Also, we are now developing regional price and employment statistics.

E. National Accounts

The method of compiling National Accounts was brought into line with the New System of National Accounts of the U.N. (New SNA) in 1986. In accordance with the base year conversion to 1985 of various economic indexes, national accounts have changed as much as the base year in March of 1989.

F. Input-Output Tables

The 1985 Input-Output Tables were compiled in 1988 by the Bank of Korea. The endogenous sector consists of 390 industries, 8 producers of government services and 4 producers of non-profit services to households, with the exogenous sector consisting of final demand and value-added. Final demand is classified into 6 items, while value-added is classified into 4 items.

All the transaction tables are valued at producers' prices as well as at purchasers' prices, and are drawn up for both competitive import types and non-competitive import types.

G. Survey of the Services Industry

The nation's first annual Survey of the Services Industry, with a sampling size of 38,000 establishments, was conducted in 1988.

The Survey covers all industries which were classified under Business services (84), Sanitary and Similar services (92), Social and Related Community services (93), Recreational and Cultural services (94) and Personal and Household services (95) of the Korean Standard Industrial Classification.

However, the following establishments were excluded:

- (1) The central and local governments, and establishments managed by them; and
- (2) Religious organizations

Survey items include type of legal organization, capital stock, number of workers and monthly payments, annual receipts, annual expenses, and other related areas.

H. The National Wealth Survey

The third National Wealth Survey, conducted every ten years, was conducted 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 extent of capital accumulation; and to compute the capital-output ratio which shows the relationship between national wealth and national income.

The major characteristics of the survey are as follows:

(1) Survey Schedule

- a. Reporting date : December 31, 1987
- b. Survey period : April ~ August, 1988
- c. Data processing: January ~ June, 1989
- d. Report issuing date : December 31, 1989

(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 its use, to obtain a more realistic appreciation for 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 interviewing methods is employed.
- d. Some use of indirect estimates from existing data is also utilized.

Sector	Survey Methods
• Government sector	Complete survey/self-enumeration
• Incorporated enterprise sector	Sample survey/joint use of self-enumeration and interviewing method
• Unincorporated enterprise sector	Sample survey/interviewing method
• Household sector	Sample survey/interviewing method
• Net foreign claims	Estimates from existing data

Almost all developed countries tend to use the indirect method of estimation when compiling capital stock statistics.

Those countries have developed basic data in various fields, which enable them to use the indirect method in estimating capital stock.

Recently, in an effort to improve basic statistics and put into use already-existing data, the survey institutions have given some consideration to the introduction of an indirect method as opposed to direct observation, which requires excessive time and effort.

2. Computerization of Government Administration

A. Outlines of Computerization

Since an IBM 1401 Electronic Computer System was imported to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBOS) in 1967 for the first time in the country, the Korean Government has been steadily working on the improvement of computerization for various administrative operations.

The Government Computer Center, a central computer installation for common use, was established in the 1970's. In addition, the Government had been promoting administrative computerization through the creation of the "Basic Plan for Computerization of Government Administration" during the period of 1978-1986.

By the end of 1986, the Government had computerized a total of 697 projects. However, the Computerization of Government Administration from 1978 to 1986 experienced critical problems as each Government ministries had used each other computer hardware and software programs.

Therefore, the Government established the "Basic Plan for the Computerized Network of Government Administration" in 1987 to eliminate these negative factors.

The purposes of this Basic Plan are:

- to promote the efficiency of policy decision making through construction of the system of administrative information management in order to promote common use of the major administrative information of the nation;
- to improve the civil service ability through rapid and correct communication of the information by building the nation-wide network system, and
- to save administrative expenses with enhancement of productivity, and same time, to encourage the information industry to create demands of the market as well so that international competitiveness may be promoted through cultivation of domestic information industry.

At present, the Government is preferentially preparing first stage of the Program of the Computerized Network of Government Administration for the following six major projects:

- (1) resident registration
- (2) real property registration
- (3) automobile registration
- (4) customs clearance
- (5) arrangements for employment
- (6) economic statistics

Also, we will proceed with the second stage of the Program for other fields.

By 1988, approximately 140 main computer sets and 8,400 terminals were supplied at Government ministries, with 4,000 computer experts working for the Government.

Meanwhile, since 1971, about 20,000 public servants have been trained at the Government Computer Center.

B. The Present Situation of Development by Field

(1) Resident Registration

This is managed by the Ministry of Home Affairs, with the purpose to provide the rapid and correct resident registration services for the public, which will be provided by December of 1990.

At present, the operating software for the main computer and work station are installed.

(2) Real Estate Registration

This is also managed by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The purpose of this project is to develop a real estate information system on the whole country through the computerization of land registration.

At present, the software for the project is completed, and services for the public will be provided by January of 1990.

(3) Automobile Registration

This project is managed by the Ministry of Transportation, the purpose of which is to realize an automobile information system on the whole country to provide rapid and correct services to the public through computerization of car registrations by September of 1989.

Meanwhile, experimental services in the Inchon region have been provided since September of 1988.

(4) Customs Clearances

This Project is managed by the Office of Customs Administrations and classifies the procedures of customs clearance and of bonded goods.

Services for the public will be provided from October of 1989 at the Kimpo Customs Office, and from April of 1990 at the Seoul Customs Office.

(5) Arrangement for Employment

This is managed by the Ministry of Labor, with the purpose of constructing an efficient linkage for employers and employees through the computerization of nationwide employment information.

At present, the software development for the enterprise information and the occupation guidance are completed, along with the establishment of the main computer and work stations.

(6) Economic Statistics

This is managed by the National Bureau of Statistics, and has the purpose of constructing a data base for economic statistic information which was compiled by various organizations and providing rapid and correct economic statistics data for user groups.

At present, economic statistics data of 650,000 series for 20 fields are stored in the NBOS Data Base.

The NBOS data base developed program, which is accessible by users is described as follows:

a. On-line real time system methods

(i) Data use by item

Desired data can be obtained by selection of data list on the screen.

(ii) Data use by statistical tables

Data can be obtained by selection of statistical table list in statistical publications.

(iii) Data use by code

Data can be obtained by selection of data codes in the data list of time-series.

b. Batch system methods

(i) Manuscript of publications

Manuscript of publications with statistical data in the NBOS data base can be obtained with statistical data.

(ii) Use of statistical analysis package

Analysis of statistical data of NBOS data base can be accomplished with a statistical analysis package such as SAS, SPSS, X-11, which is available by data code.

(iii) Use of personal computers

Statistical data of a data base can be copied onto another diskette.

Committee on Development Planning and Statistics
(First session) 24-28 July 1989

STATEMENT/COUNTRY PAPER

Statistics in Lao People's Democratic Republic

Lao.P.D.R is a landlocked and least developed country with a small and widely scattered population. At present, the country is undergoing substantial changes in the way its economy is planned and controlled.

The government of Lao.P.D.R has placed high importance to the statistical services and the State Statistical Center, is being entrusted with the tasks of compiling and processing of statistical informations and building the statistical capabilities in the country as a whole. So far it can respond to the needs in terms of statistical data of the higher policy making, planning agencies and other sectors, in order to monitor control and evaluate the implementation of the development plans and form a basis for the preparation of the short and long term plans and programmes. By keeping pace with the growth of the national economy, the requirements for the series of statistics are gradually increasing.

Apart from the overall endeavours to improve the collection of statistical data, through the undertaking of the experimental operations in reporting statistical informations from grass-root levels which in effect revealed the shortcoming in the existing reporting system: i.e unqualified statistical staff at the grass-root levels, the State Statistical Center, with the assistance from U.N.F.P.A, is carrying on a four and half years project in the field of demography in order to improve the national vital registration system.

This project is consisted of a baseline survey, already done in July 1988, and a series of follow-up surveys in 300 sample villages in every sixth month, paralleling with the improvement of civil registration system and it is expected to provide the country with demographic data on fertility, mortality, ...and more importantly improvements in vital registration. In this tasks we have a valuable assistance from ESCAP in the form of the regional adviser resources.

As already mentioned, the State Statistical Center has the responsibility of consolidating and publishing data obtained from the other government agencies, usually through the village/district/province reporting system. It publishes an annual publication, namely: Basic Data about the Social and Economic Development which contains almost all official statistics available to the State Statistical Center.

In the efforts for statistical capability building, during the last two years, the State Statistical Center has conducted three short training courses for the statistical staff at province/district levels in Luangprabang, Champassack and Vientiane with the assistance from ESCAP and SIAP. Also a number of statistical officials from the State Statistical Center and other Ministries have attended and are attending training, workshop, study tours abroad such as in JAPAN (JICA, SIAP), THAILAND (AIT), USSR, VIETNAM, FGR (MUNICH CENTER), so on...

In order to address the deficiencies in the qualifications of statistical personnel at different levels and to remove suspicion about the quality of the statistics, fortunately, with the assistance from UNDP, the State Statistical Center is about to implement a four and a half years project for strengthening national capabilities in statistics and microcomputing. This project aims to upgrade statistical

skills at national and local levels, generate new economic data and improve existing series, develop microcomputing proficiency . This project will no doubt help the country in a further step of improving statistical capabilities.

We shall implement a technical assistance from the ADB for improving agricultural statistics beginning next year.

An important assistance from the EEC and the french government in the fields of training will be in place for the coming year.

Besides , in the light of the New Economic Mechanism, the government has placed emphasis on a substantial improvements in its statistical capability by reorganizing the institutional structures of the statistics services by placing the State Statistical Center directly under a Vice-Minister and increasing its authority to co-ordinate data collection from other ministries and government enterprises. Due to the fact that a limited number of cadres are staffed to, there is a study on an organisation of the State Statistical Center by functions rather than by subject matter as it used to be. This will consist of two major groups : one is the data collection group and the other is the summarizing group.

The awareness of the Government toward statistics can be seen further in its commitments to the constuction of Consumer Price Index , reclassifying of the economic sectors and establishing the National Account Section.

In summary , the statistical system in Lao P.D.R has significant developed during the recent past, but from a very low base. Consequently, the government policy in statistics is to strengthen it through human resources development at different levels in the whole country, including upgrading the ability of the State Statistical Center so as to become a competence center in statistical techniques, which means the strengthening in equipment and building also .

United Nations: Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Committee on Development Planning and Statistics First Session, 24-28 July 1989, Bangkok

New Zealand: Country Paper

Major Activities of the New Zealand Department of Statistics, since the Seventh Session of the Committee on Statistics, November 1987

Introduction

Probably the most significant single factor affecting the activities of the Department of Statistics in the last two years has been the implementation of the Government's State Sector policy. In pursuit of more efficient resource utilization and more effective control of public expenditure, Government agencies have been reorganized along commercial lines and wherever possible activities have been exposed to market forces.

The passing of the State Sector Act in 1987 resulted in the introduction of private sector staff management practises, which have given departmental managers unprecedented autonomy in negotiating conditions of employment for staff. Government financial reforms have introduced accrual accounting and other standard business practises, including six monthly and annual reporting. This has necessitated a significant investment in accounting software. A byproduct should be more effective internal management, especially in relation to cost control.

Probably the most significant impact of the State Sector policy package on the Department of Statistics has been the provision for a progressive reduction in the level of direct public funding, which will fall by 1991 to a level equivalent, in real terms, to 75 percent of that provided in 1986. The department has been challenged to offset this reduction in funding, and maintain its level of activity by increasing revenue from the sale of goods and services. This will involve raising earnings from less than \$0.5 million in 1986 to \$9.5 million in 1991. In 1988 the Departments revenue was \$3.2 million, in 1989 our target is \$7.3 million.

Aside from impacting on the philosophy and culture of the Department, the revenue challenge has necessitated the rapid development, from a diminishing resource base, of a co-ordinated marketing program to take full advantage of the revenue earning potential of the Departments outputs.

At the same time the Department must attempt to preserve and enhance the value of its public good products and services which, as demonstrated by the continued provision of at least 75 percent of the Departments income from direct public funding remain the principal reason for maintaining a central statistical agency. The department has had to actively defend its role in circumstances where government advisers have suggested policies which challenged the basic principles which underpin the operation of an effective central statistical agency.

The remainder of this paper discusses the major developments, in relation to both subject matter and service functions over the last two years, and highlights expected future developments.

Developments in Business and Economic Statistics

1. Business Directory

The Departments computerized business survey frame has been extended to serve most non-agricultural business surveys, covering employment, finance, production and balance of payments. It is intended to extend the system in the coming year to include farms. The directory is updated monthly from consumption tax (GST) registration data.

The Department hosted the 1988 International Roundtable on Business Survey Frames, where the experience and practise of other statistical agencies and future possibilities and directions were discussed.

2. Business Survey Statistics

In 1987 the Department conducted its first comprehensive single survey of business income and expenditure covering the non-agricultural productive sector. Detailed results from the survey, known as the Economy Wide Census (EWOC), which are available by 450 industry

ie119079/Ewing1

groups, sector and region, have been progressively released since March of this year. The next EWOC is scheduled for 1992.

The department is intending to rationalize its range of quarterly and monthly business surveys to more effectively articulate with its annual and five yearly collections.

In response to the demands of revenue generation, surveys of industrial production are now generally operated on the basis of partial or complete user sponsorship.

3. **Agriculture Surveys**

In 1987 the Department introduced a method adopted from the Australian Bureau of Statistics to impute the value of farm production from physical production data. This technique has been used effectively to improve industry coding and to limit the number of farms surveyed each year in the Departments Annual Agricultural Census to those units deemed to be "economic" farms. Unproductive landholdings and "hobby farms" are excluded. Significant savings and improvements in the timeliness of agricultural statistics have resulted, with negligible impact on data quality.

4. **Balance of Payments**

Foreign exchange deregulation has meant a need to expand the range of Balance of Payments data collected directly from businesses. Surveys have been particularly critical in identifying relevant firms, classifying their overseas financial transactions and in the measurement of international trade in services and of term debt.

5. **National Accounts**

The major recent development has been the production and publication of a household income and outlay account. National Accounting methodology is being revised to make better use of a range of improved business survey data as a result of the Business Directory and Business Survey developments identified above. Changes in Central Government accounting methods, as a result of Government State Sector policies may require direct surveys of government agencies in place of the use of administrative records, to provide information needed for the state sector component of the national accounts.

6. **Price Indexes**

In 1989 the regimen of New Zealand's Consumers' Price Index (CPI) was revised. The revision has taken account of changes in household expenditure patterns and the introduction of new commodities and services. New items, and revised expenditure weightings were introduced in the March quarter of 1989. An expanded survey of household income and expenditure, covering 4,500 households, was undertaken in 1988 to provide information needed to determine the revised weightings. CPI revisions are undertaken on a five yearly cycle.

Revisions of the Capital Expenditure Price Index and the Prevailing Weekly Wage Rate Index have been undertaken to take account of technological changes, and the impact of economic restructuring.

A survey of farmers liabilities was completed in 1988 in conjunction with the Annual Census of Agriculture to provide expenditure weightings for interest payments in an index of farm input prices, which is currently under development.

The Overseas Trade Price and Volume Index is also being revised to take account of the introduction of the Harmonized System (HS) of overseas trade commodity classification.

7. **Inter Industry Study**

The Department commenced work preparing Inter-Industry study statistics (Input-Output analysis), covering the 1986-87 financial year. The study will make extensive use of data provided by the Economy Wide Census. Undertaking the study has been substantially assisted by the provision of sponsorship funding from major users.

Developments in Population, Social and Labour Force Statistics

1. Census of Population and Dwellings

All standard reports from the 1986 Census of Population and Dwellings were completed by March 1989. A strategic plan has been approved and two pilot tests undertaken in preparation for the 1991 Census. User consultation on the content of the questionnaire is expected to be completed by early 1990. A question on Maori tribal origin will be incorporated in the census, in part recognition of the statistical needs of the Maori community.

2. Quarterly Employment Survey

In February of this year the Department assumed responsibility for a quarterly survey of employment, hitherto operated by the New Zealand Department of Labour.

The survey provides measures of labour demand and of average wages, classified by sex of employee, employee status, industry, sector and region. By integrating the survey with the Department's other business based collections, it has been possible to improve the coverage, the quality of classification and the range of regional and industry output, at reduced cost.

3. Household Labour Force Survey

The Department's Household Labour Force Survey, introduced in 1985, is increasingly recognized as the authoritative measure of employment and unemployment in New Zealand.

Government has approved additional funds to enable the sample to be doubled from 12,000 to 24,000 households, and allow the provision of monthly data (in place of the present quarterly series) and to provide additional regional information.

4. Time Use Survey

Government has approved in principle the operation of a time use survey to assist in measuring, amongst other things, the volume of unpaid work undertaken in New Zealand.

Further progress in developing this survey is conditional on arranging satisfactory funding.

5. Maori Statistical Unit

The department intends to establish a Maori Statistical Unit, and an associated training and development program. The purpose of the proposed unit is to improve the department's awareness of and responsiveness to Maori Statistical needs and improve access to official statistics by Maori Statistical users.

6. New Demographic Projections

The department has recently published a new series of regional labour force projections. National population projections by ethnic group are planned for release by late 1989.

Developments in Statistical Co-ordination and Standards

The Department has a statutory responsibility to co-ordinate New Zealand's official statistical activities to ensure that statistics adapt to changing user requirements, prevent resource duplication and promote statistical standards and comparability.

1. Subject Matter Reviews

Reviews of users needs, and of the provision of statistics were completed for the following subject matter topics: Ethnicity, Alcoholic Beverages and Labour and Employment. Reviews of Statistics on Health, Income and Wealth and of Regional Data are currently under action.

2. Standard Classifications

As a result of the Review of Ethnic Statistics, the department is developing a suitable ethnic classification which will be both relevant to policy making requirements, culturally appropriate and, as far as practicable, consistent with historical classifications.

The New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (NZSCO) is subject to revision to take account of changes in technology, and the need to more adequately reflect the skill level of

each occupation. An interim revision is expected to be available for the 1991 Census of Population and Dwellings. The revised classification will be based on the new ISCO, and links will be incorporated to allow comparison with data produced under earlier versions.

