Sixth meeting of the
Steering Group for the Regional Programme for Economic Statistics (SGRPES)
26 May 2017, Bangkok, Thailand

Report of the Meeting

I. Introduction

1. The sixth meeting of the Steering Group for the Regional Programme on Economic Statistics (SGRPES) was held during the Asia-Pacific Economic Statistics Week 2017 in Bangkok on 26 May 2017. Steering Group members from the following countries were represented at the meeting: Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Samoa, Singapore, Turkey and Viet Nam. Members from the following entities were also represented: The Asia-Pacific Regional Steering Committee of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics (represented by the Philippines), ADB, ILO, SPC and UNSD. IMF and SIAP also participated in the meeting.\(^1\)

2. The four co-chairs of the Steering Group, Mr Jonathon Khoo (Australia), Mr Fazrul Azlan Othman (Malaysia), Mr Bahrawar Jan (Pakistan), and Ms Suzanne Wong (Singapore), chaired the sessions of the meeting.


4. Feed-back on the meeting as provided by participants is included in Annex III of this report.

II. Meeting objectives and programme

5. The objectives of the meeting were as follows:

   a) Assess the progress and agree on next steps for the four Task Forces of the SGRPES;

   b) Discuss the approaches for strengthening in-country capacity for economic statistics training, and make recommendations on potential contributions or involvement by the Steering Group and other development partners;

   c) Decide on the future work of the SGRPES: Review the effectiveness of current working arrangements; consider alternative working modalities; consider the need for additional Task Forces.

\(^1\) Please see Annex II for the complete list of participants.
6. The provisional programme of the meeting was adopted.²

III. Decisions and follow-up actions

III.a Task force for the organization of the Asia-Pacific Economic Statistics Week

Decisions

7. Based on the success of the organizing arrangements for the 2017 APES, it was decided to continue the task force for the organization of the 2018 APES.

8. For the task force on the 2018 APES, Malaysia will be the task force lead, and its membership will also include India, Indonesia, Turkey, UNSD and ESCAP.

Follow-up actions

9. The task force was requested to consider the following in the process of organizing the APES 2018:

   a) Feed-back from APES 2017 participants;  
      http://communities.unescap.org/system/files/summary_feed-back_from_the_participants.docx

   b) Options for conducting selected sessions in parallel, which would enable participants to customize their participation to their respective areas of interest;

   c) Invitation of members of relevant global groups, such as the Global Working Group on Big Data, as contributors of papers or as session organizers;

   d) Timing APES 2018 to avoid important holidays in the region, to the extent possible.

10. The task force was also requested to consult all Steering Group members before making final decision on the theme for APES 2018.

11. The Steering Group further requested that the task force explore and recommend options for making further use of papers prepared for the APES, including for adding exposure to the research conducted. Considering that many challenges presented in the papers require management level intervention to be addressed, added use may also involve turning the papers into knowledge products of interest to chief statisticians, policy makers or other management level audience.

III.b Task force for the development of RPES Capacity Screening Tool II

Decisions

12. Following the successful completion of the RPES Capacity Screening Tool, it was decided that the task force would continue with adjusted terms of reference to reflect

² Please see Annex I for the programme of the meeting.
that its main responsibility henceforward would be to make recommendations on the processing and use of the information collected through the questionnaire.

13. Singapore will continue as the task force lead, and task force membership will also include China, Japan, Turkey (NSO and Central Bank), SPC and ESCAP.

**Follow-up actions**

14. The task force, with support from the secretariat, was requested to:

   a) Prepare a summary report on the capacity screening by September 2017, which is to include comparison with the results of the 2013 capacity screening as well as comparison among countries and sub-regions.

   b) Ensure wide dissemination of the capacity screening results, including with development partners.

   c) Consider the role of RPES national focal points in disseminating the capacity screening results.

   d) Consider suitable forums at the national, sub-regional, regional and global levels for presentation and discussion of the capacity screening results.

   e) Provide guidance on the type of knowledge products that would be suitable to different audiences in terms of leveraging support for further statistics development and investment.

   f) In considering options for knowledge products and dissemination means and forums, bear in mind the leveraging power of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development vis-à-vis policy-makers.

   g) Consider options for comparing the capacity screening results with the state of affairs in other regions of the world.

