Statistical activities must follow the fundamental principles underneath:

1. Ensuring transparency, objectivity, completeness, accuracy and timeliness in statistical activities;
2. Ensuring its independence in statistical performances;
3. Being consistent regarding indicators, templates, calculation methods, classification tables, measurement units and statistical years; and ensuring international comparability;
4. Avoiding duplication and overlapping among statistical surveys and statistical reporting regulations;
5. Being accountable regarding methodologies and publishing statistical information;
6. Ensuring equal rights regarding access and use of the published state statistical information;
7. The statistical information on each organization and individual is used for statistical purposes.

(Article 4, Fundamental principles of statistical activities, Statistics Law 2003)
Why does Vietnam need to build a Statistical Development Strategy?

Reliable statistical information is a crucial base for making 2011 - 2020 socio-economic development strategy and socio-economic development plans and policies for regions and localities; monitoring the implementation of National goals and plans, of which include the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Accurate statistics  Appropriate policies  Impact on socio-economic development

The Vietnam Statistics System has obtained significant achievements in recent years, actively contributing to the renovation task and international integration of the country. However there are several shortcomings in the operations process as follows:

Census results and selection of policy based on evidence

Population Census in Vietnam is conducted every 10 years. The results of the Population and Housing Census 2009 showed that Vietnam has been experiencing a period of significant demographic transition which impacted strongly on the socio-economic development of the country and each locality.

- Fertility rate is decreasing and below the alternative fertility rate.
- Vietnam entered the gold population structure stage with an increasingly young labor force; Migration and urbanization are quite popular.
- Sex imbalance at birth is becoming clear, and
- Vietnam is going to enter the stage of aging population.

Data from the Population and Housing Census 2009 also indicated the differences in areas and regions on demographic and socio-economic indicators and different
- Some issues on statistical method and statistical activities have not been researched, updated and improved synchronously, thus statistical information is both insufficient and overlapping. Statistical analyses and forecasting have developed slowly.

- Many statistical processes have not been standardized and computerized. Information quality management system has not been applied comprehensively.

- Statistical organization system has not been improved; statistical capacity at grass-root level has been limited.

- There has not been a close connection and sharing of information between the General Statistics Office and statistical organizations in ministries and line-ministries, localities and enterprises, households as well as data producers and users. Information has been separated and lack transparency. Micro statistical data and aggregated socio-economic data warehouses have not been completed.

- According to the World Bank’s assessment in 2010, the General Index on statistical capacity of Vietnam was only at average level. In order to improve the ranking, the Vietnam Statistics System needs to further renovate strongly and efficiently. Hence, building and implementing the Vietnam Statistical Development Strategy in the period 2011 – 2020 and vision to 2030 are among its crucial tasks in the coming years.

levels of achieving MDGs. These are evidences that help the Government build appropriate policies and programs to take advantage of opportunities as well as deal with challenges to adapt to the changes in demography in Vietnam and narrow the gap between areas, regions and population groups.

*Picture: Dissemination conference on completed results and closing ceremony of the Population and Housing Census 2009, held in Hanoi, 21st July 2010*
Development view

1. Producing and disseminating honest, objective, accurate, adequate, timely and transparent statistics.

2. Correctly and adequately following the seven basic principles of statistical activities regulated in the Viet Nam Statistics Law; and in line with the 10 basic principles of official statistical activities initiated by the UN.

3. Renovating, finalizing and improving quality of statistical work of the whole statistical system, from central to local statistics offices oriented by unification, standardization, consistent process, and computerization for all processes and stages: collecting, processing and synthesizing, analyzing and forecasting; transmitting, storing and disseminating statistics, in line with Viet Nam conditions and international standards and practices.

4. Fast, sustainable development with appropriate and inheritable roadmap.

5. Establish sufficient conditions related to legal foundation, organization structure, human resources, budget, technical and physical infrastructure and other resources to ensure the feasibility of statistical operations.
Viet Nam Statistical development strategy (VSDS) 2011 - 2020, vision to 2030 has been developed in consultation, and with contribution from many scientists, national and international experts.

Picture: The stakeholder Consultation workshop organized in Bac Ninh in December 2010
Overall goal

Viet Nam statistics is oriented by fast and sustainable development based on completing the organization structure, ensuring adequate quantity and quality of human resources, systematically applying advanced statistics methods and modern technologies; shaping a centralized, consistent, smooth and effective national statistical information system with more adequate and better statistics. Effort is made so that by 2020, the statistical capacity of Viet Nam Statistics will be ranked at a good level, and by 2025, it will be at an advanced level in the region.

