Asia-Pacific Economic Statistics Week (APES)

Report of the Seminar

17–20 June 2019, UNCC, Bangkok, Thailand

I. Introduction

1. The four-day seminar component of the Asia-Pacific Economic Statistics Week (APES) was designed within the Regional Programme on Economic Statistics[1] (RPES) and held in Bangkok on 17-20 June 2019 under the theme *"Integrating economic statistics in monitoring the 2030 Agenda"*.

2. The meeting was attended by experts from Australia; Bhutan; Cambodia; China; Fiji; Hong Kong, China; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Lao PDR; Malaysia; Maldives; Myanmar; Nepal; New Caledonia; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Republic of Korea; Samoa; Singapore; Sri Lanka; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Turkey; and Viet Nam. The meeting was also attended by development partners and experts from Department for International Development (DFID), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Pacific Community (SPC); ESCAP Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, and the UNSD Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) as well as independent experts and private institutions. Annex I contains a full list of participants which is also accessible at http://communities.unescap.org/system/files/list_of_participants_apes2019_seminar_17-20jun.pdf

II. Organization of the meeting

3. The seminar included one high level panel discussion; three plenary, six parallel and three special sessions; and featured exhibits from national and international organizations. ESCAP organized the seminar through the guidance of the APES Taskforce of the Steering Group for the RPES, comprising Malaysia, India, Indonesia, New Zealand, Turkey, UNSD-DESA and ESCAP. Annex II contains the programme of the seminar which is also found in http://communities.unescap.org/system/files/apes_2019_programme.pdf

4. Seminar papers and presentations are accessible at http://communities.unescap.org/asia-pacific-economic-statistics/apes-2019-featured-papers.

III. Session summaries

Day 1, 17 June 2019

High level panel on monitoring sustainable development: The future of economic statistics

5. The panel discussed the use of economic statistics for monitoring the 2030 Agenda and highlighted the shortcomings of current measurements of economic activity across social and environmental aspects of wellbeing. The session pointed to ways and directions for transforming economic statistics to ensure its continued relevance.

6. Insights on the future of economic statistics from a global perspective highlighted the need to urgently address the challenges and implications of integrating economics for sustainable development in traditional statistical frameworks and practices. The panel

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[1] A snapshot of the Regional Programme is available at
http://communities.unescap.org/system/files/rpes_brochure_2016.pdf

recognized that the future of economic statistics requires a broad review of economic statistics, institutional update whereby statistical agencies transform from principal producers of statistics to stewards of an evolving complex data landscape to respond to policy makers and stakeholders, and transforming practices of updating statistical data and information to be more responsive to emerging data needs.

7. The panel considered the SDG framework a step in the right direction to capture beyond GDP indicators like wellbeing, sustainability and equality. To effectively implement the SDG framework, however, there has to be a change in mindset, a comprehensive financing strategy, and an integrated policy framework across SDG domains and Goals; and a revisiting of conventional ways of producing statistics.

8. Key messages:

    •   GDP will continue to be an important economic statistics required by governments and institutions for understanding economic activity. Complementary measures are needed to capture well-being, inequality and sustainability.

    •   The NSOs must continue "doing what they do best" or producing what and how they have been traditionally producing statistics while welcoming new approaches and new statistics.

    •   Emerging technologies hold great potential to transform statistical business processes. Adaptation to such technologies requires development of additional skill sets that will enable and equip NSOs to better coordinate the activities within the national statistical system (NSS) in filling data gaps, and in updating and/or identifying appropriate statistical infrastructure to integrate new methods and new data sources with the traditional ones.

    •   The UN must continue to lead initiatives, coordinate and support statistical activities across the world; establish guidelines and frameworks; and support and enable countries to enhance and develop the required skills necessary to face and adapt to the challenges in producing statistics in a dynamic data ecosystem.

Special session 1: Agriculture-related SDGs monitoring: Challenges and opportunities

9. The session highlighted issues in producing agriculture-related economic statistics for SDG monitoring and the progress made so far. Demonstrating the status of 21 agriculture-related SDGs indicators vis-à-vis tier status, the session highlighted the challenges countries are facing in terms of developing definitions and methodologies as well as compiling these indicators. Good practices such as producing related indicators from the same source, standardizing agricultural activities to ensure comparability were highlighted along with some available resources that can be followed to compile these indicators. It was stressed that countries should align national monitoring framework to the global one to reduce response burden and data requirements. Such alignment would also help countries to receive potential technical assistance from international organizations.

Parallel session 1: Challenges in national accounts estimation

10. The session discussed methodological and estimation issues on national accounts with six background paper briefings stimulating the discussions. Participants shared varied experiences with respect to alternative solutions for thematic areas such as: gross fixed capital formation, the components of the financial accounts, research and development,

industry specific methods for value added estimation, regional accounts and energy accounts.

11. The session concluded that there is still limited access to data and the contents of existing statistical legislation also inhibits the possibility of strengthening inter-agency collaboration. The standards between and among line departments, and those used by the NSOs are unharmonized in areas such as research and development. Having the proper legislation in place will enable NSOs to tap administrative data from public institutions, establish coordination mechanisms, and facilitate implementation of uniform standards to address the challenges in national accounts estimation.

Parallel session 2: Integrating data to leave no one behind

12. The panelists stirred discussions on data integration and the necessity of producing disaggregated data for monitoring progress with the SDGs. The discussions highlighted some of the steps and work of statistical offices on data management and integration to augment and complement their SDG indicators, improve their current estimation methodologies, the challenges and constraints, and the intended use of the results. Key messages:

- Production of SDG indicators, specially at disaggregated level, are daunting given NSOs limited resources. Data integration and small area estimation techniques are viable alternatives to producing data at the lowest level of geographic and/or demographic disaggregation with lesser cost to government and lesser burden on respondents.

- To achieve data integration, it is imperative to establish data (information) systems and infrastructure at the NSOs that would allow such integration and harmonize classifications and standards across public institutions.

- Coordination mechanism and policies must be established to institutionalize production of statistics at the local level, cooperation of public institutions and stakeholders, increase data utilization and accessibility, and skills development.

- Having a dedicated team/division or partner institution for research like the set-up in BPS Indonesia could benefit organizations.

- It is necessary for institutions like the UN SIAP to regularly conduct training on techniques and tools for data integration to support production of data at detailed level of disaggregation for monitoring progress in the SDG.

Day 2, 18 June 2019

Plenary session 1: Emerging techniques in using big data

13. The session explored both the practical value of big data for users of official statistics and the practicalities of integrating such data into statistical production cycles in the areas of tourism, unemployment, commuting, and wellbeing. The panel focused on how best to meet user needs, unpicking data quality issues, and how to form effective partnerships to access and analyze big data. Three papers investigated the development of appropriate methodology, the results, and challenges with the use of mobile phone data to measure commuting statistics; the use of Twitter to measure wellbeing; and, the development of a big data-driven analytical system for unemployment statistics. A fourth paper reported on how to form effective public-private partnerships in using big data.