3. Survey Proposal Assessments

The Department provides technical advice to Government Departments undertaking statistical surveys. This helps improve the quality and usefulness of the resultant statistics. Over 30 survey proposals are, on average, assessed each year.

Developments in Marketing and Dissemination

The impact of an expanding revenue target has required a significant redeployment of resources to the development, promotion and sale of statistical products. This has involved the development of an appropriate commercial philosophy consistent with the departments public service responsibilities; the implementation of appropriate pricing policies for both "community value" and "commercial" products; the training of staff in all facets of marketing; the identification of areas of statistical activity which offer significant potential for "profitable" commercial development; an effective advertising and promotion strategy; a more commercial and customer-oriented service delivery system; and finally an effective cost and management information system. Some of the more significant aspects of this development are outlined below.

1. Service Delivery

The Department has established a marketing unit with full time client services officers responsible for identifying clients and servicing their needs. A single point of contact for all information services has been established in each of the Departments four offices. In addition all major survey sections were designated client services personnel who are responsible for actioning subject specific information requests.

2. Publications

The structure, appearance and content of traditional publications has been upgraded. Greater emphasis has been placed on interpretative comment, graphics and colour. Topics will be consolidated into a series of 12 general publications, replacing over 60 different survey specific volumes.

3. Electronic Data Dissemination

The Department provides online computer access to its public time series database (Infos), through leased line or commercial communications networks.

Infos accessing and data manipulation software is also available for use on IBM compatible PCs together with a selection of Infos time series, provided on diskettes. This product is known as "PC Infos".

The data from the 1986 Census of Population and Dwellings is marketed, in read-only memory form, on compact disk, together with graphics and analysis software. The product is known as "Supermap".

Procedures for statistical information delivery by electronic mail are currently being finalized.

4. Business Listing Services

The department retails lists of names and addresses from its business directory for statistical uses.

5. "Customized" Data Services

The provision of information from the departments statistical databases, tailored to meet the specific information needs of business and government clients, is proving to be a major source of revenue. Data can be provided on hardcopy or magnetic media or by electronic data transfer. Overseas Trade, Demographic, Household Income and Expenditure, Business, and Census of Population and Dwellings statistics have considerable revenue potential because of their usefulness to business clients in measuring markets, and monitoring competition. This service operates within the strict confidentiality provisions of the Statistics Act.

Developments in Regional Assistance and Liaison

1. PC Based Trade Statistics System

The Department has developed a computer package, designed for implementation on IBM compatible personal computers, to allow Pacific island nations to process and compile overseas trade statistics, using the Harmonized System (HS) of product classification. The package can be tailored to meet individual country needs and has been demonstrated in a number of Pacific states. Further resources will be committed to this project in the coming year.

2. Computer Assisted Coding Workshops

The department hosted a workshop on Computer Assisted Coding (CAC) techniques in April of 1989. It was attended by 32 participants from a range of members and associate members of ESCAP. The workshop identified a number of potential applications for computer assisted coding, particularly the scope for PC based CAC systems appropriate for developing countries. The department will provide continuing assistance in this area.

Developments in Technical Services

1. Mainframe Data Processing

The department has recently centralized and upgraded its mainframe computing facilities by replacing 3 dispersed IBM 4381 computers with a single Amdahl 58/70 series mainframe. Storage and processing facilities are now centralized in the Wellington office, with regional offices being linked by means of dedicated communications lines. The reorganization has expanded mainframe processing and storage capacity and reduced costs.

2. Local Area Network

All balance of payments survey processing is being undertaken through a network of IBM compatible Personal Computers. The network interfaces with the Department's mainframe computer and provides the section with word processing and data analysis facilities.

3. Personal Computers

Increased use of personal computers, linked to the Department's mainframe through the communications network, has occurred in the last two years. PC applications include accounting, desk top publishing, questionnaire design, word processing, survey operation and data analysis.

4. Software

Since 1987 the Department has undertaken substantial data processing system developments using "package" software and applications generators which previously would have been developed using third generation languages. These systems include a major survey processing system for the Quarterly Employment Survey and the Financial Management Information System. Virtually all statistical output is now produced using user driven table and report packages.

Management and Support Service Developments

1. Revised Organizational Structure

As a means of improving cost-effectiveness, an entire level of senior management has been eliminated. Senior Managers now have increased responsibility for a wider range of functions.

2. Integrated Corporate Planning

In response to the changes in state sector policy discussed in the introductory comment, corporate planning is now an integrated component of the process of the Department's external reporting and public accountability as well as being a mechanism for more effective internal management.

3. Equal Employment Opportunity Programme

Programs are being developed to actively promote employment, training and promotion opportunities for women, Maori and other ethnic minority groups, and for the disabled. The State Sector Act, passed in 1987, requires government agencies to put these policies in place, both to provide opportunities for identified groups and to promote more effective use of human resources.

Conclusion

The Department will attempt in the 1990s to develop a programme of activities which will meet both the commercial challenge provided by revenue targets and to enable the continued provision of publically funded statistical services required to meet the needs of government and the community in New Zealand.

ESCAP COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT PLANNING
AND STATISTICS, 24 - 28 JULY, 1987 - BANGKOK

COUNTRY PAPER ON PAKISTAN ON STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES.

The present statistical system in Pakistan at the federal level comprises of Statistics Division and its four attached departments namely Federal Bureau of Statistics (FBS), Population Census Organization (PCO), Agricultural Census Organization (ACO), and Pakistan Institute for Statistical Training & Research (PISTAR). Some statistical cells are still functioning in other federal agencies to meet their specific data requirements.

2. At the Provincial level, Bureaus of Statistics are operating in all the four provinces with statistical cells also functioning in other departments for generation of requisite data at the provincial level.

3. FBS is the main data producing agency at the federal level responsible for important areas e.g. national accounts; external trade; price statistics; crop statistics; industrial statistics; social statistics; labour statistics and conduct of socio-economic censuses/surveys e.g. labour force survey, Pakistan Demographic Survey, household income & expenditure survey, census of manufacturing industries (large scale), mining establishments / electricity undertakings etc. FBS has its own field staff located in 41 field offices spread throughout the country for the conduct of surveys and collection of price data.

4. PCO is mainly responsible for decennial housing & population census and ACO for decennial livestock census & agriculture census. PISTAR has been set up with the main objective of enhancing the capability of various levels of statistical personnel in different fields through elementary and specialised training courses. It is still in the formative stage.

5. Since the last session of the Committee on Statistics held at Bangkok in September, 1987, the Statistics Division has remained engaged in the generation of data in different areas commensurate with the growing needs of the Government and other users. These national activities covering agenda items 7(b), 7(c) and 8(a) to 8(e) of the agenda are briefly discussed in the subsequent paras.

Development of Economic Statistical Agenda 8(b)

Price Statistics

6. The FBS collects retail prices from 50 urban centres through its own field staff. In case of wholesale prices, it

Views expressed in the paper are of the author (Syed Aftab Ahmed, Deputy Director General, Statistics Division, Government of Pakistan) and in no way represent the official views.

depends upon its own staff as well as other concerned federal / provincial agencies.

7. The FBS issues three indices namely Weekly Sensitive Price Indicators (SPI) of 46 essential items, monthly Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Wholesale Price Index (WPI). The base year of these indices has been shifted from 1975-76 to 1980-81. SPI is made available within 3 days and discussed in the weekly meetings of Economic Coordination Committee of the Cabinet for review of price situation. CPI and WPI are now released on 10th in place of 25th of the following month reducing time lag by 15 days.

8. Plan is in hand to shift the base year of the series to more recent period i.e. 1988-89 with greater coverage of price quotations / cities etc. For this purpose, consumption surveys have been started. Besides the indices by occupational categories / income groups, separate urban consumer price index for self - employed will also be developed in future.

Household Income & Expenditure Survey.

9. This survey has become an annual program from 1984-85. The questionnaire of the survey has been substantially revised in consultation with the local / foreign experts to meet particularly the requirements of national accounts. It will be introduced shortly. The latest report pertains to the year 1985-86.

External Trade Statistics.

10. Compilation of external trade statistics on the basis of custom documents remained a regular activity. Main developments in this regard are as follows:-

- i) Base year for the indices shifted from 1975-76 to 1980-81.
- ii) Post tabulation checking started to improve quality of trade statistics.
- iii) Collection and compilation of baggage imports with different details on the basis of baggage documents recorded by the customs.
- iv) Time lag of advance release of monthly exports and imports brought down to 10 days.

11. In the light of ISTC Revision 3, PSTC Revision 3, has now been prepared which is being finalised for its introduction shortly.

National Accounts

12. Pakistan's National Accounts comprise of series on i) Gross and Net National Products 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 capital assets. iv) Government's final consumption expenditure by functional heads.

13. The Government set up in 1985, a Committee on National Accounts under the chairmanship of Governor, State Bank of Pakistan, to review the present methodology for preparation of national accounts and to propose improvements considered necessary. The Committee submitted its report in 1986. The Committee recommended inter alia, that the revised UN System of National Accounts be enlarged to include input-output tables, social accounting matrices (SAM), flow of funds accounts, savings and investment.

14. In the light of this report, series are being improved while new Sections for Input - Output Tables, SAM, Flow of Funds and Savings have been set up. Plan is under operation for the adoption of UN System of National Accounts (SNA) in a phased manner. A project entitled "Improvement of National Accounts Statistics (INAS)" has been started with the Dutch assistance which besides improvement of series, also aims at enhancing of capability of staff through training. The base year of National Accounts series has been shifted from 1959-60 to 1980-81. Work will be started to bring it in future to 1988-89.

ICP Project.

15. Pakistan has participated as one of the core country in the earlier phases of this UN Project.

Food Security Management Project-Agricultural Data Collection Component.

16. The Agricultural Data Collection (ADC) sub-project is a component of Food Security Management (FSM) Project. The other two components of this project are Economic Policy and Analysis (EPA) and Post Harvest Management (PHM) which are being implemented by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. The ADC component has been designed to improve and modify the existing traditional system of agricultural data collection by use of Area Sampling Frame Methodology with the help of aerial photography/satellite imagery. FBS is implementing this project in collaboration with the provincial Departments of Agriculture in a phased programme. This method is being used on pilot basis in 7 districts before its extension to the whole country in the light of evaluation of its results. The traditional method of agricultural data collection will also be continued parallel to this programme.

17. A project has been prepared which is under processing of the Government, for covering 18 major crops through scientific crop cutting surveys.

18. Other regular survey activities in the field include

Survey on the Use of Fertilizer in Rural Areas, Milk Yield Survey etc. Labour Statistics.

19. Major developments in this field are as follows:-

- i) Labour Force Survey: has been made an annual activity from 1984-85. The last report pertains to the year 1987-88. Its questionnaire has been revised in consultation with local and foreign experts to improve interalia, the reporting of female participation in agriculture, unemployment etc.
- ii) Data on wages (in cash and kind) of both regular and casual workers unskilled gricultural workers being collected from sample rural areas on monthly basis and published regularly.
- iii) Annual Establishment Enquiry covering all types of establishments to get data on employments, employment cost, occupational structure, expansion / shrinkage etc. The last report pertains to the year, 1985-86.

Census of Establishments:

20. The census was undertaken in 1987-88 in the country to list all types of establishments operating in the country to serve as a frame for future detailed surveys in the specific areas. Field work has been completed and processing of data is in progress.

Private Building Construction Survey:

21. The last survey was undertaken for the period, 1981-83 and report published. Preparatory work for the survey in 1989 was started.

Manufacturing & Energy Statistics:

22. Important activities in this field cover the following:

- i) Annual census of large scale manufacturing industries conducted in collaboration with the provinces. Efforts continued to be made to improve its coverage, quality and timeliness. Last report pertains to the year, 1985-86.
- ii) Census/Surveys of small and household manufacturing industries last census conducted in 1987-88.
- iii) Annual census of mining establishments / electricity undertakings.
- iv) Annual survey of self - generating electricity undertakings.

- v) Compilation of quantum Index of large scale manufacturing industries / mineral production / electricity generation etc. Base year of these Indices has been shifted to 1980-81.

Integrated Household Survey:

23. FBS aims to undertake this survey on pilot basis shortly with the assistance of World Bank etc. for collection of requisite data for employment and wage policy, socio-economic status of women, poverty and poverty alleviation strategies, education and school enrollements, migration etc. For this purpose, new data collection technology i.e. PC-based data management and data entry system will be introduced at the field level. Planning work is in hand.

Agro - based Census / Surveys

24. Planning work is nearing completion for conduct of Agriculture Census in early 1990. Other surveys conducted include agriculture machinery survey, rural credit survey, livestock products etc.

Other Surveys:

25. Other survey activities undertaken periodically include the following:-

- i. Mechanised / non-mechanised road transport survey. Last surveys was undertaken in 1984-85.
- ii. Survey of distributive trade Last survey was undertaken in 1984-85.
- iii. Survey of impact of zakat and ushr on individual and households undertaken in 1983-84 (Adhoc).
- iv. Survey of shelterless persons in Pakistan etc.(Adhoc).
- v. Rent survey (regular).
- vi. Urban construction survey (periodic) etc.

Development of Demographic, Social and Other Statistics Agenda item 8(c).

Housing & Population Census 1991:

26. Planning for the next census remained in program. A Census Advisory Committee constituted to advise on different aspects of census has held number of meetings. The Census Ordinance 1959, is also being amended in the light of past experience to make it more meaningful and effective.

Annual Pakistan Demographic Surveys(PDS). 1984-87:

27. The FBS is conducting new series of Pakistan demographic surveys annually from the year 1984. Last published report pertains to the year, 1987. Data collection / processing for 1988 and 1989 is in progress.

28. Other important activities in the field include
i. National Migration Survey, 1983 conducted in cooperation with UNFPA. ii. Survey of Education & Youth, 1986. iii. Survey of Health Facilities in Pakistan, 1985. Data processing is in progress. iv. Health Surveys Important surveys in the field undertaken from time to time.

Other Activities (Agenda item 7(c):

29. Other activities carried out pertain to i.Environment Statistics. ii. Women Profile. iii. Socio-economic Indicators. iv. Village Statistics etc. v. Financial Statistics. vi. Social Statistics etc.

Statistical Information Services and
data base development (Agenda item 9(d)

30. FBS has stockpile of data on censuses, socio-economic surveys and statistical series. To make these data accessible to the users in the Government and outside, the FBS has planned to establish National Data Bank comprising the following data bases.

31. As a long term plan, FBS plans to develop data bases at national, provincial and lower administrative levels for different economic sectors separately for urban and rural areas. Priority was assigned to Trade Data Base and Labour Statistics Data Base, which have been organised using in-house expertise, on IBM Computer System/38 operating under CPF environments. Efforts are underway to organise remaining data bases also. Close coordination is being made between users and Data Base personnel. DP personnel responsible for physical structure / operations of Data Bases and experienced subject matter specialists responsible for logical structure need extensive training in the logical and physical organisation of National Data Bank.

Government Computerization
(Agenda item 8(e)

32. The FBS is responsible for collection, computerisation and dissemination of the statistical data relating to all socio-economic sectors of the country. To cope with the requirements of planners and other users. FBS conducts a number of surveys which are computerised for its timely availability of results to the users. In addition to processing of national Housing and Population Censuses, Agriculture Census, Livestock Census following jobs have been / are being processed on the Computer System of Federal Bureau of Statistics

Censuses

- i) Census of Establishments, 1987-88.
- ii) Census of Small and Household Manufacturing Industries. (1987-88)
- iii) Census of Large Scale Manufacturing Industries.

Sample Surveys

(A) Annual

- i) Labour Force Survey
- ii) Household Income & Expenditure Survey
- iii) Pakistan Demographic Survey
- iv) Annual Industrial Survey of Large Scale Manufacturing Industries.
- v) Annual Sample Survey of Small & Household Manufacturing Industries.
- vi) Sample Survey of Distributive Trades & Services.
- vii) Sample Survey of Rent of Dwellings
- viii) Survey of Livestock Products (Milk, Meat and Wool)
- ix) Survey on Use of Fertilizer in Rural Areas.

(B) Adhoc

- i) Migration Survey (Once five years).
- ii) National Health Survey (Once in five years)
- iii) National Health Examination Survey (Once in five years).
- iv) National Fertility Survey
- v) National Mortality Survey
- vii) Survey of Utilization of Agricultural Commodities.
- viii) Urban Area Frame for censuses and surveys
- ix) Preparation of village lists
- x) List of rural areas for agricultural surveys.

Statistical Services

- i) Foreign Trade Statistics. (1988).
- ii) Prices-50 prices centres, 1050 consumer items from 89 markets involving 165, 896 quotations.
- iii) Index numbers:
 - Consumer Price Index (CPI) for 25 cities, three occupational categories and four income groups
 - Wholesale Price Index (WPI)
 - Sensitive Price Index (SPI) for 12 cities.
 - Import Unit Value Index (IUVI)
 - Export Unit Value Index (EUVI)
 - Export Quantum Index (EQI).

Development of National Statistical Capabilities (Agenda Item 8(a))

33. The development and upgradation of capacity and capability of professional statistical staff has been of continuous concern to Statistics Division. Since statisticians of Pakistan are required to deal with new and complicated statistical projects, efforts have been directed to build up statistical capability of the staff to deal effectively with various statistical projects through advanced education and training in the specific skills needed to carry out all phases of statistical activities.

34. The above objective's are achieved through:

- i) In-service training including country courses/workshops.
- ii) Foreign training.
- iii) Foreign advisors / experts.
- iv) Participation in international meetings/Seminars etc.
- v) Obtaining of documentation of applied statistics and Feature articles on demography, national accounts, population, labour statistics, etc.
- vi) Training in the use of PCs etc.
- vii) Implementation since 1985-86 of NHSCP in Pakistan with the assistance of CIDA/UNDP.
 - To develop institutional capability in FBS to conduct Household surveys to provide data representative of the national population particularly under represented groups, women, youth.
 - To build up skills of women employed in the FBS, Women Division, and other agencies, such as NGO in household surveys:
 - To develop innovative ways to present internationally comparable statistics to maximize their use.
 - Work of NHSCP is desired annually in the Tripartite meetings - 3 meetings have been held so far.

**THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICAL SYSTEM:
ITS MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS IN 1988-1989***

INTRODUCTION

The Philippine Statistical System (PSS) was reorganized in 1987 through a legal fiat promulgated by the government's executive department. This move demonstrates the continuing concern of the country's statistical community to strengthen the overall organizational and operational set-up of the system in order to further promote its efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery. In the same year, the government bureaucracy was also undergoing major restructuring. Inevitably, therefore, some agencies of the government, which were major statistical data producers, were abolished and out of which a stronger institution was created. With all these institutional reforms, the statistical community thus witnessed the creation of the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB); Statistical Research and Training Center (SRTC); Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS), Department of Agriculture; and Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics (BLES), Department of Labor and Employment; and the renaming of the then National Census and Statistics Office into the National Statistics Office together with the upgrading of its head.

. The NSCB

Created as an independent body, the NSCB serves as the highest policy-making and central coordinating body on statistical matters. Its decisions shall be final and executory.

. The NSO

It shall be the major statistical agency responsible for generating general purpose statistics and undertaking such censuses and surveys as may be designated by the NSCB.

. The SRTC

It is charged with the development of a comprehensive and integrated research and training program on the theories, concepts and methodologies for the promotion of the statistical system.

*Country Paper presented by Director Milagros O. dela Cruz of the National Statistical Coordination Board, Philippines in the First Session of the Committee on Development Planning and Statistics, Bangkok, 24 July - 28 July 1989.

. The BAS

It has been tasked, inter alia, to be primarily responsible for the collection, compilation and official release of all statistics on agriculture, fishery and other related statistics.

. The BLES

Its mission is to implement a comprehensive and effective labor and employment statistical system complementary to labor administration and responsive to national development.

Aside from these institutional changes in the major statistical agencies in the country, the reorganization of the system also called for the implementation of innovative mechanisms for coordination since the decentralized structure of the system was still maintained. Specifically, the mechanisms were initiated with the end in view of ensuring stronger coordination and better data integration, enhancing the responsiveness of the system to the needs of data users and improving public confidence on the data produced. One such mechanism involved the programming of funds for statistical operations which was not present in the previous set-up. It aims to foster a closer linkage between statistical programming and budgeting. This programming feature, which is coupled with the review and clearance prior to the release of the budgetted funds for governmental statistical programs and projects, is recognized as a powerful clout in statistical coordination.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS IN 1988-89

1. Statistical Planning and Programming

The Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan provided that substantive improvements in the system shall likewise be effected through the adoption and implementation of a national statistical program. Generally referred to as the Philippine Statistical Development Program (PSDP), it serves as the framework for priority setting, integration and coordination of government statistical services so that general, sectoral and specific data requirements are adequately met. As the prime authority on the country's statistical affairs, therefore, the NSCB spearheaded the preparation of said comprehensive statistical program for the period 1988-1992. At present, the program is being updated to highlight the major statistical activities for the triennium, 1990-1992.

The lead part of the PSDP discusses briefly the developments in the previous planning period, describes the present scenario and states the program thrusts, objectives and the corresponding strategies to attain the objectives. Invariably, these statements of intents are reflective of the overall mission of the PSS, which is to provide quality statistical information to planners and decision makers and assure its proper utilization by the users. Subsequent chapters of the PSDP give an insight on each sector: its data framework, major developments, objectives, problems and issues and programmed activities.

2. The Statistical Calendar

The statistical calendar was designed to facilitate the programming of sectoral projects and activities. A novel instrument, it is accomplished by individual agencies recognized as primary data producers in the system. Indicated in the calendar are the on-going and programmed statistical activities of the agency, classified under four major groups, namely: (1) data production/improvement; (2) institution building/improvement including systems/framework development; (3) statistical research and development; and, (4) human resource development. For each activity, the following information are specified: primary objectives, description of data to be generated (for data production activities) and the schedule, type and expected time of release of the activity outputs. The vital contribution of this particular instrument is in the proper identification of data sources, manner the data are or could be made available and estimated time to expect the corresponding outputs. With the approval of the calendar by the highest statistical coordinating body, it also provides a more effective yardstick for evaluating and monitoring of statistical activities with emphasis on the timeliness of data releases.

3. Statistical Budgeting

With the adoption of the statistical calendars by the concerned implementing agencies, the programming of funds for statistical activities, otherwise called statistical budgeting, was effectively carried out. This involves two stages, namely: (1) the preparation of budgetary proposals by the agencies for their statistical operations and submission to the NSCB Technical Staff with the latter reviewing these proposals before endorsement to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM); and, (2) clearance of funds for statistical operations prior to release. In the budget processes of 1988 and 1989, the budget proposals of only the major statistical agencies were first reviewed by the NSCB prior to submission to DBM. For 1990, this coverage was expanded to include other agencies with statistical activities. With the introduction of this coordinative

intervention, there came about a greater awareness and appreciation on the importance of statistics. As a consequence, a judicious allocation of resources has been achieved.

4. Regionalized statistical coordination

One of the concerns of the Government is to expedite implementation of development programs and projects at the subnational levels. To address this concern, a policy of decentralizing central government functions through devolution of powers, programs, resources and capabilities to local government units was adopted. To complement said policy, the NSCB initiated through a foreign-aided project the development of regional statistical systems (RSS). Specifically, the project aims to enhance the capability of the regions to produce relevant data which are reliable, timely and comparable through better statistical coordination and application of available statistical technologies. Starting with two regions, one in the northern part of the country and another in the central part, the project has adopted an integrated or two-pronged approach in the improvement of the RSS and small area statistics. Now on its second year of implementation, the project has made some distinct headways in regional coordination as evidenced by a concerted effort coupled with awareness by all agencies in the regions of the importance of developing the system. Another major achievement of the project and of the system, in general, is its completion of a regional statistical development framework which was not present before.

5. Statistical Research and Training

Since the SRTC commenced operation in early 1988, as the agency in the forefront of statistical research and training, it has endeavored to fulfill its mandated functions. Through an organized workshop, it has harnessed together the country's statistical experts and scientists in the formulation of its program of statistical research and non-degree training. It conducted a number of training seminars on various fields identified in the PSDP as priority areas, e.g. health statistics, education statistics, and peace and order statistics. Aside from the training courses, researches on the design of sample surveys, public-use-files, estimation and imputation techniques have been initiated to address one of the long-felt needs of the system.

The University of the Philippines a state-owned university, on the other hand, handled the implementation of degree programs on statistics. Through its Statistical Education Support Project, which is also a foreign-assisted undertaking, the University has produced a number of graduates at the masteral and doctoral levels in statistics. They are expected to spearhead statistical development in the country. To augment the university's teaching facilities towards the promotion of statistics as a profession, it established consortium arrangements with selected educational institutions both public and private in the countryside which offer statistical education. To further enhance the statistical education by providing faculty and students with the latest developments in theoretical and applied statistics, the library facilities of the University were upgraded with the acquisition of books and journals.

6. Rationalization of Data Production

To attain relevance and usefulness of data series, several activities were undertaken during the period:

6.1 Censuses

6.1.1 A census of buildings, the first time to be conducted in the country in response to a mounting clamor for data on the number and distribution of buildings, will be held in a staggered basis for about five months (from July 31 to December 31, 1989), as a preparatory activity to the 1990 Census of Population and Housing. It will cover all buildings whether residential, institutional, commercial, industrial or agricultural and combinations thereof found in every enumeration block/enumeration area in all urban barangays in the entire country. Specifically, it aims to come up with detailed land use maps for urban areas which can be used in monitoring physical developments and to provide a basis for development of frames for housing/building/establishment surveys. Also, a complete inventory of buildings, their characteristics and usage, and the activities engaged in by occupants will be generated.

6.1.2 All out preparations are now underway for the conduct of the 1990 Census of Population and Housing (CPH). For this census, certain changes have been introduced in the content of the questionnaire to accommodate requests from different sectors on data not normally included in any data collection schemes. These additional

data sets include: religion and physical disability, mother tongue, vocational/technical skills, and labor force status. In the Housing Census, the new questions introduced in the inquiry pertain to ownership of car, garbage disposal, and other items under the general topic of Household Conveniences.

6.1.3 Pre-census preparations for the 1990 Census of Agriculture and Fisheries (CAF) have also been started. In contrast with previous CAFs, the 1990 CAF will be a total enumeration of all farms, fishing operators and aquafarms regardless of size. A listing of households will first be conducted to identify operators of farms, fishing and aquafarms as well as owners of agricultural lands. Identified operators will be interviewed to capture the characteristics of the farm, fishing operation or aquafarm. Meanwhile, the parcel approach will be used in gathering data on farms. (A farm is any parcel or parcels of land having a total area of at least 1,000 square meters and is used for the raising of crops, such as: palay, corn, fruits, vegetables, nuts, etc., and/or livestock and/or poultry regardless of number, or any land regardless of area used for raising of at least 20 heads of livestock and/or 100 heads of poultry.)

6.1.4 A census of establishments was conducted to provide benchmark data on the operations of establishments in 1988. The census aims to provide data for measuring economic growth, national income estimation and input-output accounts preparation and consequently, a frame for planning and designing of economic surveys. The final results of this activity are expected before the end of the current year.

6.2 Major Surveys

Through coordinative efforts of the NSCB, separate Ten-Year Programs for the Integrated Survey of Households (ISH) and Establishment Inquiries have been developed. With these programs, it is hoped that the statistical system will achieve the twin objectives of optimizing the use of limited resources to generate statistics on a regular and timely bases for planning and decision-making and strengthening the linkages among users and producers of data at the same time.

6.2.1 Ten-Year Program for the ISH

Under the ISH program are eight modules, six of which were/will be undertaken in 1988-89. These modules are described in the Annex. Out of these six modules, the surveys on Functional Literacy, Education and Mass Media and on Household-Operated Activities are new large-scale surveys scheduled this year.

6.2.2 Ten-Year Program for Establishment Inquiries

Under this program, the establishment surveys scheduled for 1988-1989 are the Annual and Quarterly Survey of Establishments; Survey of Key Establishments in Manufacturing; Occupational Wage Survey; Employment, Hours Worked and Earnings Survey; Comprehensive Survey of Establishments; Employment And Wages Structure Survey; and the 1988 Occupation Survey (see Annex).

6.3 Development of Statistics on Children, Youth and Women

Considering the role played by these sectors of society in nation-building as provided for in the 1986 Constitution of the Philippines, a number of major activities were undertaken as follows:

6.3.1 Survey of Population Under 7-24 Years Old (Out-of-School Youth).

The survey was conducted towards the end of 1987 and completed in 1988 to provide an estimate of the number of out-of-school youth (OSY) in the different regions and provinces of the country and proportion of the OSY who had some form of vocational or technical training.

6.3.2 Development of Data System for Monitoring the Situation of Children and Women

The "Development of a Data System for Monitoring the Situation of Women and Children Project" is a five-year undertaking launched in 1988 to systematize the information system on children and women in the country and in selected areas where child-focused projects are being implemented. The framework on child monitoring indicator system developed during the first two

years of the project has five components, namely: the status of children and women, care of children and women and program management.

7. Improvement of Economic Statistics

7.1 Economic Accounts

In the field of economic statistics, a major development is the revision and expansion of the Philippine System of National Income Accounts (PSNA). The revision is aimed at providing the necessary framework which are relatively sensitive to emerging economic developments. Activities done along this area include the improvement of sectoral accounts (estimated industrial output by factor shares (1978-1987); development of corporate business accounts, rebasing of the PSNA to 1985, estimation of capital formation by industry, 1975-1985 regional expenditures account, tables on production, income and outlay account of the general government and the computerized quarterly PSNA. Aside from the PSNA, the Economic and Social Impact Analysis (ESIA) framework was also revised to meet the data requirements set forth in the country's Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan.

7.2 Price Statistics

Among the innovations introduced in 1988 are the following:

7.2.1 Rebasing of the Consumer Price Index (CPI)

The CPI for all income groups was rebased from 1978 to 1985. Unlike previous rebasing exercises where the construction of the market basket was based mainly on experience and judgement, the 1985-based series was drawn from the 1985 Commodity and Outlet Survey (COS). This COS was conducted for the first time specifically for the construction of the different regional market baskets of the CPI commodity groups reflecting the structure of the consumption pattern in each region. The 1978-based indices used the same market basket for all regions.

7.2.2 Development of CPI for the Bottom 30% Per Capita Income Group

This CPI was generated for the Philippines and 13 regions of the country on an experimental basis. The series seeks to measure accurately the

expected fluctuations in the purchasing power of the peso of families belonging to the bottom 30%; thus, to realistically monitor changes in their standards of living. The regional market baskets which comprised of commodities commonly consumed and services availed by households belonging to the bottom 30% income groups were derived also from the 1985 COS. Weights used in the computation were taken from the 1985 Family Income and Expenditure Survey.

8. Environmental Statistics

An integrated approach in the improvement of the sector was adopted. Among those completed include the development of a framework to cover data on environmental protection, environmental planning and management at all levels, and setting of environmental standards, systems and procedures. One of the breakthroughs in information technology, wherein the assessment and inventory of natural resources is done through the use of satellite and remote sensing facilities in combination with aerial photography and other conventional surveying methods, was seen in this sector.

9. Improved Techniques in the Processing of Administrative-based Statistics and Computer Applications

To upgrade the capability of personnel involved in the generation of statistics as outputs of their agency day-to-day operations, a series of basic trainings on forms designing, data collection and data collation have been conducted. For some agencies, processing (manual and computerized), analysis, interpretation and utilization of the results were also included in their training curricula. The particular sectors/fields in which such training courses were conducted include labor and employment, health, education, domestic trade, taxpayers record, justice and prosecution systems, and special community groups.

10. Standard Classification Systems

The NSCB is also tasked to "prescribe uniform standards and classification systems in government statistics". The ultimate goal of this function is to ensure uniformity and comparability of statistics produced by various government agencies. Four (4) classification systems are now at different stages of development, namely: Philippine Standard Commodity Classification (PSCC), Philippine Standard Occupational Classification (PSOC), Philippine Standard Classification of Education (PSCED), and the Philippine Standard Industrial Classification (PSIC). All these systems have been aligned with the latest revisions of international classifications.

10.1 1988 PSCC

It is a reclassification of all commodities, particularly those that enter Philippine trade and it incorporates new emerging commodity lines with export potential and commodities offered for preferential treatment by donor countries under the Generalized System of Preference, concessions offered by member ASEAN countries under the Preferential Trading Arrangement and those that are included in the General Agreement on Trade and Tariff (GATT) negotiations. To ensure a facile arrangement on the translation of customs data for economic and statistical purposes, it has a one-to-one correspondence with the Harmonized System of the Philippines at the seven-digit level. Moreover, this updated PSCC has been aligned with SITC Rev. 3 up to the 5-digit level for international comparability. Better known as PSCC, Revised, it has been approved by the NSCB Executive Board in its April, 1989 meeting. for adoption by all concerned agencies.

10.2 The PSOC

It is a systematic classification structure of all occupations within the Philippine working population. It embodies a detailed description of the different occupational groups, taking into account the socioeconomic significance and prominence of jobs existing in the economy. The present system being developed is primarily based on the 1988 International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO) up to the unit group (4-digit) level. Its updating is being expedited to come up with a reference listing of specific occupations for the 1990 Census of Population and Housing. The publication is expected to be released by the end of this year.

10.3 The PSCED

It is a new system being developed to facilitate national as well as international comparability of education statistics. For national comparability, the existing classification of educational programs of the education department and the list of degree courses of various agencies serve as inputs in the development of the system. For international comparability, on the other hand, the structure and underlying concepts of the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) down to the program (five-digit) level have been adopted. The first draft of the PSCED is expected to be completed by December, 1989 in time for the forthcoming 1990 CPH.

10.4 The PSIC

It is a statistical classification of industries according to their specific economic activity. Initially, each industry or economic activity is completely identified by the assignment of a five-digit numerical code. It is closely patterned after the United Nations "International Standard Industrial Classification" with modifications to suit local conditions. Preliminary studies on the updated PSIC considered expanding the coding system to 7-digits. Work on the system has just been started and scheduled to be completed by 1990.

11. Government Computerization

Towards this objective, the following were undertaken:

11.1 Registry of Information Technology (IT) Resources in the Government

A continuing activity of the National Computer Center (NCC), the annual registry presents information on: (1) EDP equipment systems, (2) Application systems, (3) EDP expenditures and EDP manpower in national agencies, government corporations, state universities and colleges and local government units. In the 1988 run, other facets on computerized data systems have been added in the data gathering, such as: data base management softwares, operating system, data communication softwares, etc. As of 1988, a total of 5,101 units were reported installed in 445 organizations, with the national agencies topping the roster, maintaining 48.4 per cent; followed by government corporations with 41.8 per cent and the rest were in state universities and colleges, and city and provincial government offices. Majority of the units were microcomputers (4,946 or 97.0%) whereas minicomputers and mainframes added up to 98 or 2.7 per cent and the remaining were network systems (17 or 0.33 per cent)

11.2 Data Base of IT Manpower in the Government, 1989

This project of the NCC aims to create and maintain a data base of IT manpower in government for these purposes: (a) to provide inputs to the design of IT Manpower Development Plan, (b) to provide materials in responding to inquiries on experts who can be tapped for any computer-related work environments, and (c) to provide information on the level of IT expertise in government for the development of career paths and training programs.

11.3 Data Base of IT Suppliers

Another activity of the NCC, it is planned to create and maintain a data base of suppliers of IT products and services. Its main objective is to provide assistance to agencies regarding acquisition of IT products and/or services and to promote state-of-the art in IT.

12. Statistical Information Services

Another major breakthrough in statistical information exchange concerns the participation of the private sector in the development of a data sharing system as evidenced by the forging of agreements between the NSCB and the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the farmers groups. These are manifestations of the serious efforts exerted to enhance efficiency in data collection and production by fostering a stronger cooperation between the private and public sectors - the private sector, in providing primary information to government inquiries; and the public sector, in disseminating quality statistics to a wide range of users for their planning and decision-making.

