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Contents

The Working Group of Statistical Experts met for its twelfth session from 27 to 30 November 2001 to review global and regional issues in official statistics.....	2
OECD/ADB/ESCAP Workshop on Composite Leading Indicators and Business Tendency Surveys, Bangkok, 22-26 October 2001	5
Fourth Subregional Training Workshop on Environment Statistics.....	6
ESCAP/UNSD Workshops on International Merchandise Trade Statistics for selected countries of the ESCAP region.....	6
Seminars / Training opportunities	7
Publications released by the Statistics Division.....	8
Missions of ESCAP Statistics Division Staff	8
Visitors to the Statistics Division	9
Staff Movements	9

From the Editor

The last quarter of the year was marked by the meeting of the Working Group of Statistical experts. This was the occasion to review the latest progress and developments concerning global and regional issues in the field of official statistics. A summary of the discussions and recommendations is presented in the newsletter. Interested readers may want to refer to the Statistics Division website for the complete report and documents presented during the meeting.

Another activity of ESCAP reported on in this issue includes the OECD/ADB/ESCAP Workshop on Composite Leading Indicators (CLIs) and Business Tendency Surveys held in October in Bangkok.

As part of the project "Development of Environment Statistics in the ESCAP region", the fourth Subregional Training Workshop on Environment statistics is also covered.

We wish you good reading.

Thirty-third session of the Statistical Commission - 5-8 March 2002, New York

The Statistical Commission considers special issues of concern in international statistical development, methodological issues, coordination and integration of international statistical programmes, support of technical cooperation activities in statistics and organizational matters.

The provisional agenda of the upcoming session covers a wide range of issues of importance for the Asia-Pacific region in areas such as national accounts, the International Comparison Programme, development indicators, and statistical capacity-building.

More information is available at <http://www.un.org/Depts/unsd/statcom/sc2002.htm>



The Working Group of Statistical Experts met for its twelfth session from 27 to 30 November 2001 to review global and regional issues in official statistics.

The twelfth session of the Working Group of Statistical Experts was held in Bangkok from 27 to 30 November 2001.

The meeting was attended by 23 members and associate members of ESCAP as well as representatives of other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies. The Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) and other international and regional organizations were also represented.

The meeting was opened by the Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP, who expressed pleasure at the close involvement in the statistical work of ESCAP as demonstrated by the strong participation of countries and agencies.

The meeting then proceeded to adopt the following substantive agenda:

- Overview of significant and regional issues in official statistics
- Poverty statistics
- National Accounts
- International Comparison Programme: Plans for Asia and the Pacific
- Price statistics
- Integrated environmental and economic accounting
- Measuring the knowledge-based economy
- Coordination of development indicators

Only excerpts from the meeting will be presented here. Interested readers may request a printed copy of the report (see address on last page) or access the Statistics Division web site at <http://www.unescap.org/stat/> for the full report and documents presented during the meeting.

Overview of significant global and regional issues in official statistics

Participants were briefed about the latest developments in official statistics based on recent sessions of the United Nations Statistical Commission, the 57th session of the ESCAP Commission, and the Subcommittee on Statistical Activities of the Administrative Committee on Coordination.

The subjects of statistics on international trade in services and of capital stock statistics were considered

in conjunction with the recent publication of manuals on these topics.

An update on ILO's work on the subject of Labour Accounting System for Tourism (LAS-T) was provided as well as a presentation of the work programme of the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD) and UNCHS (Habitat) in the area of human settlements statistics.

With regard to the PARIS21 consortium activities in Asia and the Pacific, the Working Group was encouraged to suggest areas of work in the region such as strategic planning and business tendency surveys.

The Working Group also examined the issue of the quality of official statistics in the perspective of the IMF's Data Quality Assessment Framework.

On a technical note, the Working Group recognized the emergence of XML technology as a useful tool that could provide an open source standard for data dissemination of statistical information on the web and recommended that it be kept under review for the next session of the Committee on Statistics.

Poverty statistics

Discussions on the subject were based on two documents entitled "Recent initiatives taken by ESCAP on poverty measurement" and "Issues and recommendations for improving poverty statistics". The secretariat's Concept Paper "Focusing ESCAP's programme" also served the discussion as a background paper.

Although it acknowledged that common statistical methodologies and intercountry comparison of poverty levels are essential in measuring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, the Working Group considered that developing capacity in poverty measurement for national use in policy making was of paramount importance.