14. The discussions highlighted that NSOs in the region increasingly see opportunities to use big data to help monitor the 2030 Agenda particularly in terms of getting timely data. However, key challenges are:

- quality issues;

- resourcing specially on having the skills available;

- legal issues for forming necessary partnerships across government and with non-government organizations.

15. The discussions concluded that there is a strong logic for NSOs to continue exploring big data opportunities especially given its potential to fill gaps in the data for SDG indicators. There was also a strong demand for greater international assistance and cooperation to raise NSO's capability to explore big data opportunities and for international standards to be developed to help address quality and legal issues. Big data, however, should still be seen mainly as complementary to official statistics from surveys and administrative data, which had more manageable data quality challenges. Moreover, communication with users about their needs and the data quality issues should be closely integrated into big data developments to ensure that methodologies are delivering statistics that are fit for purpose – that the resulting data can be used effectively in decision-making, and to help generate additional resources.

Special session 2: What ISI WSC 2019 has to offer

16. The session highlighted preparations, sessions on economic statistics and a glimpse of the "Symposium on data science and official statistics" that will happen at the International Statistical Institute and World Statistics Congress in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 18-23 August 2019. The conference will feature more than 1800 papers covering varied topics including those for economic statistics that are of relevance to practitioners of economic statistics in the region. Participants identified several sessions of high relevance to economic statistics improvement, including big data for the new era, use of administrative data, effective communication for better statistics, and data integration from new sources.

Parallel session 3: Creative and digital economy

17. Advances in technology generate new industries. This session discussed measurement issues for emerging areas in economic statistics and the associated industries. It presented case studies and other efforts countries in the region are undertaking to measure the creative and digital economy. Key messages:

- New digital industries such as e-commerce and digital currencies are rapidly growing which requires expanding the concept and scope of the current system of national accounts.

- The development and continuous improvement in information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure provide universal and affordable access to information – promoting inclusiveness; and enabling the efficient use of resources.

- ICT simplifies business operations and has the potential to accelerate economic growth through connectivity, mobility and wellbeing.

- The input-output table remains a viable tool for understanding the contribution of digital economy and cross-border trading activities;

- Limited access to data and inappropriate/insufficient legal mandates are challenges to measuring the accurate size of the creative and digital economy.

Parallel session 4: Increasing visibility of NSOs

18. The session was premised on the visibility and credibility of the NSO being essential for a well-functioning NSS. It discussed how the RPES projects in the Maldives and Lao PDR and initiatives in Timor-Leste have contributed to implementing/enacting FPOS; and to drafting and adopting new legislation on statistics. It also highlighted how the Pacific Community as a regional coordinating body has supported countries in increasing their visibility and credibility through National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS).

19. On the basis of these experiences, panellists summarized that, when attempting to increase visibility and credibility of the NSO, main considerations are adherence to the FPOS, international standards and guidelines, understanding user needs vis-à-vis availability of resources, the constraints of the organization, and the needs and capacity of both users and producers.

20. Small group break-up discussions produced the following key messages:

- *Concrete initiatives which contribute to increased visibility and credibility of the NSO:* availability of NSDS; creation of sectoral committees for general and specific stakeholders; central website for ease in navigation and access to information; comics and infographics; and celebrating national and world statistics day or month.

- *Suggested elements of a visibility strategy*: conduct of regular statistics and data literacy and communication programs for major data users and for the public; updated and comprehensive website of statistics and metadata; dissemination strategies; production of policy relevant indicators; compliance mechanism and monitoring; marketing in all forms including social media; user-focused data dissemination; localized information/marketing campaign; legislation reinforcing responsibilities across levels of government and institutions; conduct of user consultations, user-producer forum, dialogues for practitioners and technicians; impact evaluation, analysis and uses for sectoral statistics; advisory council; statistical capacity development plan for producers and users; and simplified (or laymanized) statistical reports and methods.

- *Recommendations to build and maintain credibility*: compliance with international standards and approaches; transparency and accessibility of information, which include provision of metadata and simplified terms to explain the statistics; timely and consistent data; regular producer-user and stakeholder consultations; independence and production of high quality information; confidentiality; keeping track of the uses of statistics; advance release calendars and committing and complying to them; transparency in the form of revision policies, technical notes and metadata; increase resources (human skills, financial and infrastructure) for statistics; release knowledge products rather than "raw" statistics; and disclaimers to avoid misuse of information.

- Visibility means they know you, while credibility means they trust you

Day 3, 19 June 2019

Plenary session 2: The future of price statistics

21. The panel discussed current research of NSOs and the international community on the use of scanner data and web scraping to produce price indices. It was acknowledged that digitization has greatly expanded the amount of transaction data which could

possibly be used to produce price statistics more efficiently and at a higher frequency and quality. However, many issues need to be addressed before this becomes a reality.

22. Scanner data was considered superior to web-scraped prices from retailers' websites. Scanner data is the rare occasion where big data provide the actual data we desire and actual records of all individual's expenditure by product, rather than a proxy. The fundamental issue is in gaining access to the scanner data which is held by private organizations who need to be convinced to release them to NSOs for statistical purposes. Such arrangement requires substantial work on the development of institutional agreements for data sharing. It often requires new legislation to ensure the cooperation from private data providers.

23. Web scraping of prices from retailers' websites has the potential to supplement existing collections to improve price statistics. Web scraping does not require institutional agreements but there are still substantial issues in collecting data and on expanding the use of web scraped information for official price statistics. Issues include dealing with frequent changes in retailers' websites, which will often involve process redesign, as well as accurate classification of products. Also, there is lack of quantity data or volume estimates which make calculating appropriate weights currently impossible from web scraped data.

24. The UN Global Working Group on big data has coordinated efforts on the use of big data including scanner data for official statistics. These include among others, the development of frameworks and standards which are cognizant of the varied level of statistical development across member countries.

25. Key issues:

- Gaining access remains the biggest hurdle for the use of scanner data for official statistics

- Convincing internal and external clients that new processes such as web-scraping are fit for purpose and are essential before these processes can be operationalized

- Assessing whether new data sources (such as online data) are fit for purpose. Comparing results or conducting parallel runs between proposed methods or sources against existing one have always been considered good practice in terms of increasing acceptability and reliability of the proposed methods.

- Substantial investments in human capital and data infrastructure are required before these new data sources (scanner data and web-scraped) can be used and fully implemented.