PROBLEMS, ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In the 1986 review of the PSS, numerous problems and issues which beset the system at the time were explicitly highlighted in the report of the committee tasked to undertake the review. While some have been addressed by the agencies concerned in the last two years, recent changes in the country's political structure, economic and social policies and information technology have contributed to new challenges to the statistical system. In the light of these challenges, therefore, statistical information must be provided continuously to the two branches of the government's legislative body; data must be disaggregated to the subnational or to some extent even down to the community level to service economic and social planning and project development at those specific levels; computer and data communications facilities must be provided to enhance linkages among data producers and users; and wider promotion of statistics appreciation among top management and other decision-makers must be enhanced for better support in the planning, financing and efficacious implementation of programs and projects concomitant with the proper utilization of statistical information.

MOC
6-23-89

TEN-YEAR PROGRAMS FOR THE PHILIPPINE INTEGRATED SURVEY
OF HOUSEHOLDS AND ESTABLISHMENT INQUIRIES

1. Integrated Survey of Households (ISH)

Title of Survey	Description/Objectives	Frequency and Survey Round
Labor Force Survey (LFS)	As the core of the ISH, the survey was designed to measure the levels of employment and unemployment in the country and earnings of household members obtained from salaries and wages.	Monthly in Metro Manila and quarterly in areas outside Metro Manila
Family Income and Expenditures Survey (FIES)	In the conduct of the FIES, the "shuttle" type of data collection is adopted. Under this approach, the sample households are interviewed in two separate operations, each time using the half-year period preceding the interview as reference period. The survey aims to gather data on family income and living expenditures and related information affecting income and expenditure levels and patterns in the country.	Every three years with the latest run in July 1988 (first phase) and January 1989 (second phase)

Title of Survey	Description/Objectives	Frequency and Survey Round
National Health Survey (NHS)	The NHS aims to determine the level and rate of morbidity and mortality in the population and to examine patterns of health conditions among subgroups of populations and at different geographic levels.	Every five years with the latest survey started in 1987 and completed in 1988.
National Demographic Survey (NDS)	The survey obtains national and regional estimates of levels and trends of fertility, mortality and internal migration and examines the differentials and determinants of these three factors and explore the extent and nature of international migration.	Every five years with the latest round held in 1988.
Functional Literacy, Education and Mass Media Survey	Covering a nationwide sample of about 20,000 households and a target age group of 7 years old and over, the survey is intended to collect data on education that would supplement those normally collected in a census and on exposure to mass media.	Every six years with the first survey in October 1989.
Survey of Household-Operated Activities (SHOA)	The survey covers all economic activities which are operated by any member of the household as single proprietors or in partnership with others. It aims to measure the contribution of the informal/unorganized sector to the economy.	Every five years with the first survey conducted in the early part of 1989.

2. Establishment Inquiries

Title of Survey	Description/Objectives	Frequency and Survey Round
Annual Survey of Establishments (ASE)	To obtain statistics on the structure, levels and trends of economic activity by sector	Annual
Quarterly Survey of Establishments (QSE)	To provide national indices of gross revenue/sales, employment, wages and salaries per type of worker and compensation per employee for each industry major group of the different sectors of the economy.	Quarterly
Survey of Key Establishments in Manufacturing (SKEM)	To provide 'flash' indicators on production, employment, compensation and producers' prices	Monthly
Occupational Wage Survey (OWS)	To provide quarterly data on the prevailing occupational wage rate and to set up a series of wage indices for universal occupations by industry and geographic area	Semestral in 1988-89 and quarterly in 1990
Employment, Hours Worked and Earnings Survey (EHES)	To provide monthly data on employment trends of paid workers below managers and executives classified as indicator of job absorption in the organized sector of the economy; to generate monthly statistical trends on earnings & hours of work (including overtime) to reflect the labor market effects of business fluctuations on hours of earnings and earning capacity of workers.	Quarterly

Title of Survey	Description/Objectives	Frequency and Survey Round
Comprehensive Survey of Establishments (CASE)	To obtain detailed statistical information required in the compilation of the benchmark I-O Table and to obtain more disaggregated data on cost of production from small samples to generate indicators as cases in breaking up available cost aggregation.	One-shot survey in 1989
Employment and Wages Structure Survey (EWSS)	To draw up existing job/occupations of wage patterns by region, industry, size of establishment; to construct an industry-occupation matrix for manpower projections; to determine occupational wage differentials by region, industry and size of establishment; to provide occupational employment weights for the occupational wage survey.	Every 5 years
1988 National Occupation Survey	To establish baseline data on the health status of workers in relation to their work environment; to identify the potential health hazards present in the work environment in specific industry; and to determine the availability of required health services extended to industrial workers.	One-shot survey in 1988

1. General Organization:

Before Western Samoa became an independent nation in 1962, there was no statistical office, existing in the country. Prior to independence, and while the country was under the New Zealand Administration, only quinquennial population censuses were taken with the assistance of census advisers recruited by the New Zealand Government. After the reports of censuses were completed, the temporary office set up for census work was closed until the next quinquennial census.

After Western Samoa became an Independent State in 1962, a request was made by the Government to the United Nations for assistance under its Technical Aid Programme for a statistical expert to assist, organize, and establish a statistical office. In 1963, a Bureau of Statistics was set up in the Prime Minister's Department. It was transferred in 1970 to the Treasury Department until November 1971 when it was constitutionally established by Parliament by a Statistical Act as a department of the Government to be known as the Department of Statistics.

The Department of Statistics is the principal agency responsible for providing the Government with all the statistics needed for economic and social development, for assessment, evaluation and planning purposes. The Government Statistician is charged with the administration of the Statistics Act, subject to the control of the Minister, and who shall have such powers and duties as are conferred or imposed upon him by the Act or by any other enactment. Incorporated in the Act is the constitution of a Statistics Advisory Board whose function is to review regularly the statistical needs of Government, and those of commerce and industry, academic and research bodies, and other users of official statistics in Western Samoa, and in the light of such review to advise or direct the Statistician regarding annual and five-yearly programmes of work and priorities in official statistics to be undertaken by the Department to best serve

the national interest.

There are two branches of the organization of the Department. Branch I, the Administration branch, is responsible for the budgeting, recruiting personnel and general administrative services. Branch II, the Technical branch, is divided into two sections one responsible for economic and finance statistics, another responsible for demographic and social statistics.

Sections are subdivided into divisions by subject-matter fields.

2. Review of Statistical developments since 1987

2.1. Staff:

The total number of established posts in the department in the past years remained at 41 and not all of them were filled in any one year due to officers leaving and the delay in replacing them. With the approval of our data processing division we have another additional four posts (one Statistician and three Key Punch Operators).

We had the services of two UN Volunteers (one in demography and another in data processing) and they both left in the beginning of the year after completing their terms with the department. As in the past years we have had scholarship students who were employed on a temporary basis during the Christmas holidays.

2.2. Visiting Advisers & Consultants:

We have had the assistance of EUCAP's Regional Advisers on Population Census and Surveys and on Data Processing for our 1986 Census and the on-going Vital Statistics Sample Survey. At present we have the assistance of a FAO Consultant for our Agriculture Census which is planned for November of this year.

2.3. Publications:

The Department's regular publications were all delayed due to the workload accumulated by the Census of Population and Housing 1986. With very limited staff, the department found it difficult to adhere to its publication deadline. The Statistical Bulletin combining the four quarters of 1987 was published in first half of 1988 and the Annual Statistical Abstract 1987 at the end of the same year. The four quarters of 1988 were also combined in one publication and was published in May of this year. It is proposed to have the 1988 Annual Statistical Abstract published in August of this year. The quarterly Statistical Bulletin for the first quarter of 1989 is under preparation. The Department continued its monthly release of the Consumer Price Index.

The Annual Report on Economics Statistics of Shipping 1987 was released in 1988 and the report for 1988 in May of this year.

2.4. Questionnaires and Enquiries:

The Department continued to receive questionnaires from various United Nations and other overseas organisations. A lot of work is involved in collecting the information required. Similarly enquiries from government bodies, the private sector and individuals are also increasing. The department is trying its best to satisfy all enquiries received in spite of its limited staff.

2.5. Census of Population and Housing 1986:

One of the functions of the Department of Statistics as constituted in the Statistics Act 1971 is to take a census every five years and 1986 is a prescribed census year.

Statistical tables of the 1986 Census were released in November 1988. This was followed by an official release of the Village Directory which consisted of the population distributed by village, age and sex.

The full report of the Census will be given for printing this month and it is intended to have it released before the end of the year.

2.6. Vital Statistics Sample Survey:

The fourth round was carried out in April and May of 1988 and the fifth during October and November of the same year. Data collected during these two rounds have been checked and edited. The report for 1987 will be published this month. The first round for 1989 has just been completed with the last round to be taken towards the end of the year.

The Department felt that this survey should be continued because it provides valuable information required for estimating the birth rate, death rate, migration rates and the resulting population change in Western Samoa, during the inter-censal years.

2.7. Agriculture Census:

As with most developing countries the economy of Western Samoa is based on Agriculture. More than 70 percent of the Samoan population reside in rural areas. The agricultural sector alone contributes more than 90 per cent of total exports and generates about 50 per cent of the exchange earnings. Unfortunately very limited agricultural data are available in Western Samoa. Agriculture Census and other related surveys have not been conducted in the past due to lack of finance and manpower resources. The need for, and importance of a census of agriculture in Western Samoa have been increasingly realised by personnel involved in formulating development policy for the agriculture sector. As a consequence of this, government of Western Samoa requested FAO assistance which was provided through a project "Agriculture Census and Statistics".

The first ever Agriculture Census in Western Samoa would be now carried out in November this year. The census is a joint effort of the Department of Agriculture

and the Department of Statistics. A special trained team of nearly 200 enumerators and 30 supervisors would go into the field to collect the data from the households.

The methodology proposed to be followed is a combination of complete enumeration and sample survey. While complete enumeration of all the holdings would be done for getting the data on the structure of agriculture at the village level, data on parcel wise area under crops would be collected in respect of 25 percent of the holdings in the villages. An Agricultural Census Advisory Committee has been set up and have met to finalise the questionnaire. A Calendar of major activities of the agriculture census has already been drawn up. It is planned that the census report would be published towards the end of 1990.

2.8. Data Processing Division:

With the acquisition of four micro computers from our current projects, efforts were made for the establishing of a separate and new division with its own staff to do all the processing work of the department. In 1988 approval was given for the inclusion of a staff of four (1 Statistician and 3 Key Punch Operators) in the departments 1989 budget. Early this year these positions were filled and this new division is progressing well. The Statistician in charge of this new division is a graduate (BSc) from the University of the South Pacific and has attended two short courses in micro computers. The three Key Punch operators were given training on the job. With the completion of the processing of the 1986 Census of Population, the division is now making preparations for the Agriculture Census. The division will be fully engaged in trying to set up our various systems such as migration, vital statistics sample surveys, prices, trade etc.

1. INTRODUCTION

This paper provides a brief description of statistical activities in the Kingdom of Tonga.

2. PRESENT POSITION

The Tonga Statistics Department comprises some 48 Staff members, both permanent and temporary staff. Staff position as on 30 June 1987 is shown in Appendix 1.

The Department is presently organised into 8 main Divisions namely:

1. Trade Division
2. Balance of Payments
3. National Accounts
4. Population Census
5. Agricultural Census and Agricultural Statistics
6. Industrial Production
7. Prices
8. Coastal Shipping & Air Transport Statistics

In addition, there are the Computer and Data Processing Division and also the Administration Division. Each division listed above with the exception of No. 8 above is headed by a Statistical Officer who is either a person with a university degree (though not necessary in statistics) or a person who has had a relatively long experience in statistical activities.

3. ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN SINCE NOVEMBER 1987

The discussion in this section will concentrate mainly on the major statistical activities undertaken by each division since November 1987.

3.1 Trade Division

With the introduction of microcomputer processing to the Department in 1986, the Trade Division was able to process all its trade data using an IBM-PC-AT microcomputer beginning late 1987.

This has really helped in the timely production of trade reports which are issued on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis. For the first time also monthly cumulative totals were also included in the monthly trade reports.

3.2 Balance of Payments

Processing of balance of payments data are still undertaken manually. Assistance is required for the compilation of data on a monthly basis as demands for such data especially from International Organisations such as the IMF are more frequent and pressing. The Department is hoping that we will be able to computerise the processing of such BOP data very soon.

3.3 National Accounts

With technical assistance from the Asian Development Bank, the Department implemented a project on the Improvements of National Accounts in 1987.

The project has not been completed yet pending a review of the whole Statistical Services of the Kingdom of Tonga which ESCAP has agreed to carry out in August 1989.

3.4 Population Census

The last decennial population census was conducted in 1986 with assistance from UNFPA. This was the first census to be processed locally using IBM-PC Computers. Data entry was done using DBase III and tabulations and editing by COCENTS and CONCOR respectively. The final report is expected out later in the year.

3.5 Agricultural Census and Agricultural Statistics

The first-ever Agricultural Census was conducted in 1985 with assistance from FAO. The results were processed locally using the Software Package U-SP developed by the University of Kent. The final report of the census was written up and distributed at the end of 1988.

The Department is now developing an on-going system for the regular collection of agricultural statistics with technical assistance from UNDP and FAO. This involves the carrying out of sample surveys to collect information on the area, yield and production of the main subsistence activities (garden crops, livestock and fisheries). The pilot survey has now been completed and the main survey will commence in August 1989.

3.6 Industrial Production

Since 1983, the Department has conducted quarterly surveys on Manufacturing output, employment, wages and salaries. However, it was only in 1988 that reports for all quarterly surveys 1983-1986 were produced.

3.7 Prices

In 1988, the Department revised the weights and the composition of the Tonga Consumer Price Index (CPI). The revision was based on the results of the 1984 Household Income and Expenditure Survey conducted by the Department. For the first time this year also, the Department will issue a small publication describing the Tonga CPI. It explains what the index measures, the kinds of goods and services included in it, where the information needed to compile the index come from and how the index numbers are calculated. This exercise has been made possible by assistance from the South Pacific Commission.

3.8 Coastal Shipping and Air Transport

These are relatively new areas which the Department has embarked on. Problems are encountered in the collection of Air-Transport Statistics and the main source are airlines manifests which are sometimes not recorded properly.

Similarly with coastal shipping statistics, the slow return of forms from the outer islands is posing problems also.

3.9 Other Activities

In addition to the activities mentioned above, the Department undertook other important activities as well during the period in question.

a) Update of Statistical Abstract

The last Statistical Abstract issued by the Department was in 1983. In 1988, the Department updated this much needed publication with data up to 1987. This was made possible by computerization.

b) Hosting of ESCAP'S Pacific Seminar on Social and Related Statistics from 22-26 August 1988.

It was indeed a pleasure for the Statistics Department to be able to host the ESCAP'S Pacific Seminar on Social and Related Statistics in Nuku'alofa from 22-26 August 1988, with participants from the Pacific region and also from international organisations as well.

c) Staff Training

A number of staff members were able to undertake long-term and also short-term courses in statistics overseas. Their attendance were made possible by assistance from various organisations including SIAP, UNDP, USAID and the SPC.

CONCLUSION

The creation of the Computer and Data Processing Division has certainly alleviated some of the problems associated with having timely statistics. However, computers cannot be of any assistance with classification and coding errors in statistical materials. Staff members must therefore be trained carefully and this takes a long time to carry out. Furthermore, there are still EDP staff shortages which makes the Department very dependent on expertise which are not readily available locally.

Tonga is still way behind and lacking in reasonable good and reliable statistics. To enable it to move on to produce reliable and good socio-economic statistics which can be used for day to day administrative decision making and for the preparation implementation and evaluation of national socio-economic plans and programmes it is imperative that the Department should be structured in a way to cater for this. Recognising this urgent need, the Tonga Government requested the assistance of ESCAP in reviewing the whole Statistical Services in Tonga and this will be carried out beginning 10 August 1987.

APPENDIX 1

Staff Position as on 30 June 1989

1. Government Statistician	(Vacant since Oct. 1988)
2. Assistant Government Statistician	1
3. Statistical Officers	6 (1 S.O overseas for postgraduate studies)
4. Senior Statistical Assistant	1
5. Statistical Assistants	2
6. Statistical Clerks Grade I	6
7. Statistical Clerks Grade II	8
8. Statistical Clerks Grade III	9
9. Programmer	1
10. Junior Programmer	1
11. Computer Clerk Grade I	1
12. Administration Staff	5

	TOTAL = 41

Temporary Staff

1. Senior Statistical Assistant	2
2. Statistical Clerk Grade II	2
3. Clerk/Typist Grade II	1
4. Cleaner/Driver	2

	TOTAL = 7

STATE COMMITTEE OF THE USSR ON STATISTICS

Recently personal computers have been extensively used for developing new technologies of data processing, preparing texts, economic reports and analytical notes, corresponding, etc., as well as for producing statistical bulletins and compilations, express information and press-releases by the USSR Goskomstat Information and Publishing Centre where a set of a specialized microcomputer and a photo-composing unit provides for a steady and efficient preparation of many publications.

At many regional statistical offices the 8-bit Robotron-1715 microcomputer has been introduced providing for a speedy performance of most of routine statistical tasks at the regional level. The EC-1840 personal computer is also being supplied to regional offices.

Development of standard designs and software for computerized working stations of regional statisticians is centralized. By the end of the current year this technology is to be introduced in more than 1 000 urban and rural areas of the country, while by the end of 1990 all regional offices (numbering over 3 000) are to be equipped with no less than two personal computers.

A rather promising development appears to be the introduction of the EC-1841 personal computer at the regional level of the government statistics which in certain areas permits to switch from the medium EC computer to the PC for performing most system tasks and, consequently, to reduce processing time, particularly at the stages of input and control, to decrease considerably the costs and to use the released funds for development data bases, for analytical calculations and forecasts, etc.

By the end of 1988 the USSR State Committee on Statistics have introduced about 100 EC-1840 computers, and in 1989 it is intended to create no less than 200 computerized work stations including those on the basis of EC-1841 computers (IBM PC/XTtype) in all the Departments.