15. The secretariat was requested to issue the questionnaire by 8 June 2017 and allow countries four weeks to respond.

**III.c Task force on quality assurance frameworks for economic statistics**

**Decisions**

16. It was decided that the task force would continue its ongoing work to prepare country case studies.

17. Australia will continue as task force lead and the membership will also include Armenia, India, Maldives, Samoa, Turkey (Central Bank), the Philippines and ESCAP.

**Follow-up actions**
18. The Steering Group put forward a number of suggestions for future work on quality assurance frameworks:

   a) Consider added emphasis in country case studies on the practical application of quality assurance frameworks, such as quality management related to the use of Big Data, to CPI production, to the conduct of censuses and surveys, etc.

   b) Documentation of experiences with tools for quality management that are transferable across statistical domains and countries, such as the use of quality gates at particular points in the statistical business process.

   c) Organization of events to present and share quality management or assessment practices, including those pertaining to dissemination, user satisfaction surveys, and the functioning of advisory or audit committees.

19. The Steering Group requested the task force to consider future work of the task force on the basis of the results from the 2017 capacity screening once they become available.

### III.d Task force on statistical business registers

20. In accordance with its terms of reference, the task force on statistical business registers had reviewed existing guidance material, with a view to identifying gaps that could be addressed by adding guidance of particular relevance to countries in Asia and the Pacific. A preliminary conclusion was reached that sufficient material was already available; on this basis a proposal for revised terms of reference was put forward to the Steering Group.

21. The Steering Group did not reach consensus on the proposed revised terms of reference.

### Decisions

22. The Steering Group agreed that the task force would continue, but recognized the need to revisit the terms of reference of the task force.

23. The Steering Group agreed that the current members of the task force (Armenia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, ADB, SPC and ESCAP), with Pakistan as the lead and with Mongolia and the Republic of Korea as additional members, would develop new draft terms of reference for the task force.

### Follow-up actions

24. The Steering Group requested the task force to:

   a) Develop revised draft terms of reference for its work, taking into account the proposal made by the task force as well as suggestions made by other Steering Group members during the meeting. The terms of reference should include two concrete outputs that could feasibly be delivered by April 2018.
b) Circulate the revised terms of reference to the Steering Group for comments and subsequent agreement by the co-chairs of the Steering Group.

c) Initiate the work on the basis of the agreed terms of reference, possibly with further expanded or revised membership.

III.e Summary decisions pertaining to the four task forces

25. All four task forces will continue and present their work for review by the Steering Group at its seventh meeting. At its seventh meeting, the Steering Group will also consider the future work and functioning of each task force.

Terms of Reference

26. Each task force will review their current terms of reference and seek concurrence by the four co-Chairs of any revisions necessary to appropriately capture their work during 2017-2018.

27. The task force on statistical business registers will develop new terms of reference in accordance with the specific decisions made on the matter (see section III.d).

Membership

28. The current membership of the four task forces will continue, with UNSD added as a member of the task force on the APES 2018, and Mongolia added as a member of the task force on statistical business registers.

29. The secretariat will, by email, solicit confirmation from current task force members of their continued interest, and invite other Steering Group members to join one or more task forces. Steering Group members are encouraged to consult and recommend experts beyond the current membership of the Steering Group as members of specific task forces.

30. In reference to the decisions pertaining to the task force on statistical business registers (see section III.d), communications related to its future membership will be issued upon agreement on its new terms of reference.

Strengthening national capacity to deliver economic statistics training

31. In reference to the objectives of the Regional Programme on Economic Statistics, the Steering Group considered options for strengthening national capacity for the delivery of economic statistics training, and the potential role of the Steering Group in supporting such developments.

32. To inspire and inform the deliberations, the ESCAP Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) presented an overview of statistics training and training institutions in the region, and the Steering Group members from Malaysia and the Philippines presented on the functioning of their respective national statistical training institutions. A number of international organizations, including ADB, IMF, SPC and UNSD, also
provided their reflections on the matter, including information on ongoing and planned training activities.