Special session 3: Ocean economy, going beyond national accounts

26. The briefing on ocean economy in the context of the Ocean Accounts framework and its pilot implementation in Asia-Pacific countries focused on the link between the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) and the System of National Accounts (SNA). It emphasized the importance of developing Ocean Accounts through bridging the missing components in the underlying frameworks of SEEA and SNA. With that kind of bridging, it would be feasible to get a fuller understanding of the impacts of the ocean on the economy and vice versa as well as how we can sustainably use ocean resources. As a new area of research linking sustainable use and consumption of the ocean with the monetary aspect of SNA and environmental component of SEEA, the session highlighted concepts, measurement, challenges and opportunities.

Parallel session 5: New techniques for tourism statistics

27. The panel shared knowledge about the latest developments and user needs in their countries on national accounts and tourism statistics. The focus was on the quality aspects required of official statistics and filling data gaps required for the SDGs. The session involved workshop activity in small groups to discuss and share knowledge about the latest developments in countries in the region. Five background papers (from Malaysia, Indonesia, and New Zealand) were discussed. The papers respectively addressed Tourism Direct Gross Domestic Product (TDGDP) light as an indicator for measuring sustainable tourism; a digital survey approach for tourism statistics, the use of mobile phone data indicators of tourism demand; the use of mobile phone data for accommodation statistics; and new ways of measuring accommodation statistics to adapt to the emerging importance of the "sharing economy".

28. Discussions underlined the high and growing importance of tourism to policymakers in the region as a driver for economic growth and SDGs implementation. Key messages:

- Data availability is not adequate to respond fully to user needs; new techniques and opportunities are, therefore, of high interest to countries in the region.

- It was recognized: many new techniques have significant quality issues

- Investment is required by NSOs to identify new techniques and data sources, to develop solutions to quality issues, and to investigate how to integrate new sources/techniques with each other and with administrative and survey data.

- Effective engagement with users will be important to ensure that NSOs can use new data effectively, with full awareness of the quality issues, to drive statistical developments in line with policy priorities, and to help generate additional resources

- Regional cooperation and international assistance will be valuable to accelerate the uptake of new techniques

Parallel session 6: Use of administrative data

29. The session focused on pragmatic ways to use administrative data for official statistics. It discussed administrative data as the future foundation of economic statistics given its lower cost and lesser provider burden. Papers from four presenters formed the basis for discussing the benefits, trade-offs, costs and best practices from working with administrative data sources to produce official statistics. Each paper shared country successes and issues. Key messages:

- Digitised customs records of imports and exports combined with other sources has allowed the generation of a low-cost import and export price indexes for Bhutan. They are valuable statistical products on their own and their availability has improved the quality of GDP estimates. To sustain future endeavors on calculating import and export price indexes, the next stage is to institutionalize the information sharing between agencies including defining realistic targets and timelines for the provision of the administrative data and production of the statistical outputs.

- Effective use of administrative data sources requires detailed assessment of these data sources relative to their statistical purpose. This includes deciding on what administrative data sources are suitable and how they should be used. The international quality assurance framework can provide the basis for forming such analysis as shown in the case of establishing the Statistical Business Register (SBR) in Myanmar. Analysis of the administrative data sources identified that only one had enough coverage of the Myanmar Economy and was of sufficient accuracy to

enable the efficient use for economic surveys. However, this administrative source did come with substantial issues in terms of accessibility and coherence with other administrative sources. Despite these issues the Central Statistical Organization (CSO) of Myanmar has been able to develop an SBR with this data source.

- The integration of big data with administrative data can be a useful tool to address weaknesses in both (administrative and big data) sources. One such example was in Indonesia, where the BPS matched lists of markets from google maps with existing lists captured from administrative processes. The administrative source is expensive to collect and as such is done infrequently. While google maps missed many of the existing markets identified in the administrative data source, the use of google maps to identify newly established markets is seen as a cost-effective way to update the survey frame in between administrative collections.

- Assigning unique ID is considered as the most ideal practice for data integration. In its absence, integrating data from different sources at the unit record level using techniques such as the fuzzy matching has been explored. Said technique has certain requirements and limitations but the DOSM has been able to use fuzzy matching process to match over 75% of businesses exporting or importing to their SBR to produce statistical products on imports and exports by businesses.

- To enable greater use of administrative data and take advantage of the potentials of big data in official statistics, substantial planning and development in data infrastructure is required by countries in the region.

Day 4, 20 June 2019

Plenary session 3: What are we without our users?

30. The session looked at disseminating and communicating statistical information and engaging with data users as ways to increase the accessibility and use of statistics. It emphasized the importance of nurturing relationships between producers of official statistics and the wide range of people who do or could be using them. Likewise, it recommended that user-producer partnerships must receive attention as one of the components of an effective NSS which is in line with 'Partnerships for the Goals' being one of the 17 SDGs.

31. The session included recent experiences of NSOs in Indonesia and Nepal in building a national culture of evidence-based decision making; understanding the barriers and solutions to data accessibility and use; having user analysis and satisfaction surveys; developing new products to meet user needs; and the presentation of the results of the survey among participants (workshop survey).

32. The workshop survey results identified national planners/central banks; economist/analysts; international organizations; parliamentarians and their advisors; and academics and researchers as the top five important users (group) of economic statistics. The results provided a good rationale in ensuing discussion which highlighted the importance of communicating statistics at all levels and in identifying tailored approaches, to ensure that target users and audiences understand them well.

33. Key messages:

- *NSOs role in supporting data use*. Discussions supported the need for statistical offices to consider their role in bridging the gap between producing statistics and ensuring they are eventually used in the right way. Finding and transforming multiple sources into information and knowledge are shared roles of users and

NSOs with the latter providing the guidance needed to understand the statistics. It is necessary to invest in statistical capacity development for producers and users. Economic statisticians need to be involved in transforming data and statistics into meaningful and timely information to continue to be relevant.

- *Target audience and users*. Social media is continuously changing the way statistical systems interact with data users and providing new opportunities for the future. The group commended BPS Indonesia for investing heavily in communicating and explaining statistics using infographics, comics and social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram. The infographics are found to be effective for reaching a wider audience. Social media is an increasingly important communication channel however, it only reaches those who are active on social media. The importance of preparing a communication strategy for different audiences and users is critical to have the intended impact. It was also noted that technology and new methods should be enablers more than drivers for how NSOs communicate with data users. NSOs were reminded to always consider their own human and financial resources, and recognize their constraints and limitations when adopting new technologies and tools in their efforts to communicate statistics,

- *SDGs and data integration demand coherent and timely data and the development of a strong culture of evidence-based policy and decision making.* Data demand for monitoring the SDGs has driven the establishment of an integrated data platform in Nepal. The changing demands also highlight that NSOs are expected to become more engaged and literate on national planning and development issues and meeting the commitments to the SDGs.