There is no doubt that one of the most promising ways to introduce microcomputers is, in our opinion, the establishment of local and regional networks on the basis of micro- and main-

frame computers.

The establishment of the networks using micro- and EC computers will allow to improve greatly the quality of control, to further actively integrate statisticians into the data processing, to reduce substantially the time of making adjustment to lower finite data development costs, to increase the accuracy and quality of statistics, to widen the range of information and computing services.

The computer network is being established on the basis of the network teleprocessing open system architecture concept. The convenient computerized working stations places will be created for different users (end users: statisticians, programmers, computer operators, etc.). Computer network users are provided with an access to local data bases, located in different units of the network (using DBMS TRIADA of ADABAS type).

In the nearest future the development and the establishment local as well as regional networks will be one of the main objectives of the experts of the USSR State Committee on Statistics.

One of the major long-term activities, which would be developed after the all-Union population census, will be the creation of the integrated population statistics system. Besides the results of the census this system will use data on vital statistics, population migration, population forecasting, etc. The system is planned to provide a distributed data bank at different levels of the state statistics system.

The introduction of microcomputers has significantly accelerated the understanding by economists of the broad scope of computer capabilities, in particular because of a relative easiness of mastering of the hardware and direct participation in the process of data control, editing and correction with the use of computerized work stations in processing current accounting and performing analytical work, etc.

Taking into account the growing potential of microcomputers,

the trends towards decentralization of statistics processing will be strengthening.

Another important feature of this development is the strengthening of interaction and the expansion of statistical and economic information exchange between SCS and other economic bodies and ministries on the basis of computer technology, magnetic tapes, diskettes teleprocessing and data bases. In 1989 it is also planned to create a special data bank (INTERSTAT) to store all main statistical data, information on various branches of national economy and comments in English available for reasonable payments for all users in the country and abroad.

In 1987 the USSR State Committee on Statistics (Goskomstat) was charged to focus on developing an effective statistical system based on an integrated scientific methodology, to ensure a reliable and high-quality supply of information meeting the requirements of economic management on nationwide, sectoral and regional levels.

The state statistics bodies were assigned a goal to create an integrated statistical system which must cover both the system of state statistics bodies and information bases of sectoral and regional management bodies, associations, enterprises and other elements of the national economy.

The main tasks of the integrated information system are:

- comprehensive and profound research of on-going transformation, economic and social processes in the society, continuous control of implementing plan targets, summarizing and forecasting development

↑ trends in the national economy,

identifying reserves for the growth of public production efficiency on the basis of a scientifically sound system of indicators;

- streamlining and steady quality improvement of statistics, stricter monitoring of the state and the authenticity of public accounting in all the sectors of the national economy.

- prompter collection of statistics by means of new information technology;

- early and complete satisfaction of economic management requirements of reliable statistics at all levels.
- ensuring the publicity of statistics as one of the ways for society democratisation, improving methods of keeping the population informed of the national economy development and the changes in the economic and social life of the country.

One of the main conditions to solve the tasks assigned is the adoption of a new advanced technology of collecting, processing, storing and presenting statistics, which involves an extensive introduction of microcomputers of new generations; the development of an integrated information processing technology based on data bases and computer networks; the development of means of end-user communication with computers on the basis of computerised work stations, the use of computerised modelling and forecasting means for economic processes and developments.

Modern methods of data processing organization acquire still greater significance in ensuring operative and effective processing of statistical information at all the levels of state management and, in particular, at the regional level. At the same time, priority is assigned to the unity of the composition and the methodology of calculation of statistical indicators, of all the information system on the basis of the application of scientifically developed notations, codes, classifications and nomenclatures as a prerequisite for the efficient use of computer facilities and systems technology of statistical data processing.

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6b HoangDieu, Ha noi SRV

REPORT ON MAJOR ACTIVITIES OF STATISTICS IN
THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM DURING
1989 - 1990

The General Statistical Office of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam is an organization working under the Council of Ministers. All its activities depend on the framework of stipulated regulations on statistical work approved by the Prime Minister in 1972 and of statistical book-keeping decree adopted by the Chairman of the State Council in 1988 .

The Main function of the State Statistical Office is to manage and promulgate all systems and cost accounting criteria for all economic units of the national economy and simultaneously to collect information on social economic statistics with the view to synthesising and reporting to concerned governmental institutions on the implementation of socio-economic objectives. In addition, it provide statistical publications to institutions in charge of building up annual and five years economic development plans and it still supply statistical information at the requirements of the institutes of socio-economic policy studies such as the housing construction agency, the Women's Union, research institutes, universities ...

All the state statistical activities are financed by the government. Thus , state statistical tasks depend on the socio-economic development tasks mapped out by the government every year or every five years.

The organizational structure of statistics and budget are approved by the government. Publications on statistics are distributed to governmental organizations at district, provincial and central levels free of charge.

I- Major statistical activities of the state statistics in 1989 - 1990

1.1 To collect and systemise main statistical information on national economy thus evaluating the implementation of the 1986 - 1990 five years socio-economic development plan and at the same time to serve in building up the socio-economic development plan for the 91-95 period .

- To formulate the balance sheets of gross social products and national income during 86 - 90 .

- To design balance sheets on population and labour use in the whole country .

- To formulate balance sheets on capital and money among population.

1.2 To gather and process statistical information in order to supply to the government to control projects given high priority, such as the industry development programme, consume goods and export, the anti-inflation programme and jobs for people coming of working age.

- To design balance sheets on arable land and the use of agricultural product particularly crop plants and industrial trees.

- To take an inventory of main social products consisting of home-made or imported ones .

- To design balance sheets on the import and export for every year or five years.

- To collect information on weekly prices through out the country.

- To gather statistical information on labour distribution every 6 months or every year in the whole country.

1.3 To complete and develop the social and environmental statistical system is one of the new tasks undertaken by Vietnamese statistics

- To build up series of social indicators ,especially indicators for monitoring the implementation of population and family planing plans with the aim of reducing population growth and ensuring health and educational conditions for working people.

- To design indicators of ecological environment concerning tree growing restoration of forest potential at the origin, fresh water for both rural and urban areas.

- To gather and compile statistical events of countries in the region and of COMECON countries as well with a view to providing data to governmental research units at all levels.

II- The infrastructure of Vietnamese statistics :

In order to carry out the mentioned above tasks, the government permits General Statistical Office to completely manage and promulgate reporting and survey systems which include the system of printing questionnaires, reporting forms for the whole country

No agencies except the General Statistical Office has the right of releasing statistical forms and gathering socio-economic data.

2.1 The integrated statistical organization of the government with 3 levels :

- District level : District statistical Office consists of 5 - 7 staff
- City and provincial level : Provincial Statistical Office consists of 35 - 45 staff
- Central level : General Statistical Office consists of 300 - 350 staff

Apart from the state statistical organization, the ministries and enterprises also have their own statistical units. These statistical are responsible in implementing statistical activities guided by GSO and send the statistical reports to GSO according to an integrated indicator system.

- To ensure the collection and processing of the whole annual statistical data, GSO has issued a concrete information plan for all levels of the state statistical organization, the branches of production and transaction and social management. Funds for statistical activities of ministries and enterprises are provided by themselves.

2.2 To implement social statistics and family economy statistics, for each commune there is one professional statistics staff or semi-professional staff who can realize the task of GSO. All expenditure for statistics are sponsored by commune fund.

2.3 Working under the GSO there is an institute for the study of statistical science. This institute is responsible in building the statistical method the projects to develop statistical activities in each period and to study the application of informatic instruments and regulation of data processing.

2.4 The Statistical Publishing House and Statistical Journal is an office which specialized in publishing statistical publications and disseminating experience and new discoveries on statistics in the country and the overseas as well.

2.5 The three Regional Computer Centers are building up step by step to process the state statistical information. These centers are under the management of GSO and funds for their activities are also settled by themselves. The three Regional Computer Centers were allocated in Hanoi, Danang and Ho Chi Minh city.

At present the three Regional Computer Centers are concentrated in processing data of the 1989 census. Data processing equipments of these

centers are assisted by UNFPA. This is the first time the use of computers are fully applied in data processing of state statistics. Although this problem is quite new, it created some primary result and improved the quality of statistical information for the whole country and was used in data processing according to an integrated regulation.

2.6 Printing and disseminating system of statistical forms and questionnaires of the whole country.

In recent years, due to the increasing needs on the statistical forms and questionnaires, the GSO was permitted by the Government to set up their printing enterprises and some agencies to distribute statistical forms for the whole country. So far, there were 5 printing enterprises and 7 agencies to distribute statistical forms, questionnaires of statistical surveys and other statistical publications.

III- Marketing of statistical products :

It is possible to say that the needs of statistical publications are very high and different and the state statistics can not meet this demand. Statistics of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam only produces its publications planned by the Government and provides these publications to the certain users. The statistics products can not yet become the goods in transaction. Hence the development of statistical publication is also very limited.

It is very difficult to have professional statistical publications for production sector and administrative sector of the state because the state offices have not enough funds for this requirement of information therefore they have to use the very common information provided by the government. Moreover, the professional information required by the users sometime are very rush and the surveys and data processing can not ensure the timeliness.

Through out this seminar the Viet nam General Statistical Office would like to exchange experience on data collection and how to provide effectively statistical information to the users. How the statistical products can be widely provided to meet the demands of the users is our problem, especially the expenditure on data collection is too much but the use is not popular.

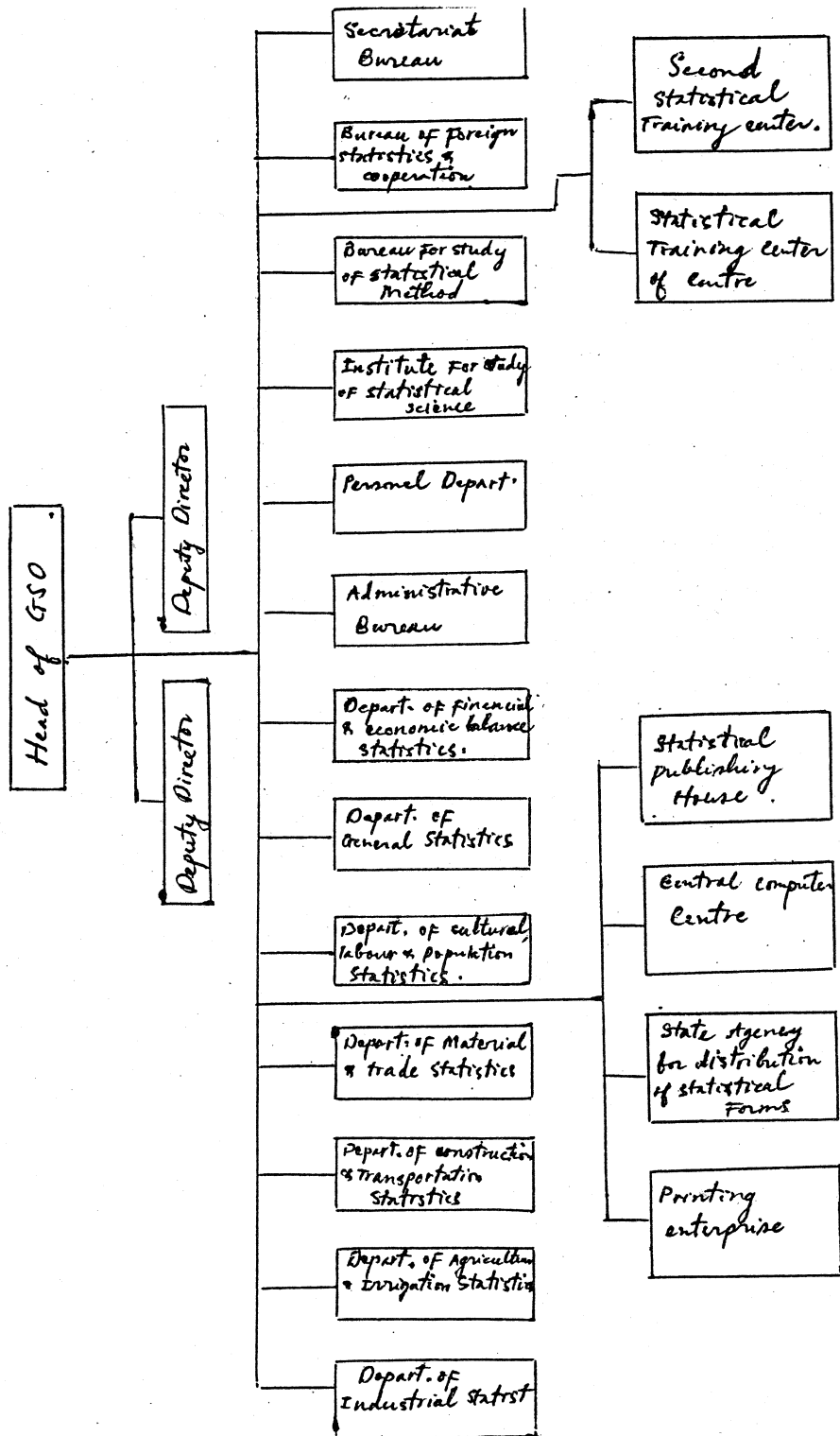
- Here the problem is that we have to find out the way to collect and process information one time but it can be used in many aspects according to the needs of the users.

- In the period of economic reorganization, the demand for statistical information is very high and changable therefore the identity and comparison in statistics are always changable. This problem is an obstacle in evaluating and analysing statistics, especially in quality control method of which the quality of products always change according to the application of new technology.

How can we organize the national statistical services effectively at present, this model is different among the countries as well as funds for services of national statistics is very difficult but on the other hand the goverment has the increasing need on the quality of statistics.

The application of informatic in statistics of each country is not popular and not yet exchanged and disseminated timely, the statistics in the poor countries can not catch up statistics in developed countries. The problem is how should we improve statistical skill of the less developed contries who are still at fault in application of modelntechonology in data processing , transmitting and storage of information.

Organization chart of the General Statistical Office SR V



ESCAP Committee on Development Planning and Statistics

First Session, Bangkok, 24-28 July 1989

Item 7 - Review of statistical and governmental computerization activities
in the region: (b) National activities

VANUATU - Country Statement

Statistical Organisation

Under the present administrative arrangements the Statistics Office forms part of the National Planning and Statistics Office (NPSO), which is itself part of the Prime Minister's Office. There are two other offices within NPSO: the Planning Office, and the Data Processing Section. The DP Section was originally part of the Statistics Office, but with the increasing computerization within government it became a separate section within NPSO. A proposal was recently made for setting up a separate government data processing department within the PM's Office; this proposal has just been accepted, and implementation of the proposal is expected shortly.

The Statistics Office is small; in addition to the Principal Statistician who heads the office, there is a staff complement of 13. A further four senior members of staff have been seconded to the Census Office to work on the 1989 population census project. Whilst the office is quite well staffed at the middle and lower levels, there is a severe shortage of senior staff. The Statistics Office has gone through a difficult period over the last two years, mainly because the position of Principal Statistician has been vacant for most of the time.

Statistical Activities

The normal activities of the Statistics Office have continued over the last two years, as far as staff resources would permit. Because of the very difficult staffing position at the senior level and the tight budgetary situation, it has been a period of consolidation rather than expansion. Our major publication continues to be the quarterly Statistical Indicators bulletin, which contains a wide variety of tables on topics such as agricultural production, trade, prices, and tourism.

The recurrent budget offers very little scope for developmental activities, which are therefore dependent on funding out of foreign aid projects:

(a) National Accounts

A major project over the last four years has been on national accounts. The Asian Development Bank provided a consultant for two years to help set up a system of national accounts. This initial groundwork was then built on over the next two years, through the provision by the United Nations Volunteers of an experienced national accountant, who during her contract did much to document national accounts procedures and develop the skills of the local staff. A set of national accounts for Vanuatu, covering the period 1983 to 1987, is about to be published for us by the ADB.

Some projects which have been undertaken in the past have yielded good statistical data, but their long-term impact on the development of the office has sometimes been rather limited. This ADB project was an exception, in that a major new statistical survey, the Quarterly Survey of Establishments, has been established, which shows every likelihood of continuing. In addition, two members of staff have completed the one-year diploma course in national accounts at the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis in Washington, funded by USAID. It is expected that the United Nations will soon provide funding for a junior expert to carry forward the good work which has already been done, and so enable the Statistics Office to strengthen its own capability for producing national accounts in future.

(b) Population Census

A major project over the last two years has been the 1989 Population Census. Initial planning for this census was done by the Survey Statistician, who has been funded by the U.K., but there has also been a very significant local involvement in the census. The Census Administrator is a ni-Vanuatu, who was called back from his university studies specifically to run the census. The Assistant Census Administrator is also a local person. Last year the first ni-Vanuatu graduate to join the Statistics Office took up the post of Assistant Demographic Statistician, and he is expected to play a key part in the later stages of census analysis.

The project is receiving substantial funding from UNFPA, and the demographic team at the South Pacific Commission (which is the executing agency for the project) has been providing regular technical support. Very useful support has also come from the ESCAP Regional Adviser on Population Censuses and Surveys, who designed the original project document, and who is continuing to provide technical advice on coding and data analysis.

This is the first national population census to be undertaken in Vanuatu since independence. Special innovative features in this census have been: the preparation of a special professionally-made video for use during the census training; the holding of a census lottery to arouse interest in the census, the numbers being the individual household numbers which were placed on each door during the listing exercise which preceded the main census fieldwork; and the attempt to collect detailed information on economic activity in the rural area, using a range of questions, the aim being to process the data so as to produce a larger set of activity codes for the rural sector than is normally used in a population census, but still within the framework of the 1988 ISCO. The idea of using Computer Assisted Coding for the coding of occupations has been considered but ruled out for this census, the particular difficulties being the use of different languages on the census form (English, French and Bislama) and the lack of uniformity in the description of jobs.