In any case, it was recognized that measuring poverty was a difficult exercise due to the different criteria used. The commonly used \$1 a day criterion is often inadequate and the broad concept of poverty encompasses health, education, and many other domains that also had to be measured.

The Working Group also noted that comparability could be improved using uniform energy thresholds and food expenditure/total expenditure ratios, and through basing analysis on the proportion and number of poor instead of on poverty lines.

The Working Group emphasized that while it was important to improve the theoretical and technical aspects of poverty data, it was equally important to identify the characteristics of the poor in order to design and implement programmes for them.

National accounts

The participants had before them a paper entitled "Proposed Action Plan on the Implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts" prepared by ESCAP. Reviewing activities undertaken in the region in that area, the paper also provided the status of implementation of the 1993 SNA for the region based on a survey conducted by the secretariat.

After taking note of the problems and issues raised concerning the implementation of the 1993 SNA, the Working Group agreed with the objectives of the proposed action plan in assisting countries in the "compilation and dissemination of timely, accurate, reliable, and internationally comparable national account statistics". The action plan spells out some specific targets for achievement in the 2002-2005 period.

Among the strategies and activities of the action plan, emphasis was given to user-producer workshops on national accounts to generate understanding of and support for the changes in the 1993 SNA. In that regard, a simplified and well written resource kit on the 1993 SNA would be effective for communicating to policy-makers and high-level officials.

Other suggestions examined included the elaboration of the UNSD manual on non-financial sector accounts, the use of software for data compilation, and a guidebook in measuring the non-observed economy.

The Working Group heard the experience of countries in the implementation of the 1993 SNA, from strategies adopted in promoting the new sets of estimates to difficulties encountered such as outdated base years, consistency of quarterly estimates of GDP, and the treatment of effects of natural disasters.

The Working Group concluded by unanimously endorsing the action plan and urging the secretariat to proceed with its articulation and implementation.

International Comparison Programme: Plans for Asia and the Pacific

The paper presented to the Working Group recapitulated the objectives, current status and challenges of the International Comparison Programme (ICP) and described the United Nations Statistical Commission's call for a revitalization of the ICP.

The paper presented strategies for strengthening the ICP and building confidence in the purchasing power parity (PPP) data. The comprehensive strategic framework developed by the World Bank in close cooperation with other agencies incorporated the widely accepted recommendations of the Ryten report.

The framework provides for a Global Governing Body consisting of representatives from the Statistical Commission, regional agencies and international

organizations. The International Secretariat (Global Coordinator) would be responsible for preparing work plans to be approved by the Global Governing Body; mobilizing resources; implementing the global programme and monitoring progress; linking regional results and generating global PPPs; analysing and disseminating results; and reporting to stakeholders. Some 120 developing countries are listed for ICP 2003 with 27 of them in the Asia-Pacific region.

The funding target amounts to US\$14 million of which World Bank, IMF, UNDP and WHO had agreed to cover 30%. Some regional agencies had already agreed to cover the cost of regional coordination, and bilateral donors were being approached.

The Working Group was also presented with the preliminary findings of two pilot studies implemented by the ESCAP secretariat. The first study aimed at making ICP work more routine by harmonizing it with CPI collections to allow regular computation of PPPs in a cost-effective manner. The second study objective was to assess the feasibility of calculating PPPs for poverty measurement by identifying a consumption bundle for the poor or obtaining some adjustment factors that could be applied to general PPPs.

The Working Group concluded by recommending efforts to secure adequate funding to ensure that the ICP programme was successful. Decisions on the programme will be reached during the next Statistical Commission session and at an ICP conference in March 2002.

Price Statistics

The discussions were supported by a document covering the issues raised during the International Workshop on Consumer Price Indices (Singapore, 4-8 June 2001).

The Working Group noted with satisfaction that all the chapters of the draft of the revised ILO Manual on the Consumer Price Index had been redrafted taking into account comments made during the Singapore meeting. The Manual had been made more user-friendly and a new chapter on concepts, coverage and classifications had been added. The Working Group noted that it was not too late to let the drafters of the manual know what problems countries were facing, and CPI compilers were encouraged to send examples of problems and suggested solutions if available.

Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting

The Working Group was informed about recent developments in the System of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting (SEEA) and the outcomes of the London Group meeting which had discussed the draft SEEA 2000. The revised SEEA 2000 would be submitted to the Statistical Commission

for approval in 2002 and thereafter would be published by the United Nations, the World Bank, OECD and EUROSTAT.

The Group heard with interest about Mongolia's experience in compiling natural resources accounting and associated valuation techniques using guidance from the Operational Manual of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting.