Specific Objectives

- Developing, completing sectoral statistical indicator system; making sure that from 2015, all indicators in the National statistical indicator system (NSIS), sectoral statistical indicator system, and statistical indicator system for provinces, districts, communes are collected, aggregated and disseminated in line with regulated contents and timeline; statistics produced and disseminated in line with quality criterias applied by most national statistics offices and international

Source: Statistical Yearbook 2010 of General Statistics Office

Picture: CPI disseminated monthly by GSO is one of the important indicators measuring the fluctuations of the market. This index has great impact on the decision of investors, particularly on making monetary, fiscal, and inflation control policies by the government.
organizations, which are: relevance, accuracy, timeliness, accessibility, accountability, and coherence, as well as international comparability.

- Establishing national integrated synchronous and consistent statistical information system with cooperation, exchange, sharing and connecting information frequently, closely among domestic statistical institutions and organizations, implementing all commitments related to providing information to and sharing information with international organizations, statistics offices in other countries according to the law; completing the development of micro - databases, macro - databases, statistical databases of classifications, the list and metadata including concepts, data sources, calculation method of statistical indicators, going to complete the development of socio-economic statistical data warehouse by 2020 so that all users can access and use.

- Improve the general index on statistical capacity according to the assessment criteria of the WB for Vietnam from 61/100 points to 70/100 points by 2015; 80 points by 2020 and 95 points by 2030, by:
  - Increasing the methodology index from 30 points to 55 points; 75 points and 90 points in corresponding years;
  - Improving the SNA milestones according assessment framework by the UNSD from 2/6 in 2008 to 3/6 by 2015; 4/6 by 2020 and 6/6 by 2030;
  - By 2015, the General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) is applied comprehensively, and by 2020, comprehensively comply with the SDDS by the IMF.

Capacity of the Vietnam Statistics has been increasingly improved and integrated fully into the world statistics. The actively technical and financial support from international organizations, such as WB, ADB, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, PARIS 21 and SIDA, etc is one of the important factors contributing to the success mentioned above. With the purpose of renovating statistical information to ensure comparability with the international standards and practices and to meet the development requirements of Vietnam, strong commitments of international organizations to provide technical and financial support is the effective investment to promote information transparency and standardization in the process of integration into the world statistics of Vietnam.
Action plans

There are 9 action plans with 45 basic activities associated with the VSDS 2011-2020, vision to 2030

* Action plan 1:

Improvement of institutional arrangements, legal framework and statistical coordination to enhance the legal environment for statistical activities.

* Action plan 2:

Strengthening of studies and application of advanced statistical methodology, development and standardization of statistical processes by international standards to make a breakthrough in research and application of statistical methodology so that Vietnam Statistics can fully integrate into the international statistics community.

* Action plan 3:

Renovation and improvement of the quality of data collection in order to improve the quantity, quality and effectiveness of the statistical inputs.

* Action plan 4:

Renovation and improvement of data processing, aggregation and dissemination of statistical data in order to increase the quality and effectiveness of statistical output integration and dissemination, to better meet the demand of users.

* Action plan 5:

Intensification of statistical analysis and forecast to utilize the collected and compiled data, so that statistical activities will be developed comprehensively.
* Action plan 6:

Application and development of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in statistical activities in order to strengthen the application of modern technologies in computerizing statistical activities.

* Action plan 7:

Development of statistical human resources to attain an appropriate quantity, quality and career structure of statisticians.

* Action plan 8:

Expansion and improvement of the effectiveness of statistical international cooperation so that Statistics Viet Nam will fully integrate into the region and the world statistical community.

* Action plan 9:

Strengthening of physical infrastructure and mobilization of other resources for statistical work to facilitate the effective implementation of the VSDS 2011-2020, vision to 2030.

* In the Population and Housing Census 2009, the GSO successfully applied the scanning technologies, character recognition in data processing. This is an important milestone in information technology development in statistical activities.

* Picture: Scanning office of Center of Statistical Information services No I (GSO)
Printing 2,000 copy, size 15 x 21 cm
Publishing permit No: 34-2011/CXB/41-152/TK
Designed and printed by Print and Statistical form Publication Company Limited