The census is to be processed within the Statistics Office, using six NEC microcomputers (one 386 and five 286 machines) provided by UNFPA. This represents a major advance on the 1979 census, when the data processing was done overseas. Entrypoint90 is being used for data entry, and CONCOR for editing, and SPSS or U-SP will be used for tabulation and data analysis. The Survey Statistician is about to finish her assignment in Vanuatu, and it is hoped that her replacement will be in position soon, so that the momentum of the census processing can be maintained. In the meantime the office will benefit from a short-term consultancy by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, to assist in designing data processing systems.

Computing in the Statistics Office

At present the Statistics Office relies on a mix of mini- and microcomputers for processing its data. An NCR minicomputer, purchased about ten years ago, is used mainly for processing some of the major statistical series, such as those covering trade, consumer prices, and tourist arrivals. About five years ago the Statistics Office received an APL Spectrum minicomputer, which was heavily used for processing the 1983 Agricultural Census and the 1986 Urban Census, and also for the development testing of the U-SP survey package; unfortunately this machine is no longer working.

Increasingly in recent years the Statistics Office has come to rely on microcomputers. Initially a large consignment of Apricot microcomputers was received, and these were used for the national accounts project and other office activities; more recently the office has received a new IBM-compatible 386 Apricot machine, and it is hoped that four more machines can soon be obtained to strengthen still further the data processing capabilities of the Statistics Office.

The case for using micros in preference to minis is based on various factors: capital and recurrent cost considerations, spreading risks (in case of hardware or software failure), shorter lifespan (and therefore the opportunity to introduce more modern technology in a few years' time as it becomes available), availability of appropriate specialised software for specific tasks; accessibility at all hours, user-friendliness, and a reduction in the dependence on highly skilled expatriate staff to manage and program the system.

It is expected that over the next few years the shift from mini- to microcomputers will continue, at least for the Statistics Office. The CPI will be the first candidate for moving over to micros. We plan to take this opportunity to revise and simplify the CPI system, at the same time incorporating a new weighting structure, based mainly on data collected from a recent household expenditure survey in urban areas.

Training

Training is accorded very high priority by the Statistics Office, even though it poses difficulties to the office for maintaining the timeliness of statistical series when key staff are away on training courses. It is estimated that local staff spend about 20 percent of their time on training activities in one form or another.

Almost all staff attended some or all of a four-week in-country course on the use of software packages for census and survey processing, run by a SIAP consultant, and staff have attended other short courses, including several dealing with microcomputers. The Census Administrator, who is the Principal Statistician elect, will shortly be returning to the University of the South Pacific to complete his degree studies. One member of staff has accepted the offer of a one-year secondment to the post of Statistical Research Officer with the South Pacific Commission; this will be the first time that someone from Vanuatu has filled this post. Another member of staff has been nominated for the six-month general statistics course at SIAP; this also will be a first.

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(c) Vital Statistics Survey

The Statistics Office and the Department of Health are jointly involved in a sample survey to improve our estimates of birth and death rates, particularly infant mortality rates. Because of a shortage of senior staff in the Statistics Office during the last two years and the need to devote substantial resources to the census operation, the Statistics Office has not been able to participate very much in this survey, and the main burden has fallen on the Health Department. The survey, funded by UNFPA, has been designed by the South Pacific Commission, and has involved repeat visits every six months to a sample of about 3000 households; data processing is being done by SPC. Civil registration in Vanuatu, particularly of deaths, is very incomplete, and this survey will provide valuable information, particularly in helping the Health Department to allocate scarce resources. With the present state of government finances the Civil Status Department has this year been one of the victims of cost-cutting measures, and there is therefore little hope of any immediate improvement in the coverage of the civil registration system.

(d) Survey Unit

Following on from the very successful round of agricultural surveys, funded by the U.K., which were conducted between 1983 and 1985 as part of the Agricultural Census Project, a UNV agricultural statistician is now attached to the Statistics Office and is helping to improve the quality and consistency of agricultural data; this UNV is being provided under FAO's agricultural statistics project for the Pacific, and the Statistics Office has assigned a counterpart to work with him.

For some time now the Statistics Office has been wanting to set up a survey unit to collect data from the rural areas. At present all the regular data collected by the Statistics Office comes from the urban sector, and little is known about changes in the rural sector. The existence of a permanent survey unit would help us to respond quickly to requests for data from users, and would allow us to collect data of particular interest to other government departments such as health, education, and agriculture, which are active in the rural areas. By having a permanent survey capability, the Statistics Office would be able to strengthen its own competence in designing, executing, and processing surveys, rather than having to depend on the inefficient ad-hoc arrangements used at present, where field and processing staff are hired and laid off on each survey.

The Statistics Office budget cannot afford to have a heavy drain on its limited resources, and a Survey Unit must therefore be largely self-financing. Many projects, such as the vital statistics survey mentioned above, are carried out in Vanuatu, and these should be obvious candidates for inclusion in the future work programme of a survey unit. There are also many projects funded by foreign donors, particularly in the agricultural and health sectors, where a small part of the project money is allocated to monitoring, and it may be possible to get the donors to agree to the Survey Unit carrying out this part of their project on a repayment basis.

A project document for the setting up of this Survey Unit was prepared, and it had been expected that funding for an initial two-year period would be provided by the EEC, but unfortunately this funding has not materialised. With one important agricultural survey already in the pipeline, funding is now urgently needed to get the project under way. We would like to develop a programme of surveys covering a longer time period, and hope that it may soon be possible to bring the activities of the Survey Unit within the framework of the NHSCP.

28 July 1989

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Committee on Development Planning and Statistics

**First session
24-28 July 1989
Bangkok**

DRAFT REPORT

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

1. The first session of the Committee on Development Planning and 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 28 July 1989.

2. The session was attended by representatives of the following members and associate members: Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, China, Democratic Kampuchea, Fiji, France, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, 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, an observer from Canada was also present.

3. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies attended: Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Statistical Office, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Interim 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 World Health Organization (WHO), and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) were represented. The Commission of the European Communities, Data for Development, the International Council of Women, the International Council on Social Welfare, the World Federation of Trade Unions, and the Munich Centre for Advanced Training in Applied Statistics for Developing Countries were also represented.

Opening address

4. The Executive Secretary, in his opening address, stated that the new Committee on Development Planning and Statistics had emerged as a result of Commission resolution 262(XLIII) which sought to bring about changes in the Commission's conference structure in order to economize resources devoted by the secretariat to its consultations with member Governments. The fields of development planning and statistics, although closely related, covered distinctive problems, and bringing them under the same legislative committee should not be seen as any diminution in the role of either.

5. In reviewing economic developments in the region, the Executive Secretary noted that, despite the heightened uncertainties and increasing risks of a sharp downturn in the world economy, the developing ESCAP economies achieved high growth rates in the 1980s. While such an achievement justified some degree of optimism, a closer look at the pace and pattern of growth cautioned against complacency. To begin with, the region's growth performance had been highly uneven and that had given rise to considerable disparities among countries. Much of Asia and Pacific's reputation for economic dynamism and resilience had, in fact, been based rather narrowly on the growth experienced in the region's few middle-income developing economies. Most of the region's low-income economies, including the least developed and Pacific island countries, endured painfully slow, and in some cases negative, growth.

6. Another major weakness in the region's past development pattern had been the increasing cleavage between growth and the utilization of its fruits to raise living standards. Despite an enviable growth record, the region's achievements in such vital areas as infant survival, adult longevity and literacy, as well as in access to basic amenities such as safe drinking water, sanitation, transport and electricity, left much to be desired. The main reason was the low priority attached to their improvement in poor countries, which was also reflected in the poor quality of data available on quality-of-life indicators. It

was with a view to remedying that deficiency that the secretariat had launched a major inter-disciplinary effort to conduct a quality-of-life survey in the developing ESCAP region.

7. It was further noted that many ESCAP developing economies that were successful in responding to the uncertain external economic environment had been able to do so through necessary adjustments in the economic and institutional infrastructure. However, the ability to undertake such adjustments was limited in many of the region's narrowly-based developing countries, especially the least developed and Pacific island economies which were handicapped, by the persistent weakness of commodity prices, inadequate concessional inflows, and by natural disasters.

8. On a more positive note the Executive Secretary observed that there had been a marked reduction in political tensions and military confrontations in the region, as well as among the major powers. That would not only release resources for productive use but would bring hope to millions of people for a peaceful and prosperous future. He also noted an encouraging trend towards revival of global support for development, as could be seen in the decision to hold a special session of the General Assembly in April 1990 devoted to international economic co-operation as well as in the preparations underway to launch the fourth United Nations development decade also in 1990. The ESCAP secretariat would be providing regional inputs to those global meetings.

9. Turning to development of statistics in the region, the Executive Secretary pointed out that many developing countries fell short in their capability and capacity to produce reliable and timely data, and nearly all were constrained by inadequate resources, both financial and manpower, for statistical activities. The secretariat had recognized those problems for some time, and had accordingly adopted the strengthening and building of statistical capability among national statistical services as the principal thrust in its statistical activities and programmes. A major component of the thrust had

been to promote training in national statistical offices. That had been supported by the provision of extensive regional advisory services and through conducting technical meetings, workshops and seminars.

10. The Executive Secretary highlighted some important developments internationally and regionally in the statistical field since the last session of the Committee on Statistics held in November 1987. At the global level, efforts had been made to promote the use of the Standard International Trade Classification Revision 3 (SITC Rev. 3) and the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS), by all member countries from 1988. The Statistical Commission approved and recommended the adoption of the third revision of the International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (ISIC Rev. 3). A comprehensive review of the United Nations System of National Accounts (SNA) and development of methodologies for compiling service statistics, including trade in services, were also in progress. Regionally, the secretariat assisted countries with their 1990 round of population and housing censuses, as well as in other socio-economic surveys. Efforts were also made in the area of social statistics and indicators, principally through greater use and analysis of existing data and exploitation of the less costly sources of information, such as administrative records.

11. The Executive Secretary further noted that computer technology was presenting a challenge in collecting, processing, analyzing and disseminating data. It also offered an opportunity to exploit administrative procedures for statistical purposes. In view of its importance the secretariat had added a subprogramme on government computerization to its statistics programme. The programme on developing a data bank in the secretariat which had been endorsed by the Commission represented another area where computer technology was expected to play an essential role. When successfully developed, it could serve as a prototype for the smaller and statistically least developed countries to adopt and use.

12. The Executive Secretary concluded his statement by noting that a large number of activities of the secretariat in the last two years had been financed from extrabudgetary sources. He conveyed his thanks to all the member governments and donor agencies for their generous contribution and support in implementing the secretariat's activities in the fields of both development planning and statistics.

13. Mr. William Seltzer, Director of the United Nations Statistical Office, extended to the Committee the warm wishes of his Headquarters colleagues working in the fields of statistics and development planning. He recalled the long history of association between his organization and the national statistical offices of the region as well as the ESCAP Statistics Division, and the parallel bond of co-operation between the United Nations Statistical Commission and the former ESCAP Committee on Statistics. He emphasized his continuing interest in the development of statistical capabilities and institutions in Asian and Pacific countries, which he had personally seen evolve markedly over the past 25 years.

14. The Committee elected H.E. Mr. Majid Jamshidi (Islamic Republic of Iran) Chairman, Mr. Wilfredo G. Nuqui (Philippines) and Mr. C.C. Greenfield (Hong Kong) first and second Vice-Chairman, respectively, and Mr. P.K.W. Digby (Vanuatu), Rapporteur.

15. The Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Emerging issues in policies and strategies of development in the region:
 - (a) The developing economies;
 - (b) The least developed economies;
 - (c) The island developing economies.

5. Development planning: plan formulation, implementation and evaluation:
 - (a) Macro-economic modelling and projections;
 - (b) Courses of training in development planning techniques;
 - (c) Research and training in public finance and administration.
6. Policy-oriented research and action on problems of development planning of special importance to the region: selected issues in restructuring the developing economies in the Asian and Pacific region.
7. Review of statistical and government computerization activities in the region:
 - (a) Secretariat activities, including the report of the Working Group of Statistical Experts;
 - (b) National activities;
 - (c) Other activities.
8. Progress and issues in statistics and government computerization:
 - (a) Development of national statistical capabilities;
 - (b) Development of economic statistics;
 - (c) Development of demographic, social and other statistics;
 - (d) Statistical information services and data base development;
 - (e) Government computerization.
9. Terms of reference of the Committee on Development Planning and Statistics.
10. Programme of work and priorities of the secretariat, 1990-1991, and consideration of the medium-term plan, 1992-1997, in
 - (a) Development planning;
 - (b) Statistics.
11. Other matters.

12. Adoption of the report.
16. A list of documents submitted to the Committee is given in the annex to the report.

II. EMERGING ISSUES IN POLICIES AND STRATEGIES OF DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION

(Item 4 of the agenda)

A. The developing economies

(Item 4 (a) of the agenda)

17. The Committee reviewed document E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/II prepared by the secretariat and generally agreed with the analysis of the important international and domestic development issues raised in the document.

18. The Committee expressed concern that the global economic environment continued to be overshadowed, among other factors, by fluctuating exchange rates, low commodity prices, protectionist pressures in industrialized countries and insufficient flow of development resources to the developing countries. The Committee was of the view that the threat of protectionism seriously undermined the process of multilateral negotiations for establishing a liberalized trading system as envisaged in the Uruguay Round.

19. The Committee also noted with concern the insufficient flow of development resources, especially of official development assistance, to the developing countries. Substitution of commercial borrowings for official development assistance in some countries tended to increase their debt service burden. The Committee appreciated the recent initiatives for the solution of the debt problem of the developing countries. It was however pointed out that the current plans for solution of the debt problem suffered from the weakness that they do not take into account official debts which formed the largest component of indebtedness of many countries in the region. It was feared that current proposals for debt reduction might impinge on the resources of the multilateral financial institutions and impair their capacity to lend to other developing countries which are deserving of assistance.

20. The Committee agreed that in the formulation of the new International Development Strategy both economic and social welfare considerations should be included. The promotion of sustainable non-inflationary growth, trade liberalization, development assistance focussing on human resources development, poverty alleviation and environmental protection were emphasized as elements to be included in the formulation of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations Development Decade.

A number of delegations

21. A view was expressed that a general global or even a regional development strategy might not be very meaningful for individual countries in view of the differing conditions of the individual developing countries. Moreover, solutions for the problems of individual countries were still sought through special or bilateral agreements. Global agreements in solving global problems remained yet to be reached. In that context the collection and dissemination of country specific information as an aid to policy making were regarded as necessary and useful. The secretariat explained that it undertook the dissemination of such information through other documentation, especially the Survey.

22. The Committee, while recognizing the need for the developing countries to prepare themselves for facing the challenges and benefiting from the opportunities offered by the international economic environment, emphasized that the developing countries in the ESCAP region should accelerate efforts for increased regional co-operation among themselves. It was, however, pointed out that such regional co-operation should not aim to develop an exclusive trading bloc in the region, or diminish in any way the principle of free international trade. The Committee urged the ESCAP secretariat to play a more active role in the promotion of such co-operation in the region.

23. The Committee also agreed on the need to emphasize both economic and social welfare aspects of development. Poverty and unemployment were recognized as problems of great social concern to many countries in the region. A better distribution of income and of the benefits of development generally remained basic objectives to be achieved. Human resources development, both from the point of view of the improvement of the quality of life and also as a means of accelerated economic development, was essential. Deterioration of the environment, including rapid depletion of the natural resources, was another issue of great concern in the region. It was, however, pointed out that it would be improper to apply developed country standards of physical environmental protection to developing countries.

24. The Committee endorsed the secretariat's proposals for further research and study covering the areas of official development assistance, regional co-operation, social welfare considerations, service sector development and protection of the environment. A suggestion, however, was made for the inclusion of agriculture as an area of study in view of its direct impact on the living standards of the people in the developing countries, particularly of the rural poor. Trade liberalization was also suggested as another possible area of study. With regard to the specific secretariat proposals for the service sector or rural development to form the principal theme of part two of the Survey 1991, a preference for rural development over the service sector was expressed by a delegation.

25. Consultations and co-operation with other secretariat units as well as with other organizations/agencies were advised in order to avoid possible duplication and to derive benefits of similar on-going work being carried out by other units or organizations. It was explained on behalf of the secretariat that carrying out of the studies would depend on the availability of both regular and extrabudgetary resources and that every effort would be made to co-ordinate the work with other units.

26. Many delegations informed the Committee of their Governments' plans, policies and actions dealing with the economic and social development issues confronting them, which the Committee took note of.

B. The least developed economies

(Item 4 (b) of the agenda)

27. The Committee had before it for consideration the document entitled "Emerging issues in policies and strategies of development in the region: the least developed economies" (E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/16).

28. The Committee noted with concern that in contrast to the generally high level of growth in the developing ESCAP region, socio-economic development in most of the least developed countries had lagged far behind during the current decade.

29. The Committee noted that the crucial targets set in the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries, regarding the GDP growth rates in the least developed countries and the levels of ODA from developed donor countries, remained largely unfulfilled, signifying the failure of both domestic and international policy efforts. Although the situation had somewhat improved and some hopeful signs were visible towards the end of the decade, more concrete efforts were required towards increasing aid flows to the least developed countries to ensure that the goals of the Substantial New Programme of Action were achieved.

30. The Committee attached great importance to the convening of the second United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries to be held in Paris in 1990 and stressed that preparation for the Conference be carried out carefully to ensure its full success. In this connection it supported the secretariat activities being undertaken in pursuance of Commission resolution 271 (XLIV).

31. The Committee noted with appreciation that the Government of France was providing the services of an expert on non-reimbursable loan basis as well as funds in connection with the preparation for that Conference. It also noted that under a project funded by the Government of the Netherlands preparatory work had already started for the Conference.

32. A number of developing countries informed the Committee that within their economic and technical co-operation programmes, assistance was being provided to the least developed countries of the region. The Committee expressed the need for more supportive efforts by both developed and developing countries in favour of the least developed countries of the region.