- *Raising awareness and changing behaviors.* Analyzing data use and whether products are being disseminated and communicated in the best way is important to keep economic statistics relevant to users. In raising awareness, non-conventional ways of communicating statistics such as through comics and the use of social media platforms may also be explored given the potential effectiveness of such media for certain demographic groups (as observed in Indonesia). User satisfaction surveys are also valuable for NSOs to understand their users and how statistical information is being used. A case in point is the Nepal experience where results from user survey served as inputs to plan and prioritize their statistical activities. Likewise, for raising awareness, it was deemed important to have more investment in dissemination, and for dissemination to be tested, monitored and evaluated to maximize gains.

- In pursuing new innovative solutions to understand and meet users' expectations, everyone was reminded that NSOs must not forget traditional and tested ways of user engagement and to continuously commit to increasing visibility and credibility of NSO.

IV. Future seminars

34. Top three suggested topics for future seminar based on the results of the seminar evaluation survey include:

- Big data

- Topics related to SDGs

- SEEA implementation projects

35. The results of the seminar survey also indicated that most participants found the seminar very useful to their work and would use the knowledge gained for:

- Exploring the use of big data and administrative data to complement and improve quality, coverage and/or timeliness of their own official statistics

- Understanding and implementing new methods of data collection, integration and statistical techniques like small area estimation to improve the quality of statistics and support fit-for-purpose indicators

- Using big data to improve/enhance the compilation of national accounts data and price statistics

- Improving data collection strategy and incorporating the feasibility of public-private partnership; pilot study & exploration of new technology attached to big data, standards and best practices.

- Developing capacity on information and communication technology (ICT) skills and infrastructure to develop and maintain data warehouses with greater flexibility

- Improving our communication strategy to increase visibility and credibility and effectively market statistics considering the differences in clients; and purposes of each statistical domains

- Understanding and hopefully, integrating the new and evolving concepts in national accounts such as ocean accounting, tourism statistics, digital and creative economy.

- Harmonizing the standards and approaches within NSOs and across public institutions to support data disaggregation

36. In terms of organization, everyone was requested to give their suggestions regarding future seminars of similar nature and following are the most common observations:

- Continuation of APES as a regular platform

- Keep parallel sessions for the future

- Increase the time of presenting the paper

- Provide certificate of attendance to paper writers, presenters and participants

- Use more country best practices in the sessions

- Reach a wider audience for participation

- Inclusion of conceptual and theoretical development in statistics and their uses and application

- Organization of special lectures by academician/experts with a more technical discussion

37. Annex 3 of this report provides details of the seminar evaluation survey.

Annex I: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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Pacific Community (SPC)

Ms Nilima Lal, Economic Statistics Advisor

UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Mr Michael Smedes, Interregional Adviser on Economic Statistics, Statistics Division

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INDEPENDENT EXPERT

Mr Alexander Rayner, CEO, Amadeus Smartdata.Travel

Mr Siim Esko, Head of International Sales, Positium

Mr Alexander Erb, Monitoring & Evaluation Consultant, Rapid Asia/ FH Design Affiliated

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ESCAP SECRETARIAT

Ms Gemma Van Halderen, Director, Statistics Division

Mr Hamza Ali Malik, Director, Macroeconomic Policy and Financing for Development Division

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

Ms Pinar Ucar, Statistician/Lecturer, Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

Ms Maria Fe Talento, Senior Statistician, EES, Statistics Division

Mr Alick Nyasulu, Statistician, EES, Statistics Division

Mr Michael Biddington, Statistician, EES, Statistics Division

Ms Tanja Sejersen, Statistician, Office of the Chief, Statistics Division

Ms Farzana Sharmin, Associate Statistician, EES, Statistics Division

Ms Supaporn Chatwanichkul, Programme Assistant, EES, Statistics Division

Mr Teerapong Praphotjanaporn, Research Assistant, EES, Statistics Division

Ms Eileen Capilit, Consultant, EES, Statistics Division

Ms Jessica Gardner, Consultant, EES, Statistics Division

Ms Frances Krsinich, Consultant, EES, Statistics Division

Mr Matthew Shearing, Consultant, EES, Statistics Division

Asia - Pacific Economic Statistics Week
17-21 June 2019, UNCC, Bangkok, Thailand

PROGRAMME

Monday, 17 June 2019	
08.30 – 09.00	Registration

09.00 – 09.30	**Opening and introductions**
	  ▪ *Hongjoo Hahm,* Deputy Executive Secretary, ESCAP
	  ▪ *Mohd Yazid Kasim*, Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM), SGRPES Co-chair and APES Task Force Lead
	  ▪ *Rikke Munk Hansen*, Chief, Economic and Environment Statistics, ESCAP, Statistics Division

09.30 – 10.00	Group photo and coffee/tea break

10.00 – 12.00	**High level panel discussion on Monitoring sustainable development: The future of economic statistics**
	
	Economic statistics are required for the calculation of substantial number of global SDG indicators. The advent of big data, technologies, and techniques challenge traditional way of measuring economic statistics. The high-level panel of experts will present the use of economic statistics for monitoring the 2030 Agenda and highlight shortcomings of current measurements of economic activity across social and environmental aspects of wellbeing. The session experts will dwell on this background; and point to ways and directions for transforming economic statistics to ensure its continued relevance.
	
	Presentations and panel composition:
	
	  • *Economic statistics and the 2030 Agenda*, Gemma Van Halderen, Director, Statistics Division, ESCAP
	  • *The future of economic statistics,* Michael Smedes, Interregional Adviser on Economic Statistics, Statistics Division, UN-DESA
	  • *Global trends and the SDG Framework: Data needs and issues,* Hamza Ali Malik, Director, Macroeconomic Policy and Financing for Development Division, ESCAP
	  • Towards a common language for the wellbeing and sustainability community, Rutger Hoekstra, author of "Replacing GDP by 2030" and founder of MetricsForTheFuture.com
	  • Moderator: Rikke Munk Hansen

12:00 – 13:00	**Special session 1: Agriculture-related SDGs monitoring: Challenges and opportunities**
	                    Presenter: *Sangita Dubey*, FAO
	                    Moderator/Session organizer: *Alick Nyasulu/Farzana Sharmin,* ESCAP-SD

13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break

14:00 – 16:30	**Parallel session 1: Challenges in national accounts estimation**	**Parallel session 2: Integrating data to leave no one behind**

Parallel session 1: Challenges in national accounts estimation

The objective of the session is to discuss methodological and estimation issues for specific topics of national accounts that are often difficult to measure and share experiences with respect to alternative solutions for these thematic areas of national accounts.

The session deals with issues related to estimation of gross fixed capital formation including changes in inventories, components of the financial accounts, research and development, industry specific methods for value added estimation, regional accounts and energy accounts.