Measuring the Knowledge-Based Economy

Reflection on this very new area of work for many statisticians worldwide was supported by a note from the secretariat entitled "Measuring the knowledge based economy" and a document from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), "A statistical framework for measuring knowledge in the Australian economy and society".

While measurement of the information society and knowledge-based economy require further conceptual, methodological and empirical work, national statistical offices are facing increasing demand for indicators. The Working Group consequently recommended that statistical offices should use a pragmatic and incremental approach in that field of work and recognized that the development of indicators could be attempted as skills and national data collection methods improved. A limited set of indicators such as those related to the infrastructure, production and use of information and communication technology (ICT) was an approach that had successfully been tried in a number of developed countries.

The Working Group took note of the development of standards by the OECD and other countries and emphasized the importance of developing explicit definitions to improve statistical classifications of economic activities, occupations, and products and services. The Working Group expressed the wish that the United Nations would assume a more visible role in the development of statistical standards for the measurement of the information society and knowledge-based economy.

The Working Group heard with interest the experience of ABS in developing a framework to measure knowledge in the Australian economy and noted that it was based on the assumption that knowledge-based economies were in a superior position to generate economic growth and well-being for people. The Working Group noted that moving from measuring the information society to measuring the knowledge-based society added complexity and subjectivity to the process.

The ABS framework included five dimensions, each with characteristics to be measured by a number of indicators:

- (i) innovation and entrepreneurship

- (ii) human and social capital

- (iii) the role of ICT

- (iv) fundamentals of economy, society and environment

- (v) economic and social impacts

Commenting on the ABS framework, the Working Group observed that it was comprehensive and required a substantive amount of data compilation. It was suggested that a dimension capturing the democratic and political aspects of the knowledge-based economy and indicators on mass media might be added to the framework.

The Working Group noted that while statistics on the information society were only beginning to assume priority, it welcomed the secretariat's initiatives to obtain resources for building national capacities on the measurement of the information society in developing countries.

Coordination of development indicators

The Working Group discussed the issue of coordination of development indicators on the basis of a document prepared by the secretariat and of the final report of the "Friends of the Chair" expert group formed by the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC).

The Working Group strongly supported the report's recommendation to rationalize and reduce the number of development indicators. The Working Group also appreciated the adoption of the three tier system to identify priorities among indicators.

While the Working Group particularly agreed with the report's recommendations stressing the need to further strengthen programmes aimed at building up the statistical capacity of NSOs in developing countries, it raised doubts concerning the relevance and validity of an indicator to measure the statistical capacity of a country. Thus it could not support this "Friends of the Chair" recommendation. The role of such an indicator was seen as unclear, and the Working Group recalled that similar past experiences such as the "milestones" assessment system for the 1993 SNA had suffered from drawbacks.

While appreciating that discussions on development indicators took place within the United Nations Statistical Commission, the Working Group expressed its concern that the UNSC could lose its role as the principal forum to discuss statistics at a global level. The concerns stem from the observation that several discussions on statistical issues tended to shift from the UNSC to other forums. The Working Group affirmed that the United Nations Statistical Commission should remain the apex body for global discussions and norm setting in official statistics.

Additional concerns were expressed about the use by donor agencies of Participatory Poverty Assessments, generally conducted through interviews of focus groups. Although cheap and quick to implement, these surveys were considered neither replicable nor statistically valid. The Working Group therefore suggested that the data from this type of survey should be taken as supplementary to those produced through traditional surveys and should not replace them.

Implications for statistical work in the region of the possible revised conference, programme and secretariat structures of ESCAP

Concluding its review of previous substantive issues, the Working Group considered the implications of the possible revised conference, programme, and secretariat structures of ESCAP on statistical work in the region.

While noting that the proposed focus themes for ESCAP future work programmes (poverty reduction, managing globalization, and addressing emerging social issues) might be valuable for the strategic planning of the Commission, the Working Group felt that confining its statistical work to any single one of the themes would be detrimental to regional capacity building and coordination, the main thrust of the statistical subprogramme. The Committee and the statistics subprogramme should continue to be broad in scope, ranging over all three themes that had been identified and even beyond.

The Working Group agreed that the six priority areas designated by the Committee on Statistics and endorsed by the Commission at its 57th session were still valid and reflected the current needs of the region. They are the 1993 SNA; poverty statistics; gender statistics; statistics on the informal sector; environment statistics; and the measurement of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and the knowledge-based economy.