C. The island developing economies

(Item 4 (c) of the agenda)

33. The Committee considered document E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/18, containing an analysis of the constraints and special development problems confronting the island developing economies in the Pacific. Among the many crucial development barriers faced by these economies, the Committee emphasized their great physical isolation and fragmentation, serious transport and communication difficulties, small domestic market, narrow and inadequate natural and human resources base, high local wages, and frequent natural disasters. The current programmes of economic and financial restructuring in Australia and New Zealand, which were the subregion's principal trade and aid partners also had a strong impact on current performance and future growth of the island subregion.

34. Fisheries constituted one of the few natural resources available to island economies although the main benefits from fishing had so far accrued to more advanced countries outside the subregion itself. The Committee expressed significant concern at the practice of drift gillnet fishing, which was highly detrimental to the sustainable preservation of tuna and other marine species.

Concern was also expressed for the vulnerability of the fragile island ecology to adverse developments, including the greenhouse effect and the associated rise in the sea level. The Committee stressed the need for careful study by the secretariat of these problems, along with other development constraints and issues. It was further emphasized that secretariat activities should be carried out in full consultation and collaboration with other competent international and regional agencies to minimize wasteful duplication.

35. The Committee attached great importance to assisting the development of Pacific island economies through, among other things, the development of island human resources. In this connection, the Committee took note of a large number of economic and technical assistance programmes in cash and kind in a wide range of areas extended to these island economies by many ESCAP member Governments through the secretariat, other multilateral and regional organizations, and bilateral channels.

III. DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: PLAN FORMULATION, IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION

(Item 5 of the agenda)

A. Macro-economic modelling and projections

(Item 5 (a) of the agenda)

36. The Committee considered the document entitled "Macro-economic modelling and projections" (E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/10). The Committee emphasized the very important contribution of short- and medium-term model-building and forecasting to the development planning process in the countries of the region and endorsed the activities of the secretariat in this area.

37. In the case of short-term economic modelling and forecasting, the Committee appreciated the activities undertaken under the UNDP-financed project "interlinked country model system". It was felt that the technical assistance provided to the national teams for short-term modelling and forecasting research was most valuable and had contributed substantially to the modelling work carried out in national institutions in participating countries. The Committee urged the secretariat to continue its technical assistance activities for short-term modelling. It also recommended that exchanges of expertise between national modelling teams be encouraged. It urged UNDP and bilateral donors to continue to support this activity of the secretariat through extrabudgetary funding.

38. The Committee felt that, besides economic forecasting, the activities of the secretariat in the field of modelling should increasingly investigate, with the use of models, policy issues such as balance-of-payments and foreign capital inflows, unemployment, liberalization of agricultural trade, fiscal and financial policy, intra-regional trade and human resources.

39. The Committee commended the secretariat for the success of the series of seminars on the interlinked country model system. It was recognized that the seminars provided a valuable forum for policy-makers, model-builders and forecasters to discuss recent world and regional economic forecasts, policy scenarios as well as modelling techniques and methods. The Committee urged the secretariat to seek the financial means to continue to convene the interlinked modelling seminars. The representative of China offered to co-host the 1990 or 1991 seminar in China.

40. The Committee fully supported the secretariat's collaboration with the World Project LINK, as well as with other United Nations and non-United Nations international organizations. The Committee was informed by the Director, Projections and Perspective Studies Branch, UNDIESA about the arrangements for transfer of the World Link model from the University of Pennsylvania to UNDIESA, New York. It was recognized that active participation in Project LINK provided member countries and the secretariat with very valuable information regarding the world economic situation and outlook as well as the economic prospects for trade partners. This is particularly relevant given the importance of world trade for most ESCAP developing countries. More intensive collaboration with UNDIESA in the context of Project LINK was strongly supported.

41. The Committee supported the secretariat's work in the field of medium-term planning modelling. The Committee noted the usefulness of this work and the importance of technical assistance in the area of medium-term planning models. The Committee strongly urged the secretariat to seek necessary extrabudgetary resources to support its medium-term modelling activities.

42. The Committee endorsed the proposal that it would be useful to convene a small group of high-level experts in modelling and policy-making to advise the secretariat on the future course of its modelling activities in view of the completion of the current phase of the Link Project.

B. Courses of training in development planning techniques

(Item 5 (b) of the agenda)

43. The Committee considered the note by the secretariat entitled "Courses of training in development planning techniques" (E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/12) and endorsed the secretariat's development planning training activities with a view to providing opportunities for the exchange of experience and raising the skills of planners from the developing ESCAP countries. The Committee supported the proposed seminars and training courses planned for the biennium 1990-1991.

44. The value of training courses in development planning to the least developed countries and the Pacific island economies, and of seminars on development experience in developing countries in the ESCAP region, was stressed. The subjects in which training might be provided included development planning techniques, public finance, economic co-operation between developing countries, macroeconomic management, control and management of government expenditure. A need for participation of non-governmental organizations in the training activities of the ESCAP secretariat was noted.

45. The delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics expressed the readiness of its Government to continue conducting a number of training courses and seminars in the USSR.

46. The Committee was briefed on UNIDO's activities in the area of development planning, specifically relating to industrial planning in the developing countries.

C. Research and training in public finance and administration

(Item 5 (c) of the agenda)

47. The Committee had before it document E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/5 for its considerations. The document contained a brief review of the secretariat's earlier and ongoing work in the field of public finance and administration as well as elaboration of some proposals for work during the 1990-91 biennium.

48. The Committee endorsed the proposals contained in the secretariat document including the training components along with the research work as envisaged.

49. A comment was offered regarding the inclusion of privatization as a dimension of the work on public enterprise evaluation. It was suggested that privatization could mean at least two different things: it could mean deregulation and greater freedom for private enterprise to operate and compete; it could also mean privatization of public enterprises. In the latter case the issues could be quite different for profit and loss making enterprises. As this division could also be different under different institutional arrangements it was necessary to avoid making standard assumptions and recommendations.

50. A suggestion was also made for a study on the experiences of private organizations in promoting population control and delivering services such as health and education.

IV. POLICY-ORIENTED RESEARCH AND ACTION ON PROBLEMS
OF DEVELOPMENT PLANNING OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE TO THE
REGION:
SELECTED ISSUES IN RESTRUCTURING THE DEVELOPING ECONOMIES
IN THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC REGION

(Item 6 of the agenda)

51. The Committee considered the secretariat note on "Policy-oriented research and action on problems of development planning of special importance to the region: selected issues in restructuring the developing economies in the Asian and Pacific region" (E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/9) and expressed satisfaction at the analytical content of the document which provided an objective appraisal of the major challenges relevant to the restructuring of the developing economies of the ESCAP region. The Committee agreed with the emphasis in the note on issues related to agricultural restructuring, service sector, intraregional trade, social welfare considerations and environmental protection.

52. The Committee recognized that restructuring was vital for promoting economic development in the region since rapid changes in the international environment made reform essential for removing constraints to growth. It nevertheless stressed the need to bear in mind the linkages between short-term measures, medium-term strategy, domestic reforms and intraregional co-operation, as well as social development concerns. It was also proposed that the secretariat should provide assistance to member countries of ESCAP through seminars and expert advice.

53. While urging the need for closer regional co-operation, the Committee cautioned against creating an exclusive trade bloc in the Asian and Pacific region. It was suggested that, in view of the region's growing interdependence and economic dynamism, a consensus approach through mutual exchange and dialogue should be evolved, with ESCAP providing a catalytic role. In this regard, the Committee felt that Japan could play a critical role in various ways. Among the measures that Japan could take the Committee noted the following: the opening up of its market to the region; increasing its

involvement in direct investment and concessional assistance to the region; and taking the initiative to establish an organization, on the lines of the OECD, to co-ordinate the region's economic stance in relation to the global environment.

54. While the Committee agreed that regional co-operation was a very important concern in the restructuring process, delegations felt that the ESCAP study should also pay as much attention to internal restructuring efforts within the region's developing economies as it has to external issues related to structural reform. The Committee, therefore, endorsed the view that agricultural restructuring, strengthening of the service sector, social development and distributive considerations, and protection of the environment also required to be studied more intensively.

55. However, some delegations felt that investigative research into all the issues raised in the document could become a very ambitious exercise and, as such, recommended that the secretariat prioritize its work and proceed in a selective manner. In that context, the need for co-ordination of work within ESCAP was stressed, in order to avoid duplication of research efforts. It was suggested, moreover, that a time-frame be set out for the restructuring exercise, as its output could provide valuable input and guidance to national planning endeavours by the region's developing economies.

56. The Committee noted with appreciation the attention by the Japanese delegation of their Government's continued support to the secretariat's research activities in the field of restructuring.

V. REVIEW OF STATISTICAL AND GOVERNMENT
COMPUTERIZATION ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION

A. Secretariat activities, including the report of the Working Group of
Statistical Experts

(Item 7(a) of the agenda)

57. The Committee considered document E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/17 prepared by the secretariat, and the report of the Working Group of Statistical Experts on its sixth session (E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/1), which it endorsed. It noted with interest the useful presentation in paper E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/17 of the changing sectoral emphases in the secretariat's work. The Committee recognized that it was not easy to predict how expected additional extrabudgetary resources would affect the sectoral distribution.

58. The Committee noted that ESCAP had established a task force to set up an integrated data bank to facilitate the use of statistics within the secretariat and to ensure greater consistency in data used by the various divisions. The importance of that project was emphasized since the Committee felt that a well-structured data base could be designed to meet several useful purposes; apart from serving the needs of the secretariat, the establishment of a data base could assist in providing and maintaining high levels of comparability in statistical definitions and standards used by countries in the region. The work of the secretariat in initiating the data base had been facilitated by recent advances in information technology, the wider use of microcomputers, and the ready availability of sophisticated software.

59. The experience gained in establishing and maintaining a data base within ESCAP could prove valuable to member countries wishing to develop national statistical data bases. The Committee noted that, in the longer run, the development of national data base systems would facilitate the interchange of information through diskettes or other electronic means.

60. The Committee acknowledged the important role that the regional advisory service had played in the development of national capabilities in statistics. It endorsed the need for additional advisers, especially in the four priority areas of sampling methodology, census cartography, social statistics, and transport statistics. However, it noted that the advisory services were generally available for relatively short periods to any one country, and thus were not able to meet demands for longer-term assistance. In that connection it was felt that the arrangements recently established through the generous offer of the Government of India to provide advisers in sampling methodology on a TCDC basis might provide greater flexibility. The Committee also recommended the reinstatement of a statistical adviser at the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre (EPOC).

61. The Committee agreed that the Working Group of Statistical Experts had provided a valuable forum for the discussion of important issues and urged that a further session be convened during 1990. While recognizing that difficulties might be experienced in obtaining funding, it nonetheless endorsed the need to convene a working group of experts on government computerization, as recommended by the ESCAP Commission.

B. National activities

(Item 7(b) of the agenda)

62. The Committee heard with interest the highlights of country activities in the field of statistics, full details of which were described in the country papers (see the annex).

63. Many countries reported that their statistical system was a decentralized one. While that system had a number of advantages, statistical concepts, definitions and classifications adopted by sectoral agencies generally tended to differ. To overcome that problem, many countries had established appropriate mechanisms such as a national statistical council or board to co-

ordinate the data collection, compilation and dissemination activities of various agencies. Some success was evident though a few problems persisted.

64. The Committee noted with satisfaction that most countries were continuing their efforts to improve the timeliness, quality, and relevance of data in order to meet the ever increasing demand for information, and that in several cases notable progress had been achieved. Some countries encouraged data processing in regional or provincial offices, especially through the use of microcomputers, to improve the timeliness of data. International classifications such as ISIC, ISCO and the Harmonized System were being used or introduced to facilitate the standardization of data collection and presentation as well as for international comparability. User-producer dialogue was emphasized as an important factor in ensuring the relevance and usefulness of data. More concerted efforts such as national and regional seminars on appreciation of data by administrators and policy makers could contribute in that regard.

65. The Committee noted the growing acquisition and use of computer equipment for statistical purposes in the region. The ready availability of software packages assisted in the expanded use of microcomputers, particularly for data entry, processing and analysis, for data base development, and for preparation of reports. In many countries, statistical data bases had been established and a few countries were already receiving trade declarations on diskettes or through on-line access. In some instances the shortage of skilled personnel and equipment was hampering plans for effective exploitation of the computer technology to enhance statistical services. The Committee noted that most countries were fast becoming self-reliant in processing survey or census data and that several countries processed their censuses using microcomputers only.

66. Countries reported on the various stages reached in undertaking their population and housing censuses conducted under the 1990 round. For censuses and other statistical operations, the use of modern equipment and techniques such as optical mark readers, optical character recognition, hand-held computers and computer aided telephone interviewing was reported by some countries.

67. The Committee heard that practically all national statistical offices accorded priority to manpower training including the development of expertise in computer use and application. While the training courses and facilities provided by SIAP and ESCAP were appreciated, the need for additional external assistance was emphasized particularly for the smaller and statistically less developed countries. Some countries reported having organized statistical and computer training, not only for their own staff, but also for those of other government agencies, and several had sent their staff for overseas training.

68. In the area of dissemination of statistical information, several countries reported that appropriate marketing strategies had become essential in identifying principal users or for raising revenue. Proper relationships with the media were also important in order to ensure public appreciation of the value of statistics. It was also noted that the efficiency and efficacy of various media for disseminating official statistics needed periodic review because of the growing preference for media other than printed publications. Some advanced technology was already in use by some countries for dissemination purposes, which included the use of CD-ROM, electronic mail and on-line access.

69. A number of countries expressed their concern about the frequent requests for data from various international agencies. The Committee was informed that the subject had been extensively discussed at the United Nations Statistical Commission and efforts were being made to better control and coordinate data collection from the countries and exchange of data within the United Nations system. A few countries also mentioned that a great deal of public attention had been directed to the protection of confidentiality of data, and that national statistical offices had to be even more cautious than before in their storage and handling of data.

70. The Committee also noted the view of some participants that attention needed to be given to the development in countries of the region of social statistics and indicators, environment statistics and small area statistics. Statistics on women and children were particularly emphasized.

C. Other activities

(Item 7(c) of the agenda)

71. The Committee noted with interest the statistical activities undertaken by international organizations such as ILO and FAO and appreciated the close co-operation between those organizations and the secretariat in statistical development in the region. It welcomed the reinstatement of the post of the Regional Adviser on Household Surveys by ILO, albeit under somewhat different institutional arrangements.

VI. PROGRESS AND ISSUES IN STATISTICS
AND GOVERNMENT COMPUTERIZATION

A. Development of National Statistical Capabilities

(Item 8(a) of the agenda)

72. The Committee considered a paper entitled "Development of National Statistical Capabilities" (E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/14) prepared by the secretariat. The paper considered some of the important mechanisms and technical assistance programmes for assisting countries in the development of statistical capability.

73. The Committee noted the rising demand for small-area statistics in the region, reflecting a shifting emphasis towards decentralized planning. There had been a growing realization amongst countries of the difficulties involved in meeting that demand.

74. The Committee observed that many of the statistics required at a detailed geographical level were not collected. ^{Results} ~~Other data~~ obtained or potentially available from sample surveys were not reliable for small areas. Even where data were available, such as from population censuses, difficulties were experienced in handling the numerous data files required to generate small-area statistics. Many definitional or methodological problems had been experienced such as in assigning value added to a local establishment or to the head office of a national enterprise, or in attempting to estimate geographic variations in per capita GDP.

75. Some attempts to resolve those problems were reported: national working groups had been set up to review existing sources of data and to tap new sources; and data processing equipment had been installed in subnational offices to decentralize data generation and dissemination. Nonetheless, the Committee noted that none of the approaches adopted had provided workable and lasting solutions.

76. Given the likelihood that demand for small-area statistics would continue to grow, it was essential to give high priority to work in that area. The Committee felt that the secretariat had an important role to play, in imparting training and in arranging seminars or other forums for countries to exchange experiences and discuss issues. A reservation was however expressed on the nature of the agenda for such seminars and on what they could be expected to achieve.

77. The Committee reaffirmed the importance of the National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP) in promoting statistical capability in the region. Several countries had participated in the Programme and had benefitted considerably. The Committee noted and supported the recommendation of an interim NHSCP evaluation team that two advisers should be attached to ESCAP to assist in NHSCP activities.

78. While supporting the general objectives of the NHSCP, one country observed that the multi-purpose survey design sometimes adopted did not always produce high quality data. The Committee noted, however, that the NHSCP was flexible and that many countries had incorporated specialized surveys into their national programmes.

79. The Committee was also informed of a new initiative by a number of United Nations agencies, designed to monitor social goals in the 1990s. The programme was expected to rely heavily on data collected through household surveys.

80. The Committee also had before it under the sub-item the report of the Project Manager/Director of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) (E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/19).

81. The Committee considered the report on the activities of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, (E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/19). The Committee noted that certain changes in the Institute's activities had been introduced to take into account the changing demands of the countries of the region. Those included the introduction of a new microcomputer course, the restructuring of the group training course in general statistics to allow an element of specialization and emphasis on the analysis and reporting of statistics through the introduction of project work. In addition, advanced courses and workshops were being offered in emerging subject areas relevant to policy-making, whilst an increasing number of country courses were being conducted to meet growing demand. The Institute was also organizing a workshop jointly with the ESCAP Statistics Division on the theme of "Managing Statistical Offices in the 1990s". An Audio-visual Unit had now been established on a sound basis with the arrival of a United Nations Volunteer.

82. The Committee was informed that the fourth phase of the Institute would end in September 1990 and that the Institute was now working on preparing for the fifth phase of the project. Discussions were being conducted both with the host government of Japan and with UNDP so that SIAP could expand its programme, which was essential for the enhancing of statistical capability of the countries of the region. Proposals were being examined to introduce a course on the analysis and interpretation of statistics and workshops for senior personnel from statistics offices on themes related to training needs.

83. The representatives of the Government of Japan, the host country, and other member governments as well as the UNDP noted their appreciation of the work done by the institute and pledged their support for the fifth phase of the Institute whilst also stressing the need for an increase in the contributions from member countries necessary to meet the costs of an expanded programme.

The Committee welcomed the additional cash and in-kind contribution of the Government of Japan to the Institute.