Session papers:

- *Monthly and sectoral disaggregation of Indonesia's gross fixed capital formation*
  Anisa Muna Majidah and Nasrudin

- *Regional national accounts of Nepal: An approach for disaggregated accounting methodology*
  Nanda Lal Sapkota

- *Measuring R&D in the era of revolution industry 4.0: Issues and challenges, a case study of Indonesia*
  Eni Lestariningsih, Karmila Maharani, Titi Kanti Lestari and Francesco Tornatore

- *Enhancement of changes in inventories estimation*
  Wisnu Winardi, Mutiara Gita Fadhilah and Fitri Andri Astuti

- *Estimating equity valuation in Indonesia financial accounts*
  Suswandi and Hana Dwi Kristanti

- *Integrating asset accounts and flow accounts: A combined presentation of energy accounts in Indonesia*
  Zanial Fahmi Firdaus

- Moderator/Session organizer: Mohd Yazid Kasim/ Alick Mjuma Nyasulu

Parallel session 2: Integrating data to leave no one behind

Disaggregated data is central to ensuring that no one is left behind - the underlying tenet of the SDG and the 2030 Agenda. Producing the required level of disaggregation, however, remains a challenge to NSOs given resource constraints. Data integration and the extended use of existing data combined with application of appropriate statistical techniques to produce proxy indicators are viable alternatives to fill in the data gaps.

The session will bring forward the discussion on disaggregated data while acknowledging that data integration is critical to producing such level of detail. It will highlight the current work of statistical offices to augment and complement their SDG indicators; improve their current estimation methodologies; and the challenges and constraints that they faced and anticipate in implementing these data integration strategy.

Session papers:

- *The national data archive system – cataloging surveys for SDG indicators*
  Mahesh Kumar Subedi*

- *Improving data availability for economic empowerment of women in Sri Lanka: A study on data integration for monitoring the SDGs*
  Gamini De Silva*

- *An alternative approach to measure poverty in East Indonesia*
  Bukhari Fauzul Rahman*, Ika Wirawati and Khairiyah Rizkiyah

- *Small area estimation for monitoring SDGs at the sub-national level*
  Yuniarti*

- Moderator/Session organizer: Eileen Capilit

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Monday, 17 June 2019

16:30 – 17:00	**Wrap-up and reflections** (MC, session organizers, selected participant)
17:00 – 19:00	**APES welcoming reception hosted by ESCAP and DFID**

Tuesday, 18 June 2019

09:00 – 09:10	Recap of day 1
09:10 – 12.00 (10:30 – 11:00, Coffee/tea break)	**Plenary session 1: Emerging techniques in using big data** The use of big data is of great interest to official statisticians across the globe in efforts to reduce costs and addresses weaknesses in existing National Statistical Systems, particularly to rise to the challenge of meeting national priorities for monitoring progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This session, through the perspectives of some important recent innovations with respect to the use of big data, will explore both the practical value of big data for users of official statistics and the practicalities of integrating such data into statistical production cycles in the areas of tourism, unemployment, commuting, and wellbeing statistics. The focus will be on meeting user needs, unpicking data quality issues, and how to form effective partnerships to access and analyse big data.	**Session papers:** • *Lessons for effective public-private partnerships from the use of mobile phone data in Indonesian tourism statistics* Titi Kanti Lestari* and Siim Esko ▪ *Subjective happiness index based on twitter in Indonesia* Asita Sekar Asri* and Siti Mariyah ▪ *Measuring commuting statistics in Indonesia using mobile positioning data* Amanda Pratama Putra, Ignatius Aditya Setyadi*, Siim Esko and Titi Kanti Lestari ▪ *Development of a big data analysis system (case study: unemployment statistics)* Maftukhatul Qomariyah Virati*, Rachmi Agustiyani, Siti Mariyah and Setia Pramana ▪ Moderator/Session organizer: Matthew Shearing

12.00 - 13.00	Special session 2: **What ISI WSC 2019 has to offer**
	       Presenter: Mohd Yazid Kasim, DOSM, SGRPES Co-chair and APES Task Force Lead
	       Moderator/Session organizer: Tanja Sejersen/Farzana Sharmin

13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break

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Tuesday, 18 June 2019

14.00 – 16.30	**Parallel session 3: Creative and digital economy**

Parallel session 3: Creative and digital economy

Advances in technology have generated new industries and influenced the way transactions are done or payments effected. While the 2008 SNA is a standard framework for all economic statistics, some aspects of the new economy such as creativity and digitization do not have internationally agreed statistical frameworks that can ensure comparability. Yet, the advances in technology are generating a new set of industries that are adding value to economic activities.

The session will discuss measurement issues for emerging areas in economic statistics as a result of advances in technology and the associated industries that are consequential to such change. It presents some case studies and attempts that some countries in the region are undertaking to measure the creative and digital economy.

Session papers:

- *Exploration and practice of new economy statistics within NBS*
  Wang Guan

- *E-commerce: The contribution to Malaysia's economy*
  Zainuddin Ahmad, Mazreha Ya'akub and Hasnah Mat

- *Use of digital currencies in measuring Indonesia's digital economy*
  Lovaditya Dhika Primaganis and Nasrudin

- *Emerging creative economy in Indonesia: Updating IO table and measuring regional contribution of creative economy*
  Ria Arinda and Theresa Novalia

- Moderator/Session organizer: Michael Smedes/ Alick Mjuma Nyasulu

Parallel session 4: Increasing visibility of NSOs

Central to a review of a National Statistical System (NSS) and to drafting and adopting new legislation on statistics is increasing the visibility of official statistics and the implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. The session will discuss how the RPES projects in the Maldives and Lao PDR have contributed to the adoption of these principles.

The session will discuss issues related to increasing visibility of official statistics including among others: raising the status of the NSO and Chief Statistician, the types of consultations and methods that work well to engage with the wide range of stakeholders in a NSS, and what are likely to change in the future about how NSOs work on increasing their status and visibility at national level, among others.