The Working Group asked the Bureau to continue monitoring developments in the conference and related structures of the Commission and investigate the possibility of bringing the concerns of regional statistical coordination to the next session of the United Nations Statistical Commission (March 2002)

OECD/ADB/ESCAP Workshop on Composite Leading Indicators and Business Tendency Surveys, Bangkok, 22-26 October 2001

Attended by 11 countries of the region, the workshop was divided in two parts. Two days were allocated to the study of progress reports on the implementation of

harmonized business tendency surveys in Asia while the remaining three days were devoted to training on composite leading indicators.

Participating countries reported their progress in using the OECD-EU harmonized Business Tendency Surveys (BTS). Several issues were raised during the discussions:

- Harmonized BTS require separate questionnaires for *industry, trade, construction* and *other sectors*. As it is difficult to have a single questionnaire for a broad range of activity, the recommended solution is to confine the survey to a single sector. In that case, the *industry* sector should be the first to be considered as it is the most cyclical.
- Participants felt that respondents to surveys could not properly take into account seasonal variations. Most, though not all, OECD surveys require respondents to ignore seasonal effects. Although seasonal variations are not completely eliminated, results show a lesser degree of seasonal variations.
- In some countries with a long history of business tendency surveys, the new format of harmonized BTS may be disconcerting for survey respondents. It was suggested that the two sets of questionnaires be run in parallel for a certain adaptation period.
- Some participants also sought advice on how to better analyse and present results of surveys.

Countries will send results of BTS data to OECD to be stored in a global database for both OECD member countries and non-members. These data will be made available through the OECD website to all countries and institutions contributing to the development of the database.

Composite Leading Indicators (CLI)

The indicator for each country is made up by combining several statistical series that have in the past shown cyclical patterns that predate cycles in industrial production by about six months. Because movements in industrial production are highly correlated with movements in Gross Domestic Product, the CLIs can predict turning points in GDP, as well as industrial production, with a lead of approximately 6 months.

The CLI makes use of qualitative information from business tendency surveys as well as monetary and financial variables and statistics on trade. The OECD/ADB/ESCAP programme to encourage wider use of business tendency surveys is thus closely linked with the development of composite leading indicators.

The training on CLI was organized around two software packages:

- *Demetra*, developed by Eurostat, is used for seasonal adjustment of sub-annual statistics

- *Composite Indicator* software developed by OECD to compute indicators

Two participating countries (China and Malaysia) had already started work on CLI and were invited to share their experiences with the Workshop.

The Workshop concluded by expressing the need for a further meeting to review progress of the harmonized BTS in the region and to consolidate CLI training. As preparation for the future workshop, participants were invited to review what short-term economic series are available in their own countries and to make use of the two software packages to form composite indicators.

Preliminary CLIs will be presented at the next meeting.

Fourth Subregional Training Workshop on Environment Statistics

The fourth workshop was part of the "Development of Environment Statistics in the ESCAP region" project implemented by the Statistics Division. The workshop, held in Bangkok from 1 to 12 October 2001, was attended by 19 representatives from Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) countries along with Armenia and Georgia.

All the subregional workshops had similar programmes, organized in 4 modules:

- Introduction to environment statistics and relation to indicators and accounting
- Emissions and environmental quality
- Agri-Environmental statistics
- Environmental and economic accounting

The workshop also included a one-day round table discussion for country representatives to share their experience in this field of statistics.

From the four workshops held, which trained 73 representatives from 38 countries of the region, preliminary conclusions can be summarized as follows:

- (i) Most of the participants reported that this series of subregional training workshops was the first training course in the field of environment statistics in the ESCAP region, in which essential information was delivered to the countries;
- (ii) Most participants also noted that the information provided through the OECD and UNSD Questionnaires on environment statistics would enable them to set up the appropriate framework of environment statistics and indicators

for their countries so they could start coordinating relevant data collection;

- (iii) All the workshops emphasized that since priority environmental issues could change from one subregion to another, the secretariat might conduct other workshops based on thematic environmental issues as a follow-up action of this project. Subregional priority issues might include e.g. natural disasters, measurement techniques for air pollution, water pollution, marine environment, natural resources accounting, survey design techniques for environment statistics, and policy-based environment and sustainable development indicators.