B. Development of Economic Statistics

(Item 8(b) of the agenda)

84. The Committee considered document E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/13 relating to the development of economic statistics. The secretariat note provided a summary report on the progress in the revision of the current system of National Accounts (1968), outlined activities for Phase VI of the International Comparison Programme (ICP) for the ESCAP region, and discussed issues relating to energy statistics as well as activities organized by the secretariat relating to other economic statistics.

85. The Committee noted that while the revision of the current System of National Accounts (SNA) was under way, the System of Balances of the National Economy (MPS) was also being examined principally to develop SNA/MPS links, which were now included within the revision exercise. Bilateral seminars on SNA/MPS links were also being organized.

86. The Committee observed that because of funding constraints, the secretariat had been ~~able~~ to organize only one regional seminar as input to the revision; it therefore expressed its concern that the needs of the region, especially the developing countries, might not be fully reflected in the revised SNA. In that regard there was general appreciation of the financial support being provided by the ^{Bank} ~~Government of the Republic~~ of Korea for another seminar to be held in early 1990 to review the draft of the revised SNA. That would enable the ESCAP region to provide comments to the United Nations Statistical Office prior to the Statistical Commission's consideration of the draft in 1991. The Committee was informed that, based on the comments from various regions, further work on the revision might be undertaken if necessary.

87. The Committee welcomed the resumption of the regional advisory service on national accounts at ESCAP and considered it a key medium in the delivery of technical assistance to countries particularly for the implementation of the revised SNA in the region. It endorsed the need for organizing seminars to assist national accountants. It also took note of the progress in the preparation by the Statistical Office of the United Nations of a series of handbooks related to the SNA revision and welcomed the preparation of an additional Compilation Handbook in the series.

88. The Committee welcomed the offer of the Government of Japan to support ~~activities related to the~~ *financial and technical assistance* International Comparison Programme Phase VI in the ESCAP region. It also endorsed the list of activities planned for the implementation of Phase VI programme. In order to link ESCAP results to the rest of the world, the Committee urged that some of the countries participating in Phase VI might link up with participating countries from other regions. The association of China in Phase VI activities in preparation for full participation in future phases of the ICP was noted.

89. The Committee appreciated the importance of human resources development in economic statistics and urged that training courses be conducted for junior statisticians. It recommended that advisory services should be expanded to include household expenditure surveys, transport statistics, and statistics relating to industries and services.

C. Development of demographic, social and other statistics

(Item 8(c) of the agenda)

90. The Committee considered the item on the basis of a note by the secretariat entitled "Progress and issues in statistics and government computerization: development of demographic, social and other statistics" (E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/6). The Committee was informed of the activities of the secretariat aimed at the improvement of demographic and social statistics in the

countries of the region. It noted that the importance of those fields was reflected in the high proportion of resources of the statistics programme devoted to demographic statistics. Activities such as regional advisory services, technical meetings and publications had made important contributions to the improvement of demographic statistics in the region.

91. The Committee expressed its appreciation of the technical assistance provided to the countries by the regional advisers on population censuses and surveys and on data processing, and welcomed the strengthening of the advisory team. With the addition of the regional adviser on population statistics, the Statistics Division was in a better position to provide technical support for national census and survey projects, in particular to the statistically less developed countries. In that respect, the Committee also noted with satisfaction the co-operative arrangements among the United Nations Statistical Office, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, UNFPA and ESCAP, and the contributions of some of the developed countries in terms of experts and training facilities.

92. The Committee noted that under the project on technical meetings in demographic statistics two meetings had already been convened and another two were planned for 1990 and 1991. The Committee noted in particular the recommendation of the Workshop on Computer-assisted Coding (CAC), held in April 1989, that further development of CAC systems be carried out, including their integration into existing software packages for censuses and surveys, and that further improvements of existing microcomputer-based CAC be pursued. The view was expressed that many developing countries might face difficulties in coping with the introduction of CAC. It was generally felt, however, that CAC would provide long-term benefits, including improved consistency of the data, more timely processing, savings in staff resources, and an ability to simultaneously code responses to various versions of a complex classification. Since CAC did not require ^{more highly} highly skilled coding personnel, it was feasible to

implement the system even in less developed countries. The development of the system, however, demanded sound prior preparations. Several countries mentioned their plans or interest in utilizing CAC in some of their future statistical activities, and recommended that the secretariat should play an active role in promoting CAC in the region.

93. The Committee welcomed the current and planned activities of the secretariat in the area of social statistics and indicators. It noted the principal recommendations and observations of the Pacific Seminar on Social and Related Statistics, which was held in Tonga in August 1988. The Committee stressed the need for further work in the region on social statistics and indicators and noted that a UNICEF/ESCAP workshop on indicators for women and children was planned for November 1989.

D. Statistical information services and data base development

(Item 8(d) of the agenda)

94. The Committee had before it document E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/8 entitled "Statistical Information Services and Data Base Development". While endorsing the secretariat's efforts to develop a data base in the Statistics Division of ESCAP it noted that the task described in the secretariat paper was a rather large undertaking. It therefore cautioned that to be successful it would be necessary for the secretariat to undertake detailed planning, and that adequate resources would have to be provided. The planning process would involve identification of users and their data needs, the availability of data, the formats of the data series, standardization in the classification of data, and harmonization in definitions and concepts. Sufficient attention needed to be paid to the design of the system including file content and structure. The Committee noted that the existence of data bases tended to increase significantly the number of users of statistics.

95. It was suggested that ESCAP could take advantage of its late start in data base development by learning from the experiences of others, as that would help to avoid costly experimentation and serious errors. It welcomed the idea of initiating the development of the data base on microcomputers, rather than waiting for a suitable mainframe to be made available to ESCAP.

96. The Committee noted that the Statistics Division planned to disseminate some of its statistical data through floppy diskettes on a trial basis beginning in the 1990-1991 biennium. It observed that the use of diskettes, including for the receipt of national data, could start with a few selected countries which, among them, represented different levels of statistical development; the arrangement could subsequently be extended to other countries when successful. The Committee however cautioned that due consideration needed to be given to differences in definitions and classification systems as well as to the compatibility of hardware and software used in the countries. It heard with interest of the experimental collection by the United Nations Statistical Office of national accounts data on diskette.

97. The mechanisms within the United Nations system for data collection and sharing were described to the Committee, including the arrangements for handling requests for country data from non-statistical units of the agencies. The Committee urged continuing attention in order to relieve member countries of any unnecessary response burden.

98. The Committee noted that in order to recover more of the cost of statistical operations, countries were increasingly introducing charges for statistical publications and market-based pricing for other statistical services. It observed however that such a trend could not be followed by ESCAP in view of current United Nations regulations governing the sale of publications.

E. Government Computerization

(Item 8(e) of the agenda)

99. In considering the field of government computerization, the Committee had before it document E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/20. The Committee expressed disappointment that, of the two Improved Government Information Systems (IGIS) projects submitted to UNDP, the Pacific component had not yet gone ahead, while that for Asia had been rejected. It recalled that the Expert Group on Computerized Information Systems for Governments held in June 1988 had made changes to the projects aimed at adjusting their design to focus on the real issues and needs of government information management systems in countries of the region, and also to find a basis for a regional approach to address those perceived needs. Publication of project newsletters, organization of technology expert group meetings, and documentation of computerization experiences were reaffirmed by the Committee as among the activities whose benefits to countries of the region were felt to be obvious. The Committee was therefore puzzled as to how an opposite conclusion could have been reached.

100. The Committee noted that the information technology revolution was already under way in the region. Member countries were making great efforts at promoting computerization for which the establishment of planning, co-ordination and management policies and functions were crucial, along with the recruitment and training of specialized personnel. The Committee noted with appreciation that the Government of Japan would continue to organize training courses in government information systems. The Committee emphasized that there was little alternative for ESCAP but to be involved in work on government computerization, and expressed concern that the resources currently allocated to those activities were seriously inadequate in view of their major importance. More personnel would be necessary to undertake such work in an effective and efficient way.

101. The Committee reiterated its view that a working group of experts on government computerization should be set up as recommended by the Committee on Statistics and the ESCAP Commission, and saw it as crucial for guiding the work of the secretariat. Besides the topics proposed by the secretariat, the Committee suggested that future technical meetings could cover such issues as information technology strategic planning, management of end-user computing, management of data, systems development standards, database management, data protection and security, artificial intelligence, expert systems, fourth generation languages, computer-assisted software engineering (CASE), and computer-assisted design and manufacturing (CAD/CAM).

VII. PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE
ON DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND STATISTICS

102. The Committee considered paper E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/2 containing its draft terms of reference. After some discussion the draft, as proposed, was accepted with the amendment of clause 4 to read as follows:

"4. To review and analyse progress in the development of statistics in the region, promote improvement in the quality of data and the application of new techniques, arrange for the exchange of information and experience on statistical work and methods among member countries, promote the adaptation of international statistical standards to the conditions and needs of countries of the region, and recommend appropriate programmes of technical assistance, training, education and research in the various fields of statistics and their applications, with particular emphasis on activities in priority areas as defined by the Commission and by the United Nations Statistical Commission from time to time, taking into account work being done by the United Nations and other relevant organizations, particularly the United Nations Statistical Office."

103. The success, or otherwise, of the first session of the merged Committee was discussed at length. The arguments for and against amalgamating the Committees on Development Planning and Statistics were recognized, and reference was made to positions taken earlier at the ESCAP Commission and Committee on Statistics. Some countries that had earlier supported the merger of the Committees had changed or were considering changing their positions, in part as a consequence of the experience at the session.

104. There was some discussion in the Committee about the possibility of promoting a cross-fertilization of ideas between development planners and statisticians which was one of the objectives of the merger of the two Committees. *considerable merger of the two committees* Most delegations felt that such cross-fertilization had not been achieved during the current session. That might have been due to a lack of time for countries to prepare adequately for the session, and the different approaches pursued by the two disciplines. Another concern expressed by many delegations was that there had been insufficient time to cover the agenda in depth. The point was made that if the Committees were to remain merged, there would need to be careful examination of the procedures and organization of future sessions, and perhaps a change in name and orientation of the body.

105. Some delegations expressed particular concern at the effects of the merged Committee on the consideration of government computerization. The useful start made at the last session of the Committee on Statistics through running a parallel working group on government computerization had not been followed through and there had been no discussion of the many aspects of common concern to countries in the region on that most important subject.

106. Whilst convening a joint legislative meeting saved some scarce United Nations resources, one delegation expressed the view that the savings involved were minimal and were far outweighed by the apparent loss of effectiveness in the deliberations.

107. It was agreed that the countries of the region should document their views on the revised conference structure in the light of the functioning of the merged Committee at its first session, and that the secretariat should prepare a paper incorporating those views, for presentation to the next ESCAP Commission.

VIII. PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES OF THE SECRETARIAT,
1990-1991, AND CONSIDERATION OF THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN,
1992-1997

A. Development planning

(Item 10(a) of the agenda)

109. The Committee considered documents E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/7 and E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/15 under this agenda item. It endorsed the proposal to amend the title of programme element 2.2 under the 1990-1991 work programme to read "Research and assistance in public finance and administration" and to incorporate it in subprogramme 1. The amendment would be submitted to the forty-sixth session of the Commission for consideration.

110. The Committee also endorsed the draft medium-term plan narratives on economic development issues and policies and on the special programmes for the least developed and island developing countries contained in E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/15. These would be integrated into the overall ESCAP programme for submission to the Commission and to the global programming bodies.

B. Statistics

(Item 10(b) of the agenda)

111. The Committee had before it documents E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/3 on the draft programme of work in statistics, 1990-1991, and E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/4 on the medium-term plan in statistics, 1992-1997.

112. On the statistical work programme as a whole, the Committee noted that a large increase in extrabudgetary resources for 1990-1991 was projected, and expressed concern that the proposed programme might not be deliverable if there was a significant shortfall in those resources. The assumptions used in arriving at the projections, as described in document E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/3, were pointed out, and the Committee noted that the

dimensions of the proposed programme represented the secretariat's best estimate of what was achievable with the expected resources.

113. The Committee noted with satisfaction that in delivering the programme the secretariat worked in close collaboration with the specialized agencies in the areas of their expertise, as well as with the United Nations Statistical Office. It regretted, however, that the presentation of outputs excluded advisory services in statistics provided by EPOC; that made it impossible to ascertain the total volume of technical assistance provided to Pacific island countries. The Committee urged that, in addition to the reinstatement of the post of EPOC Adviser in Statistics, Pacific subregional advisory services in data processing should be provided, as had been recommended earlier by the Committee on Statistics.

114. The Committee approved the broad structure of the proposed work programme in statistics for 1990-1991, and endorsed the need for an additional post from programme support resources to redress the shortfall in regular budget resources.

115. With the following observations, the Committee endorsed the detailed work programme:

- (a) The Working Group of Statistical Experts should be convened in 1990;
- (b) Advisory services in energy statistics should be provided at least up to end-1990;
- (c) Priority should be given to the proposed seminar on industrial statistics and related activities, which should be implemented in close co-operation with UNIDO;
- (d) Attempts should be made to convene additional meetings on the SNA revision, to allow greater opportunity for regional input into that process.

116. The Committee reaffirmed the importance of government computerization and generally supported the proposed programme of work in that area. However, in view of the considerable uncertainties surrounding the financing and staffing of the government computerization subprogramme, some reservations were expressed about the secretariat's ability to specify and deliver the outputs listed. The Committee recalled its earlier recommendation on the convening of a working group of experts on government computerization, although similar reservations about the utility of such a group were also expressed. The Committee noted that a limited number of outputs in the government computerization field could be delivered using regular budget resources only, and that there were no plans to reallocate such resources should extrabudgetary funding not become available.

117. The Committee found appropriate the order of priority for additional advisory services indicated in the secretariat document, namely:

Sampling methodology

Census cartography

Social statistics

Transport statistics

It also noted that advisory services in environment statistics, while potentially very useful to some countries, might appropriately be fielded after methodological work in that area had been further advanced. In that connection it was reported that SIAP was postponing a workshop on environment statistics until a handbook on the subject, under preparation by the United Nations Statistical Office, became available.

118. In the event of a shortfall of resources in the implementation of the work programme, the Committee advised that the secretariat should give priority to those activities which particularly benefited the statistically least developed countries. It was also suggested that the secretariat's resource base could be enhanced through making more extensive use of the expertise and

resources of some statistical offices of the region, in both developing and developed countries, for instance through the preparation of technical papers, the conduct of training programmes, and the fielding of technical assistance missions, as well as through the secondment of staff to the secretariat on a non-reimbursible loan basis.

119. In considering the draft medium-term plan, 1992-1997, in statistics, the Committee heard that the entire work of ESCAP might be a single programme, entitled "Regional co-operation for development in Asia and the Pacific", with the various components of the secretariat's activities such as statistics as subprogrammes.

120. In discussing the possible future strategy and direction of the statistics subprogramme the Committee recommended that due attention be paid to the diversity of the region in terms of statistical development on the one hand, and objectives for social and economic development, on the other. It strongly supported the idea that the secretariat should identify various groups of countries according to their statistical development needs, priorities and level of sophistication of statistical applications, and design technical activities of common interest to those groups. The Committee heard that to a large extent many of the current activities of the Statistics Division, such as regional advisory services, technical meetings and training courses, were carried out in such a manner that the common needs of many such groups were met.

121. The Committee expressed its appreciation of the current orientation of the statistics programme, and felt that in the long run its approach need not require major alteration, particularly in view of its emphasis on capability building which usually required a long gestation period. It acknowledged that the provision of short-term advisory services and expert advice would continue to be an important element of technical assistance activities in the future.

Annex

List of documents

<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Symbol No.</u>	<u>Title</u>
3	E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/L.1	Provisional agenda
3	E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/L.2	Annotated provisional agenda
4 (a)	E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/11 and Corr.1	Emerging issues in policies and strategies of development in the region: the developing economies
4 (b)	E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/16	Emerging issues in policies and strategies of development in the region: the least developed economies
4 (c)	E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/18	Emerging issues in policies and strategies of development in the region: the island developing economies
5 (a)	E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/10	Development planning: plan formulation, implementation and evaluation: macro-economic modelling and projections
5 (b)	E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/12	Development planning: plan formulation, implementation and evaluation: courses of training in development planning techniques
5 (c)	E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/5	Development planning: plan formulation, implementation and evaluation: research and training in public finance and administration

6	E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/9	Policy-oriented research and action on problems of development planning of special importance to the region: selected issues in restructuring the developing economies in the Asian and Pacific region
7 (a)	E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/1	Report of the Working Group of Statistical Experts on its sixth session
7 (a)	E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/17	Secretariat activities in statistics
8 (a)	E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/14	Progress and issues in statistics and government computerization: development of national statistical capabilities
8 (a)	E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/19	Report of the Project Manager/Director of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
8 (b)	E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/13	Progress and issues in statistics and government computerization: development of economic statistics
8 (c)	E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/6	Progress and issues in statistics and government computerization: development of demographic, social and other statistics
8 (d)	E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/8	Progress and issues in statistics and government computerization: statistical information services and data base development
8 (e)	E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/20	Progress and issues in statistics and government computerization: government computerization
9	E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/2	Proposed terms of reference of the Committee

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|--------|---------------------------------|--|
| 10 (a) | E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/7
and Corr. 1 | Programme of work and priorities of the secretariat, 1990-1991, and consideration of the medium-term plan, 1992-1997, in development planning |
| 10 (a) | E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/15 | Draft medium-term plan, 1992-1997, for subprogrammes on economic development issues and policies, and special programmes for the least developed and island developing countries |
| 10 (b) | E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/3 | Draft programme of work in statistics, 1990-1991 |
| 10 (b) | E/ESCAP/DPAS.1/4 | Medium-term, plan, 1992-1997, in statistics |

FOR PARTICIPANTS ONLY

28 July 1989

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Committee on Development Planning and Statistics
First session
24-28 July 1989
Bangkok

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Mr. J. Ahmed

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Mr. Bishnu Dev Pant	Chief, Statistical Information Services Section, Statistics Division
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Mr. R. Siegel	Acting Chief, Data Processing Section, Division of Administration
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