**Decisions**

33. No decisions were made on this matter.

**Follow-up actions**

34. In reference to the presentation made by SIAP, it was suggested that the Steering Group may work with and through the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific to support strengthening of national capacity for delivery of statistical training.

35. The Steering Group requested the Co-Chairs to further discuss the matter at the next meeting of the leadership of the Steering Group, in consultation with ESCAP Statistics Division and ESCAP-SIAP.

**Arrangements for the future work of the Steering Group**

**Decisions**

36. The Steering Group expressed satisfaction with the working arrangements instituted at its fifth meeting in 2016, and agreed to continue the collective leadership arrangement with four Co-Chairs.

37. The Steering Group requested that the Co-Chairs, with the support of the secretariat, meet regularly to update and exchange views and advice on the work of the task forces and broader RPES implementation.

**Follow-up actions**

38. A number of topics were suggested for future task forces of the Steering Group, including data integration, natural resources accounting, big data, globalisation, etc.

39. It was agreed to hold decisions on this given (a) the need for existing task forces to deliver; (b) the cross-cutting nature of the suggested topics; and (c) bearing in mind the pending decisions by the Bureau of the Committee on Statistics concerning the implementation of decisions made by the Committee at its fifth session held in December 2016, as contained in the document: *Advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: a collective vision and framework for action by the Asia-Pacific statistical community.*

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### Sixth meeting of the Steering Group for the Regional Programme on Economic Statistics (SGRPES)

**Meeting objectives**

1. Assess progress and agree on next steps for the four Task Forces of the SGRPES;
2. Discuss approaches to strengthening in-country capacity for economic statistics training, and make recommendations on potential contributions or involvement by the Steering Group and other development partners;
3. Decide on the future work of the SGRPES: Review the effectiveness of current working arrangements; consider alternative working modalities; consider the need for additional Task Forces.

