

### Call for Papers

The Asia-Pacific Economic Statistics Week (APES 2019) is designed as a regular forum for experts and managers involved in economic statistics production and dissemination in Asia and the Pacific.

We are pleased to invite papers for the Asia-Pacific Economic Statistics Week 2019 (APES 2019), which will be organized within the theme of **Integrating economic statistics in monitoring Agenda 2030**. The present call for papers pertains to the seminar component of APES 2019, where analysis relevant to economic statistics production and dissemination are presented and discussed by experts from National Statistical Offices (NSOs), Central Banks, research institutions, think tanks and international organizations.

Papers being invited to the seminar should address SDG indicators related to economic statistics such as labour/employment, income, tourism, sustainable industrialization and consumption amongst others. Papers addressing emerging research areas identified by the UN Statistical Commission such as globalization, digitalization, well-being and sustainability are also encouraged. The seminar invites papers that promote public-private cooperation to exploit the contribution to Agenda 2030 monitoring by a range of data, including big data such as earth observation, geospatial, scanner and mobile data, and data scraped from the web. Also, papers demonstrating innovation and creativity in communicating and disseminating economic statistics will be considered.

In addition, papers should demonstrate innovation and practical attempts to address challenges that currently exist to compile, produce or communicate a specific aspect of economic statistics. Authors are encouraged to be practical in their approach.

Authors who would like to submit a paper to APES 2019 should send a brief abstract to [stat.unescap@un.org](mailto:stat.unescap@un.org), with copy to [chatwanichkul@un.org](mailto:chatwanichkul@un.org) by **15 December 2018**. Abstracts and papers should be aligned with the theme of APES 2019 and following topics:

#### **Topic 1: Alternative data sources for production of official economic statistics and SDG indicators**

The technology landscape is changing rapidly, and national statistical systems need to keep pace to remain relevant. Huge volumes of data are generated daily to the extent that traditional data collection methods such as surveys are increasingly becoming ineffective. New data are loosely referred to as “big data” and include data harvested from web-scraping, mobile phone data, social media data, scanner data, satellite data, amongst others. Data from these new and alternative sources can play a role in producing official statistics for example: tourism, trade, labour, transport, energy use, consumption and price. Use of alternative data sources has the potential to enhance quality of official statistics from the perspective of relevance, accuracy and timeliness. The resulting official statistics can serve to enhance the accuracy, timeliness and availability of indicators for SDGs, for example those related to

targets such as innovation, sustainable consumption/production and incomes for the employed.

The private sector has often led in the use of alternative data sources and opportunities for public-private partnerships should be exploited for production of official statistics and SDG indicators. National statistical agencies can explore adoption of alternative data sources to not only produce their standard outputs, but widen the scope of statistics in a dynamic environment of users.

Authors should approach their papers by choosing a specific type of alternative data source and thoroughly demonstrate its use and application.

### **Topic 2: Emerging issues in economic statistics**

Economic statistics are evolving as countries open their economies. Similarly, advances in technology are creating new avenues for commerce and trade. New business models of commerce continue to emerge beyond national borders. As such issues such as digitisation, globalization, creativity, merchanting, culture, knowledge economy, wellbeing and sustainability are increasingly becoming important. SDGs have recognized their importance and have set targets relating to innovation and value addition chains. For statistics, the challenge is how they can be measured and be integrated in traditional international frameworks such as the 2008 System of National Accounts (2008 SNA) and the Balance of Payments Manual (BPM6) to improve the accuracy of SDG indicators as well as national development indicators that rely on these manuals.

Papers by authors under this topic may tackle any of the issues highlighted above and provide insightful analysis on how measurement is being done or address ongoing initiatives in their respective countries from an analytical point of view. Authors are requested to not restrict themselves to statistics that have been officially published, but can as well discuss methods or approaches that are being researched for possible future adoption in-house. Practical applications that rely on specific case studies based on real data are encouraged. Authors may also challenge existing frameworks and practices using relevant examples

### **Topic 3: Communicating Economic Statistics**

To facilitate development of evidence-based policies, statistical producing agencies have a critical task to be proactive and develop two-way communication with decision-makers and other users of statistical data. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development presents a prime opportunity for statistical organizations to engage more closely with the policy-making and monitoring process, for example through the development of a monitoring framework for national development plans.

Communication ensures that there is increased uptake of statistics in the decision-making process. It also helps increase statistical literacy that in turn creates a society that becomes interested in statistics, and ably holds public officials accountable with facts. There is a need for national statistical systems to be innovative in the communication and delivery of

statistical results and other outputs to increase their interpretability, relevance and use for (economic, social, environmental) policy.

Authors are encouraged to write papers that demonstrate innovation and creativity to communicate otherwise complex statistical products to multiple audiences, analyze strengths and weaknesses of current approaches to disseminate and explain economic statistics for use in policy development and explore and recommend alternative communication strategies. Papers could address the related topics of inter-institutional (governance) systems and policy, emerging technologies for disseminating statistical information, approaches to systematically evaluate the relevance and use of statistical products, or other angles to highlight challenges and opportunities for more effective use of economic statistics for decision-making.

### **Preparation and submission of abstracts**

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Examples of some of the papers that meet the expectations of the APES seminar can be viewed on the links below:

- (1) [Measuring Creative Economy in Indonesia: Issues and challenges in data collection](#)
- (2) [Valuing New Zealand's digital economy](#)
- (3) [Estimating undocumented transactions of export and import of goods in Indonesia](#)
- (4) [Monitoring consumer price trend using daily price data of online grocery stores in India](#)
- (5) [Measuring Goods for Processing and Manufacturing Services in Malaysia](#)
- (6) [Major revision experiences on insurance sector estimations in the national accounts system of Turkey](#)
- (7) [Tracking Labour Market Condition using Google Search Data – Indian Case Study](#)
- (8) [Comics for Statistics Literacy – Understanding Seasonal Adjustment Figures](#)
- (9) [Predicting tourism demand in Indonesia using google trends data](#)

- **Guidelines for abstracts:** Must be written in English; Word limit: 200-350 words
- **Submission of abstracts:** In the cover email, authors should indicate which one of the 3 topics their abstract relates to.
- **Detailed guidelines and templates**  
Guidelines and templates for abstracts and papers are provided on the [Asia-Pacific Economic Statistics Week 2019 page](#).
- **Note:** Abstracts accepted at previous APES seminars are not eligible.

**Secretariat contact** Requests for additional information and questions can be addressed to Ms Supaporn Chatwanichkul at [chatwanichkul@un.org](mailto:chatwanichkul@un.org) with copy to [stat.unescap@un.org](mailto:stat.unescap@un.org), or by phone +66 2288 2492