Session Panellists:

- *National Bureau of Statistics,* The Maldives
  Ashiyath Shazna
- *Lao Statistics Bureau*, Lao People's Democratic Republic
  Phousavanh Chanthasombath
- *Statistics Division, Secretariat of the Pacific Community,* Fiji
  Nilima Lal
- General Directorate for Statistics, Timor-Leste
  Elias Dos Santos Ferreira
- Moderator/Session organizer: Rikke Mun Hansen/Jessica Gardner

16:00 – 16:30	Coffee/tea break
16:30 – 17:00	**Wrap-up and reflections** (MC, session organizers, selected participant)

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21 | P a g e

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Wednesday, 19 June 2019

09:00 – 09:10	Recap of day 2
09:10 – 12.00	**Plenary session 2: The future of price statistics**
(10:30 – 11:00, Coffee/tea break)	Digitisation has greatly expanded the amount of data that is recorded regarding transactions (Scanner Data, online marketplaces; EBay, amazon, Airbnb, UBER, Grab, Go Jek etc). Price statistics, for which transaction data is essential has an opportunity to utilise these administrative datasets to improve the quality of price statistics while reducing the cost of publication. The question is how best to do it and what have people been able to achieve in Asia? The session will provide the audience with current state of how Big Data Web Scraping & Scanner Data can and is being used in NSOs to produce price indices and will establish the potentials with focus on what is possible, what is working and what is being done in various statistical agencies in the region.	**Session papers:** ▪ *Study of consumer price index based on e-commerce in Indonesia* Alifa Putri Wijaya and Siti Mariyah ▪ *Calculating decile inflation in Iran by using online prices data and fuzzy clustering method* Reza Hadizadeh, Hojjat Akbarian, Mansooreh Yazdankhah and Leila Teimourian ▪ *Calculating PPI for the arts, entertainment and recreation group of activities by using open data* Hojjat Akbarian, Sedigheh Mirzaei and Reza Hadizadeh ▪ *Price information from scanner data* Michael Smedes, UNSD ▪ Moderator/Session organizer: Frances Krsinich
12:00 – 13:00	Special session 3: **Ocean economy, Going beyond national accounts** Presenter: Teerapong Praphotjanaporn, ESCAP-SD Moderator/Session organizer: Eileen Capilit/Farzana Sharmin, ESCAP-SD
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break

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22 | P a g e

Wednesday, 19 June 2019

14.00 – 16.30	**Parallel session 5: New techniques for tourism statistics**	**Parallel session 6: Use of administrative data**

Parallel session 5: New techniques for tourism statistics

The session aims to generate better understanding of the potential for the application of emerging new techniques in tourism statistics, particularly in respect of the quality aspects required of official statistics and filling data gaps required for the SDGs. The session will focus on discussions which bring together the expertise of participants to analyse how well the new techniques compare with and could be combined with existing sources for official statistics and other possible admin data sources.

Session papers:

- *Review on tourism direct gross domestic product light - an indicator for measuring sustainable tourism*
  K Megala Kumarran* and Azrulnizam Zul

- *Digital survey approach for tourism statistics*
  Rina Indriani*, Atika Nashirah Hasyyati*, and Titi Kanti Lestari

- *The use of big data as leading indicators of tourism demand*
  Titi Kanti Lestari*, Siim Esko, Alexander Rayner, and Amalia A. Widyasanti*

- *The use of mobile positioning data to obtain accommodation statistics: Case study of Indonesia*
  Agus Ruslani*, Wa Ode Zuhayeni Madjida* and Amin Rois Sinung Nugroho

- *Accommodation and the sharing economy in New Zealand*
  Hamish Grant*

- Moderator/Session organizer: Matthew Shearing

Parallel session 6: Use of administrative data

Administrative data is the new foundation of economic statistics. Lower cost and lower provider burden than surveys. However, as it is not designed for the purpose of producing official statistics it needs to be processed with care. This session takes a focus on some examples of pragmatic ways to use administrative data, for official statistics, even when it is not perfect. This will facilitate a discussion on the relative methods used, other examples from the regions and other examples of best practice.

Session papers:

- *Big data for market frame creation*
  Ignatius Aditya Setyadi, Azif Rifai and Laura Intan Fadilah

- *Trade by enterprise characteristics: Managing structured data in a big data environment*
  Nur Aziha Mansor and Muhaimin Naim Md Nasir

- *Replication study: Development of export and import price indices in Bhutan*
  Penjor Gyeltshen and Bikash Gurun

- *Replication study: Development of SBR in Myanmar*
  Khin Ohnmar Myint Thein and Phyu Pyar Aung

- Moderator/Session organizer: Michael Biddington

16:00 – 16:30	Coffee/tea break
16:30 – 17:00	**Wrap-up and reflections** (MC, session organizers, selected participant)

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23 | P a g e

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Thursday, 20 June 2019

09:00 – 09:10	Recap of day 3

09:10 – 12.00	**Plenary session 3: What are we without our users?**
(10:30 – 11:00, Coffee/tea break)	Nurturing relationships between producers of official statistics and the wide range of people who do or could be using them is an increasing priority for NSOs and systems. Just as 'Partnerships for the Goals' is one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, so to user-producer partnerships must receive attention as one of the components of an effective national statistical system (NSS). This session will look at disseminating and communicating statistical information and engaging with data users to increase the accessibility and use of statistics. Five contributing papers explore recent experiences in Indonesia and Nepal related to the role of the NSO in building a national culture of evidence-based decision making; barriers and solutions to data accessibility and use; user analysis and satisfaction surveys; and developing new products to meet user needs.	**Session papers:** ▪ *Data products, dissemination and utilization aspects of economic statistics in Nepal towards achieving sustainable development goals* Mahesh Chand Pradhan* ▪ *Initiatives for strengthening economic statistics through statistical literacy* Gangaram Bhattarai ▪ *Driving social media to build statistical culture* Maulana Faris* ▪ *Investing in statistical knowledge – a road to sustainable statistical literacy* Maulana Faris and Yuniarti ▪ *Infographic as quick wins towards excellent public service* Zulhan Rudyansyah and Yuniarti ▪ Moderator/Session organizer: Jessica Gardner

12:00 – 12:15	**Seminar closing**
12:15 – 13:30	Lunch break
13:30 - 17.00	**Project country meeting (Consultations and technical discussions)**

Friday, 21 June 2019

09:00 – 17.00	**8th meeting of the steering group for the regional programme on economic statistics (SGRPES)**

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Annex III. Feedback provided by participants

A total of 65 evaluation questionnaire forms were received on the last day of the seminar.
The table below provide the summary and detailed responses to the questionnaire.

I. Quality of sessions:

Knowledge gained from the session helps me improve economic statistics in my country/organization						
Sessions	Total Responde nts	Strongl y Agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagre e	Disagre e	Stron gly disagr ee
Monday 17 June						
High level panel discussion on Monitoring sustainable development: The future of economic statistics	64	53%	44%	3%		
Special session 1: Agriculture-related SDGs monitoring: Challenges and opportunities	64	38%	55%	8%		
Parallel session 1: Challenges in national accounts estimation	55	51%	44%	5%		
Parallel session 2: Integrating data to leave no one behind	60	52%	47%	2%		
Tuesday 18 June						
Plenary session 1: Emerging techniques in using big data	64	63%	34%	3%	2%	
Special session 2: What ISI WSC 2019 has to offer	64	30%	59%	11%		
Parallel session 3: Creative and digital economy	59	54%	41%	5%		
Parallel session 4: Increasing visibility of NSOs	55	56%	42%	2%		
Wednesday 19 June						
Plenary session 2: The future of price statistics	64	55%	42%	3%	2%	
Special session 3: Ocean economy, Going beyond national accounts	63	46%	41%	13%		2%