**Meeting programme**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Presenter/Facilitator</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08:45 – 09:00</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<td>09:00 – 09:20</td>
<td>Opening remarks</td>
<td>Ms Suzanne Wong</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Introduction of participants</td>
<td>Deputy Director, Economic Accounts Division, Department of Statistics, Singapore Co-Chair of the Steering Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:20 – 09:30</td>
<td>Agenda and the expected outcomes of the 6th meeting of the SGRPES</td>
<td>Ms Rikke Munk Hansen</td>
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<td><strong>Background information:</strong></td>
<td>Chief, Economic and Environment Statistics Section Statistics Division, ESCAP</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Report of the 5th meeting of the SGRPES</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:30 – 10:10</td>
<td><strong>Task Force for the organization of APES 2017</strong></td>
<td>Mr Fazrul Azlan Othman</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Presentation by the Chair of the Task Force</strong></td>
<td>Senior Deputy Director, National Accounts Statistics Division, Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) Chair of the APES Task Force</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Discussion by Steering Group members</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Points for discussion:</strong></td>
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<td>- Suggestions for improvements</td>
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<td>- Topics and dates for the third APES</td>
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<td>- Formation of a Task Force to organize the third APES</td>
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<td><strong>Background information:</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Terms of reference for the Task Force</td>
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<td>10:10 – 10:30</td>
<td>Group photo and Coffee/Tea Break</td>
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<td>Time</td>
<td>Task Force</td>
<td>Chair</td>
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<td>10:30 – 11:00</td>
<td><strong>Task Force for the development of RPES Capacity Screening Tool II</strong></td>
<td>Ms Suzanne Wong</td>
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<td>Presentation by the Chair of the Task Force</td>
<td>Chair of the Capacity Screening Tool Task Force</td>
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<td>Discussion by Steering Group members</td>
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<td><strong>Points for discussion:</strong></td>
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<td>- Feedback on how to ensure high response rate</td>
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<td>- Suggestions on the use of the results of the capacity screening</td>
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<td>- Proposed Task Force activities for next year, if any?</td>
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<td>- Terms of reference for the Task Force</td>
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<td>- Finalized Capacity Screening Tool II</td>
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<td>11:00 – 11:40</td>
<td><strong>Task Force on quality assurance frameworks for economic statistics</strong></td>
<td>Mr Jonathon Khoo</td>
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<td>Presentation by the Chair of the Task Force</td>
<td>Director, Public Finance, Australian Bureau of Statistics</td>
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<td>Discussion by Steering Group members</td>
<td>Chair of the QAF Task Force</td>
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<td><strong>Points for discussion:</strong></td>
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<td>- Use of national case studies produced under the Task Force including for training and technical support</td>
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<td>- Proposed Task Force activities for the next year, if any?</td>
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<td>- Terms of reference for the Task Force</td>
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<td>11:40 – 13:00</td>
<td>Lunch Break</td>
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<td>13:00 – 13:40</td>
<td><strong>Task Force on statistical business registers</strong></td>
<td>Mr Bahrawar Jan</td>
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<td>Presentation by the Chair of the Task Force</td>
<td>Deputy Director General, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics</td>
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<td>Discussion by Steering Group members</td>
<td>Chair of the SBR Task Force</td>
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<td><strong>Points for discussion:</strong></td>
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<td>- Reflections on the initial findings of the Task Force</td>
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<td>- Proposed Task Force activities for the next year, if any?</td>
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<td>- Terms of reference for the Task Force</td>
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<td>13:40 – 14:00</td>
<td><strong>Summary decisions pertaining to the four task forces of the SGRPES</strong></td>
<td>Mr Jonathon Khoo</td>
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<td>Discussion by Steering Group members</td>
<td>(Chair)</td>
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<td><strong>Training on economic statistics</strong></td>
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<td>Discussion on options for regional collaboration to strengthen national capacity for delivery of economic statistics training, and the potential role of the Steering Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Session Title</td>
<td>Presenters</td>
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| 14:00 – 15:00 | Strengthening national capacity to deliver economic statistics training      | Mr Bahrawar Jan (Chair)  
Presenters:  
Mr Ashish Kumar  
Director, Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP)  
Mr Romeo Recide  
Deputy National Statistician  
Philippines Statistics Authority  
Mr Fazrul Azlan Othman  
Reflections from:  
Ms Qi He, IMF  
Mr Joseph Mariasingham, ADB  
Mr Herman Smith, UNSD  
Ms Nilima Lal, SPC |
|              | Presentation on the state of economic statistics training in Asia and the Pacific and current mechanisms for coordination of training activities (by SIAP) |  
Presentations by national and international partners on current and planned economic statistics training programmes (topics, target groups, delivery mechanisms, related institutional and resource requirements)  
**Discussion points:**  
- Priority topics for in-country economic statistics training  
- What types of training are delivered or needed on an ongoing basis at the country level?  
- What types of institutional support is required to offer regular economic statistics training at the country level?  
- How could the SGRPES and other development partners support related efforts? |
| 15:00 – 15:15 | Coffee/Tea Break                                                            |  
15:15 – 16:00 | Strengthening national capacity to deliver economic statistics training (cont’d) |  
Arrangements for the future work of the SGRPES  
Summary decisions on issues discussed during the 6th meeting of the SGRPES  
**Discussion by Steering Group members**  
**Points for discussion:**  
- How effective have the leadership and working arrangements with co-chairs and task forces been since they were introduced by the fifth meeting of the Steering Group in 2016?  
- Do we need to modify the terms of reference or membership of the existing Task Forces?  
- Any priority issues that require the formation of new Task Forces? |
| 16:00 – 16:30 | Arrangements for the future work of the SGRPES                               | Ms Suzanne Wong (Chair)  
Ms Rikke Munk Hansen |
|              | Members of the Steering Group may wish to bring up any other matters          |  
16:30-16:45  | Other matters                                                                 |  
16:45 – 17:00 | Closing                                                                      | Mr Fazrul Azlan Othman  
Co-Chair of the Steering Group |
Annex II. List of participants (members of the Steering Group indicated in **bold**)

**AUSTRALIA**

*Jonathon Khoo*, Director, Public Finance, International and Government Finance Branch, Statistical Services Group, Australian Bureau of Statistics

**BANGLADESH**

*Abul Kalam Azad*, Director, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics  
*Md. Rafiqul Islam*, Deputy Director, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

**CAMBODIA**

*Sovorlak Khin*, Deputy Director General, National Institute of Statistics  
*Mr Chettra Keo*, Director, National Institute of Statistics

