RPES Project Support Meeting

Bangkok, 5 May 2016
Outline of Presentation

**RPES Fundamentals**
- Intergovernmental origins of the Regional Programme
- Core Set of Economic Statistics

**Implementation of RPES**
- Substantive priorities for implementation

**ESCAP’s economic statistics project**
- Results framework
- Operational modalities
The goal of Regional Programme on Economic Statistics (2010) is to increase capacity of Asia-Pacific countries to produce basic economic statistics.

| What is RPES mandate? | • RPES and its Core Set were designed by countries and development partners at the request of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics in 2009  
|                       | • Endorsed by the Committee on Statistics in 2010, i.e. the heads of NSOs |
| What does RPES aim to achieve? | • Improve planning, coordination and provision of technical assistance for better economic statistics in the region by 2020.  
|                           | • Outputs: Advocacy, Coordination, Statistical infrastructure, Skills |
| How?                     | • In line with national priorities (Steering Group for RPES)  
|                           | • In partnership (regional, international organizations, peer-to-peer exchanges) |
## Core Set of Economic Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prices and costs</td>
<td>• Consumer, producer, product price indices, labour cost, wages, exchange rates, PPPs, terms of trade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Demand &amp; output</td>
<td>• GDP (p/e), external trade, industrial structure statistics; short-term indicators (industry output/demand) and productivity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income &amp; wealth</td>
<td>• NA for economy/by sector to measure income, savings, investment, wealth; BoP to measure international income and capital flows, IIP and external debt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Money &amp; banking</td>
<td>• Assets and liabilities of banking sector, monetary measures and interest rates</td>
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<td>Government</td>
<td>• Public revenue, expenditure, borrowing and lending, government accounts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Labour market</td>
<td>• Labour supply &amp; demand, LF characteristics, employment &amp; unemployment, underemployment, hours worked, employment in informal &amp; formal sector, job creation, vacancies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural resources &amp; environment</td>
<td>• Measures of sustainable economic growth, discovery/depletion and degradation of natural assets</td>
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4 substantive priorities were identified by the Steering Group given the large scope (2013)

1. Labour/employment statistics
2. Household income/expenditure statistics
3. Structural business statistics/BRs
4. Measurement of natural resources

2008 SNA Implementation
Current projects within RPES aim to address 5 issues

- Need for an **NSS-wide assessment** covering institutional, organizational and domain-specific issues (Peer Reviews)
- Improvement of the underlying data for main **national accounts** indicators (including the SEEA) and **business statistics** (In-depth assessments & following research and technical assistance)
- Building of capability not only for routine data production but also for understanding the statistics and scrutinizing the **quality of statistics** (National research projects)
- Need for **institutional capacity building** for training (Materials, ToTs)
- **Coordination**: Doing all of this under the NSO’s leadership together with all concerned national agencies and development partners
The Project in numbers

- USD **2.5M**
- 4 years (2015-2018)
- 9 project priority countries ++
The DFID-funded project aims at increased availability of high quality economic statistics and improved capacity of national statistical systems to produce quality economic statistics.

**Output A:** Improved knowledge on the strengths and weaknesses of national statistical systems in project countries.

**Output B:** Improved capacity of national statistical training institutions on the Core Set of Economic Statistics.

**Output C:** Improved technical knowledge and statistical infrastructure in national statistical systems for the production of quality economic statistics.
Project activities

• Peer reviews
  – Intended to provide a baseline for system-wide statistics development and facilitate better coordination for the production of statistics, e.g. Maldives, Cambodia.

• In-depth assessments
  – Assessments intended to go further in depth of the issues related to the national priorities for improving economic statistics.

• National research projects
  – Focus on improving data collection or compilation methodology in specific area.

• Technical assistance, e.g. expert missions
• Development of training materials, e-learning and training of trainers
Interaction of outputs and activities

- All countries
- Priority project countries
- Resource Facility beneficiaries

Foundation
- Improve knowledge on NSS capacity
- Improve capacity of national training institutions
- Improve capacity of NSSs for producing Core Set

RPES & Core set

- Development of training materials and tools
- Training of trainers (national roll-out)

- National plans
- Peer reviews

- In depth assessment
- National research
- Technical assistance

- Research proposals
- National plans
- Technical assistance
- National research
Resource Facility

• Funding for proposed national studies from Asia-Pacific region
• Substantive scope defined by the Core Set and RPES
• ESCAP, experts from SGRPES and development partners involved in substantive reviewing and approval
The success of the project depends on full partnership with the national statistical systems

- Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam
  - Ensure alignment with national priorities (national development plans, NSDS, etc.)
  - Ensure absorption capacity (timing of project, human resources, coordination with other development partners in country)
  - Ensure sustainability (post-project vision)
Resource Facility (criteria under discussion)

1. ESCAP screens received proposals

2. Selected Steering Group members and field experts review proposals

3. ESCAP in consultation with selected NSO draft LoA

4. ESCAP internal review of the LoA first draft

5. ESCAP Grants Committee reviews LoA for the approval

6. After approval, ESCAP and selected country sign LoA
General Statistical Office of Viet Nam
“Business registers data used for official statistics”

Reviewed by:
Selected Steering Group Members & Experts

Mr Jonathon Khoo, Australian Bureau of Statistics
Ms Luisa Ryan, Australian Bureau of Statistics
Mr Fazrul Azlan Othman, Department of Statistics Malaysia

COMMENTS
Data would be very useful to scope frames; impute for missing data; and model data to replace direct collection.

Needs for improvement:
• Reconfigure time frame
• Negotiate an MOU with the Tax Office for implementation

Adjustment:
Proposal under review
Training

• Training materials based on Core Set areas
• Priorities to be set by a working group under SGRPES
• E-learning, training of trainers with a view to developing national training capacities
Questions for countries