Parallel session 5: New techniques for tourism statistics	60	48%	48%	3%	2%
Parallel session 6: Use of administrative data	65	60%	37%	3%	
Thursday 20 June					
Plenary session 3: What are we without our users?	65	70%	28%	2%	

Overall, the seminar improved your capacity to produce, disseminate and communicate statistical products and services	Total Respondents 65	Yes 98%	No 2%

II. Favourite session(s)

Which session(s) did you find the most useful? (By rank)

Emerging techniques in using Big Data – 20
- The use of big data and official stat can be a breakpoint to make the SDGs monitoring faster and better
- Big data can complement the conventional way to get the data
- It provided more insight on the alternative way of collecting data
- I work at national accounts directorate. So, it's really useful for our work & it will improve my knowledge especially in accounts topics.
- The main complaint is How to link the big data with the census and surveys data with administrative data.
- How to use big data is now very important for every NSO, especially in the time of implement of 2030 Agenda. We need new data sources to combine SDGs indicators
- Provides a new method of statistic, compare with administrative data
- The session gave me new knowledge for using big data to improve/enhance the compilation of national accounts data.
- Got more knowledge about big data
- We can compile and disseminate through only. It the future of statistics in the advance world, the big data going to greater role with low cost, timeliness, and accuracy. And finally, I am really interested in learning web scrapping.
- Hi-end technology driver, beneficiary and improvise traditional/conventional method
- We got new information about innovations to use of big data for supporting economic statistics (reducing cost and times)
- Appreciation of such tool/techniques, though to use these are still at experimental stage and exploratory in nature, were very useful and interesting to know what is happening in these emerging and fast-growing areas of research.
- Opportunity to understand latest development of Big Data issues in the field if official statistics. Opportunities to learn countries' experience and strategy adopted by countries among others: Public-private partnership, pilot & exploration of sing technology attached to big data, standard and best practices.
- Benefit and challenges if big data for NSOs and also SDGs indicators, Capacity on ICT infrastructure, data storage data quality of big data
- Informative, we are very new to big data and we found that we can combine the big data with our administrative data and complement the quality of our data

What are we without our users? – 18
- I like the videos
- It brings creative ideas on marketing statistics which is absolutely needed by NSOs.
- It's fun, playful and interesting
- Without dissemination the data that already produced cannot be really useful and give knowledge, so interesting ways or creative ways to deliver the "messages"
- Provided good examples and knowledge sharing on user-producer enjoyments, dissemination and statistical literacy.
- We still worked on it.
- It is our future work and should be paid more attention to
- Statistical products should be marketed effectively to reach users and users have to make culture of data using in decision making.
- Data literacy
- I'm responsible to compile modern publication such as infographics and other types of creative ways of dissemination. I also handle social media. This section is extremely useful.
- Very interesting for me because nowadays I think that in my organization doesn't plan well or have strategies on communication yet.
- Currently with limited capacity and financial resources, we need to identify new means which can complement the current practices of statistical compilations and dissemination.

Challenges in national accounts estimation – 8
- The session deals with related to estimation gross fixed capital formation including inventories, components of the financial accounts research and development, industry specific methods for value added estimation, regional accounts.
- I work at national accounts directorate. So, it's really useful for our work & it will improve my knowledge especially in accounts topics.
- Because I'm responsible in estimating changes in inventories as one of GDP component of expenditure approach. The session was full of interesting discussion and gave me best experience because I was there to give a presentation about my paper.
- This session was the most related with my division's work.
- It is very useful and directly related to my job
- It explores most interesting topics

Use of administrative data – 7
- We have a plan to apply this for next economic census
- It is most relevant to the type of work. I'm directly involved in & the content was very informative.

The future of price statistics – 5
- Very interesting to share the work done by other NSO
- I gained new ideas/knowledge and trained to act on those ideas.
- Give ideas on how to turn raw data captured from the new technology into insights or statistical products
- Useful information

Increasing visibility of NSOs – 4
- Related to my job, gave me a wider point of view

- NSO's role and work should be made visible and the quality of products should be credible which makes its status high
- Maldives is in the stage of developing 2nd NSDS
- Useful for statisticians as well as to statistical office since we can see the means and way to improve the visibility and the use of data

New techniques for tourism statistics - 4
- Very practical
- We can get new technique or innovation to get the expenditure data of tourists that collaborated with MNO
- Providing an insight from various perspective of challenges

Ocean economy, Going beyond national accounts – 4
- This topic was still new in economics statistics. The ocean accounts in very useful especially for the country which has the ocean with large area. The most interesting part is that there are still a lot of improvements to do with this ocean accounts
- I gained new ideas/knowledge and trained to act on those ideas.
- Being a new area, ocean accounting is essential for my country due to its geographical characteristics.

Monitoring sustainable development: The future of economic statistics – 2
- Economic and technology has developed changed day by day. So that, we need to monitor. Big data is required.

Integrating data to leave no one behind - 2
- Provided some examples on the course and methods of data integration and disaggregation
- Data disaggregation is main focus which is scattered and processed at different platforms.
- We should act to assist the government.

Creative and digital economy – 2
- Appreciation of such tool/techniques, though to use these are still at experimental stage and exploratory in nature, were very useful and interesting to know what is happening in these emerging and fast-growing areas of research.

Agriculture-related SDGs monitoring: Challenges and opportunities - 1
- It's pretty new area and very interesting

General Comments:
- Parallel sessions and the workshop and discussions part
- Everything is useful
- All sessions are really useful as reference and best practices of the study. Countries paper shared are useful and reflecting each country reality as a reference to other country either to use it or to replicate for statistical services.
- All sessions. Relevant to recent matters e.g. big data, new technologies, data dissemination
- All sessions were well coordinated as well as the coverage. However, it would have been better to get a variety of examples from different countries
- I like the concept of discussion because it engages more and helps a lot with the author of the paper. Hope can come again next year!

III. Least favourite session(s)

Which sessions did you find least useful? (By rank)

The future of price statistics – 5
- Not really managed nicely
- I think it would have been better as a parallel session. I found it interesting, however, my country is already advanced in this space.
- It is not my area
- Papers presented did not much address value to the current practices / knowledge we had

Use of administrative data - 4
- Administrative data is difficult to be integrated with data produced by NSO. Standardization is required in order to encounter this matter. And NSO should start thinking about this, "Standardization concept & methods" for all statistics activities conducted within NSS.
- Sharing data with state agencies
- Issues like negotiation expects framework of agreement of administrative data were expected to be discussed in length.

Ocean economy, Going beyond national accounts – 4
- Not likely to be developed in country for some time.
- I think that the most least useful area (compare to economic like CPI/agriculture) that need to be counted/measure, even it is important
- Less relevant to my country
- We are land locked country

Creative and digital economy – 2
- Exploration & practice of new economy statistics within NBS. Because the one who presented it, don't know the whole of the paper.