**CHINA**

*Ping Wang*, Director, Division of Statistical Methodology, Department of Statistical Design and Management, National Bureau Statistics of China

**HONG KONG, CHINA**

*Rebecca Siu Wai Fun*, Assistant Commissioner, Census and Statistics Department, Hong Kong SARG, China

**INDIA**

*Rajesh Kumar Sharma*, Director, Ministry of Statistics & Program Implementation, Government of India

**INDONESIA**

*Adi Lumaksono*, Deputy Chief Statistician for Production Statistics, BPS-Statistics Indonesia

**JAPAN**

*Naoki Makita*, Director for International Statistical Affairs, Office of Director-General for Policy Planning on Statistical Standards, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

**REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

*Yu Gyung Kang*, Director, Statistics Korea
LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Vixay Santivong, Acting Director General, Department of Economics Statistics, Lao Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Planning and Investment

Phousavahn Chanthasombath, Director of Secretary and Cooperation Division, Department of Administration, Lao Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Planning and Investment

MALAYSIA

Fazrul Azlan Othman, Senior Deputy Director, Department of Statistics Malaysia

MALDIVES

Ashiyath Shazna, Statistician, National Bureau of Statistics

MONGOLIA

Erdenesan Eldev-Ochir, Director of Economic Statistics Department, National Statistical Office of Mongolia

PAKISTAN

Bahrawar Jan, Deputy Director General, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

PHILIPPINES

Romeo Recide, Deputy National Statistician, Sectoral Statistics Office, Philippines Statistics Authority

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Ilya Matyushev, Deputy Director, Department for Foreign Statistics and International Cooperation, Federal State Statistics Service

Kristina Budnik, Consultant, Fixed Capital Division, Department for National Accounts Federal State Statistics Service

SAMOA

Leota Aliielua Salani, Assistant Chief Executive Officer, Samoa Bureau of Statistics
SINGAPORE
Sook Han (Suzanne) Wong, Deputy Director, Singapore Department of Statistics

TURKEY
Tulay Korkmaz, Head of National Account Department, Turkish Statistical Institution
Aycan Ozek, Senior Expert, Central Bank of Turkey

VIET NAM
Quang Vinh Pham, Deputy Director General, General Statistics Office of Vietnam

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB)
Mahinthan Joseph Mariasingham, Statistician and Project Officer

PACIFIC COMMUNITY (SPC)
Nilima Lal, Economic Statistician

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (IMF)
Qi He, Adviser

UNITED NATIONS BODIES
INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION (ILO)
Tite Habi yakare, Senior Statistician, ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

UNITED NATIONS STATISTICAL INSTITUTE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (SIAP)
Ashish Kumar, Director
Alick Mjuma Nyasulu, Lecturer/Statistician
UNITED NATIONS STATISTICS DIVISION (UNSD)

**Herman Smith**, Chief, National Accounts Section

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**SECRETARIAT**

STATISTICS DIVISION, ESCAP

Margarita Guerrero Director, Statistics Division (SD)

Rikke Munk Hansen Chief, Economic and Environment Statistics Section (EES), SD

Michael Biddington Statistician, EES, SD

Farzana Sharmin Associate Statistician, EES, SD

Nongnuch Hiranyapaisansakul Statistics Assistant, EES, SD

Nixie Mabanag Abarquez Statistics Assistant, EES, SD

Supaporn Chatwanichkul Programme Assistant, ESS, SD

Emma Kasemsuwan Staff Assistant, ESS, SD

Piyapat Nakornchai Team Assistant, ESS, SD

Jan Byfuglien Consultant, SD
Annex III. Summary feed-back from participants

FIFTH MEETING OF THE STEERING GROUP FOR THE REGIONAL PROGRAMME ON ECONOMIC STATISTICS
BANGKOK 26 MAY 2017

I. Organization of meeting:

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<th>Too short</th>
<th>Too long</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Duration of the meeting</td>
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II. Content of the meeting:

3. Did the meeting achieve its objectives? (Please select as many as applicable)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Please provide your comments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Assess progress and agree on next steps for the four Task Forces of the SGRPES</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• For efficient functioning of Task Forces, each Task Force should have agreed “deliverables”</td>
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<td>• Thoroughly discussed and deliberated</td>
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<td>• It can help to improve regional statistics</td>
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<td>• The four Task Forces are advised to go forward</td>
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<td>• Continuing the TF work makes sense just a few adjustment in the membership and TOR will be necessary. ADVOCACY, INFORMATION are needed for strengthening national capacity programs</td>
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2. Discuss approaches to strengthening in-country capacity for economic statistics training,

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<th>Non-response 3</th>
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<tr>
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<td>• Areas where Steering Group may contribute/assist: (1) System of dynamic update of SBR; (2) Integration of various databases; (3) Streamlining compilation and dissemination system of trade-in-services</td>
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</table>
and make recommendations on potential contributions or involvement by the Steering Group and other development partners

- The need goes back to the respective country arrangement
- The demand is there; if capacity or opportunity is not present within the country, development partners can be approached
- Yes, presentations and coverage is good, however, in-country capacity to take up is up to countries

3. Decide on the future work of the SGRPES: Review the effectiveness of current working arrangements; consider alternative working modalities; consider the need for additional Task Forces

| 18 | 1 |
| Non-response 2 |
| - In some particular areas still need task force, i.e. SBR and using administrative data |
| - May be SGRPES consider on constituting Task Forces on (1) Dissemination of official statistics and promote utilization of such statistics by people and researchers; (2) Streamlining System for informal/unregistered sector |
| - Clearly explained the objectives |
| - Carefully explained on the coming programs |
| - Additional TF on (1) Globalization; (2) Digital economy; (3) TF organizing relations of stakeholders of economic statistics |
| - SGRPES will work as it worked last year |
| - SDG indicators |

4. Does your participation in the Steering Group benefit the work of your office? Please explain why/why not.

- Yes, by advocating and raising awareness on economic statistics, we benefit
- Yes, this meeting can share experience from different problems of each country and share how to overcome
- Yes, identified areas (learn from APES 2017) where NSO need time to implement to improve the existing system
- Yes, it has updated the knowledge during the meeting process and the majority of the deliberations
- Yes. Participation in the Steering Group has got more opportunity to exchange the knowledge and experience of statistics. Especially we can make contribution for economic statistics week to share our experience and we also got more new idea from other countries practice.
- I have learned a lot from the meeting. The Reports from the Task Force provide very useful information for me as it may be translated in to my current work in my country as I’m at the managerial level as well as a member of the SGRPES. I have learned how the Task Force work hard. I have learned how can we make programmes to strengthen capacity and what could be supported by the development partners on this matter.
• Yes, it will be very helpful for our NSO. Because I now know the work of other countries’ statistical work. Also some recommendation is really helpful to improve our NSO.
• Yes, capacity development
• Yes, will focus on the economic statistics targets
• It is very useful for me to participate in the SG: (1) could direct learn and obtain experiences of the members of SG; (2) the way of conducting meeting is also useful for us to conduct the meeting in our country; (3) Know well about the group of development partners
• Yes, benchmark knowledge and experience obtained from the RPES – 6th Steering Group for the Regional Programme on economic statistics to advance economic statistics for the SDGs
• Yes, lessons are learned from experiences of other national statistical systems
• Yes, experiences shared by our colleagues as well as development in countries like Philippines and Malaysia. The developments and structural changes are aspirations that statistical offices should aspire to.
• Yes.
• Most from the experience sharing information
• Information on data/capacity gap very useful.

5. **Do you have any comments or suggestions for the improvement of future meetings of the Steering Group?**

• Excellent
• Everything has changed fast. The meeting can be conducted at least 2 times every year.
• Though the seminar was quite useful, still there lies scope/potential for further improvement that may be looked into.
• It is better to take two days meeting for the Steering Group. Before starting the Steering Meeting, it is better to send task forces work documents.
• UNESCAP should have invited teams of economic statistics as well national accounts officials from each country (minimum 5-7 officials)
• It is useful/better if the meeting ask more countries to prepare papers to share experiences on economic statistics. Some papers will be presented in the meeting, some papers not; they can then be uploaded for reference.
• Organization has been good. However, representation needs to adjust particularly the Pacific Island representation. May I suggest inviting Fiji NSO as an additional participant?