What are we without our users? – 2
- I think every country have its own method but the point where it should be customer oriented sometimes being forgotten.
- We already recognized that

Agriculture-related SDGs monitoring: Challenges and opportunities – 2
- Less relevant to my country
- Too technical and I don't work in that area

What ISI WSC 2019 has to offer – 2
- It explained an event not about economic statistic

Challenges in national accounts estimation – 1
- I don't have enough understanding in national account. Perhaps, because of my background in IT (information technology)

Emerging techniques in using big data – 1
- How to analyse the data? How to explain data to user?

New techniques for tourism statistics – 1

- We are not responsible for this

General Comments:
- Everything is engaging
- None
- I think all session give us information about improving our skill.
- Every session is very interesting and useful
- All sessions are useful
- No
- No! it is difficult to find out which session least useful.
- There is no least favourite session. All of the session is very interesting and useful.
- No sessions. All is very useful
- There were many sessions which needed the involvement of UN experts like in the session on data integration & Administrative statistics as were struggling to find concrete ideas/steps required for integration of various database, decide on point of integration, preparing/testing data (new) for integration.
- None – But some papers do not provide any details of methodology or results and presenter does not know them. This includes the paper form China. This is very important for ESCAP to guide presenters on what should be the format.
- None- however some papers presented were a bit out of topic, such as some in future of price statistics

IV. Organization:

	Total Respondents	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
How satisfied are you with the duration of the seminar	63	62%	35%	3%		
How satisfied are you with the services received (travel arrangements, information on logistics and facilities, general information, response to specific needs), prior to and during the workshop?	**64**	70%	28%	2%		

V. Comments (Additional points that you want to document)

Seminar organization:
1. Really like discussion sessions
2. Consider giving more time to present papers. Possibly enabled by less papers
3. It would be really important for ESCAP to have a policy to make it mandatory that, for all ESCAP events and capacity building events/trainings, it should be a must that only /or in addition to managerial officer of NSOs (Directors etc.) new/young statisticians should be given 80% chance, and they must be selected based on e-learning or online exercise marks/essay of interest which will be open for all free (without invitations or official nominations)So you get best people than a senior manager of NSO about to retirement attending and benefitting.
4. Room for parallel session should provide monitor to help the presenter.
5. It will be better if we had a bottle of water (small size) each morning, then we can fill it if we need it. Above all, this event is so great, the session itself full of insights from all countries. The timing is perfect.
6. Mineral water during seminar
7. Please add fun & playful quiz like Indonesian delegation did.
8. Accommodation: Water mineral during session
9. More to share on country perspectives
10. It would be much better if papers (presentations) are available earlier. We could have enough time to read, study them before attending the meeting.
11. I love how the organizers organized all the sessions in various ways. It gives some refreshment and surprises to the participants
12. I think the "parking lots" feature was very important However; the participants were quite passive this time. So, this "homework" approach used by Mathew may be used in the future to force the participants thought on the topic
13. Please provide certificate to the authors of the papers because this is important for us to put in out CV, and as an evidence of my professional career as a statistician.
14. Excellent. Please provide certificate
15. This year seminar is a lot better since there are more discussions and knowledge sharing
16. Analysis of country practices. Irrespective of these comments, the programme was useful, engaging and enabled the wonderful platform to exchange with various countries
17. The session generated a lot of ideas about how statistics can be strengthened with the emerging technology
18. Many thanks for excellent organization. Keep parallel session next year.
19. This APES 2019 is really useful seminar, which have really many topics who can help our economic statistics
20. If it is possible, maybe you can add more topics for the next APES seminar with extend the duration may be for two weeks.
21. Reach wider audience for participating in the seminar
22. Great organizing team
23. Give Equal chance to present papers to all countries. The seminar has enhanced my knowledge on attentive methods other countries are undertaking to and improve statistics
24. Clearer guidance could be provided to some paper presenters in giving an overview of methodologies that they followed and how their projects could give recommendation to other countries if they are to adopt those projects
25. Request to put not only Document / PPT on ESCAP's website, but also clips shown by BPS.
26. This is the most successful APES because of its modality: Parallel sessions- discussion driven, high-level discussion, special sessions exhibition
27. The everything is very good.

Topics of interest for future APES

28. It would be good to see more presentations/papers on developments that countries have implemented into official statistics
29. Please organize kind of the event on forward to develop our statistics community and find the way to solve all challenges and issues to help NSO meet its product user need.
30. There should be some session that enables countries to tackle the hindrances for using the infrastructure of big data. It would be better to call paper on some important topic (issues) that UNESCAP identified and priorities. APES is very fruit platform to share ideas and development in the field of statistics and this forum should be continued in the days to come.
31. Paying attention to the used techniques we also need to pay attentions on the conventional methods of official statistics.
32. UNESCAP to continue sessions on Big data
33. We needed some presentation on "Best/Good practices" identified by the UN which might have enlightened the session
34. Some implemented projects based on SEEA might be included
35. Sharing best practices from NSOs
36. Topics related to SDGs
37. Suggesting some session for conceptual and theoretical development,
38. Encourage more analytical content in submitted papers rather than describing what has been done.
39. Suggesting session for "Special address/lecture", "Keynote address" delivered by academics, experts, researchers, practitioners
40. Introduce best practice from submitted papers
41. Papers to emphasize a showcasing validation/usefulness of results, supported by some evidence
42. Selection of topics is the strong point, relevant to the latest development of SDGs and challenges by NSO, NSS and statistical community

Support for next APES

43. I got some inspirations to write next year so---see you!
44. I am looking forward to going back to the APES Week 2020!
45. This APES programme is very useful and effective in statistical knowledge sharing and promoting research and writing paper in NSOs in the region. So, it is better to continue this programme in coming years too.   Thanks a lot, to APES and the team in ESCAP and taskforce
46. It is the perfect size for networking
47. The seminar should be continued next year
48. Please consider APES week in the future
49. Develop capacity building
50. Platform for networking
51. Got experiences on economic statistics. Very liked conference programme. Future need like this kind of meeting/workshop and so on. Hope to meet more other participated countries regarding economic statistics.
52. Very useful to all economic statistic fields development in the NSOs
53. We would like APES to be continued in the future
54. This APES is very interactive. Topic is relevant to SDGs. Good interaction between speakers/ moderators and audience. Hopefully APES will be held every year to encourage, support all NSOs
55. This is my first time going abroad. So, it will be my great experience. Really! In the next time, if we meet again, I will come in better condition and more knowledge I promise.
56. It's great to join the seminar and I hope I can get involved in another seminar conducted by UN later. Thank you very much.
57. Good platform to share latest developments among regional countries.