ESCAP/UNSD Workshops on International Merchandise Trade Statistics for selected countries of the ESCAP region

The workshops are part of a joint effort by the United Nations Statistics Division and ESCAP to maintain the momentum of improving trade data in the region. The first workshop took place in Bangkok from 8 to 12 October 2001 and gathered delegates from Bhutan, Cambodia, DPR Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Singapore and Viet Nam. The second workshop, organized in conjunction with the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre, took place in Vanuatu from 12 to 16 November 2001 and drew together participants from the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

As stressed in opening statements of the two workshops, accurate trade statistics are becoming ever more crucial in the perspective of the globalization of economies and of countries' participation in the World Trade Organization. Many countries represented are already members of the WTO or have observer status. During the workshops, an overview of concepts and definitions covering most aspects of international trade statistics was presented. Countries also had the opportunity to share experiences through country presentations followed up by group discussion of problems and possible solutions.

Seminars / Training opportunities

2002 Summer Workshops in Washington at the International Programs Center (IPC) of the U.S. Census Bureau

The International Programs Center from the U.S. Census Bureau is organizing the following seven workshops for summer 2002:

- Editing Specifications Development for Censuses and Surveys
29 April - 10 May, 2002 (2 weeks, US \$2,000)
- Microcomputer Processing of Censuses and Surveys
13 May - 7 June, 2002 (4 weeks, US \$4,000)
- Effective Data Dissemination Systems for the New Millennium
10 - 28 June, 2002 (3 weeks, US \$3,000)
- Sampling and Statistical Methods
1 - 26 July, 2002 (4 weeks, US \$4,000)
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
29 July - 6 September, 2002 (6 weeks, US \$7,500- includes commercial software)
- Analysis and Evaluation of Gender Statistics
9 - 27 September, 2002 (3 weeks, US \$3,000)
- Statistical Methods for Measuring Economic Development and Growth
30 September - 18 October, 2002 (3 weeks, US \$3,000)

For further information, please contact:

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Washington, D.C. 20233-8860
Fax: (301) 457-3033
E-Mail address: ipcta@census.gov
Web site: www.census.gov/ipc/www/imps/train.htm

Seminars of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), U.S. Department of Labor

Following its long tradition in providing international training, the Bureau of Labor Statistics has announced its summer course programme.

The seminars examine survey design, sampling, data collection, aggregation, estimation, analysis and dissemination and include field trips, lectures, workshops and discussions.

The 2002 programme is as follows:

- Measuring Employment and Unemployment
April 15 - May 24, 2002 (6 weeks, US\$ 7,300)
- Labor Market Information
April 22 - May 24, 2002 (5 weeks, US\$ 6,225)
- Managing Information Technology
May 28 - June 21, 2002 (4 weeks, US\$ 5,150)
- Measuring Compensation
May 28 - June 21, 2002 (4 weeks, US\$ 5,150)
- Economic Indicators
June 24 - July 26, 2002 (5 weeks, US\$ 6,225)
- Constructing Price Indexes
July 15 - August 23, 2002 (6 weeks, US\$ 7,300)
- Measuring Productivity
July 29 - August 23, 2002 (4 weeks, US\$ 5,150)
- Projecting Tomorrow's Workforce Needs
August 12 - Sept. 13, 2002 (5 weeks, US\$ 6,225)
- Analyzing Labor Statistics
October 28 - Nov. 22, 2002 (4 weeks, US\$ 5,150)
- Managing Statistical Programs
October 28 - Nov. 8, 2002 (2 weeks, US\$ 2,350)
- Training of Trainers
Offered after most seminars (3 days, US\$ 645)

For further information, please contact:

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55th Annual Summer Institute in Survey Research Techniques

The Survey Research Center at the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research announced the 55th Annual Summer Institute. The Summer Institute is a training program conducted by the staff of the Survey Research Center and other survey organizations. The training treats the sample survey as a basic instrument for the scientific measurement of human activities.

The Summer Institute offers graduate-level courses during the period June 3 through July 26, 2002. Courses are eight weeks, four weeks, two weeks, and one week in length. Course topics include questionnaire design, cognition and survey measurement, survey sampling, and analysis of survey data.

2002 Summer Institute courses:

- Analysis of survey data I (3-28 June)
- Analysis of survey data II (3-28 June)
- Computer analysis of survey data II (3-28 June)
- Analysis of survey data III (1-26 July)
- Computer analysis of survey data III (1-26 July)
- Analysis of complex sample survey data (3 June-26 July)
- Introduction to survey research techniques (3 June-26 July)
- Multi level analysis of survey data (3-28 June)
- Cognition, communication, and survey measurement (3-28 June)
- Questionnaire design (3-28 June)
- Focus groups as qualitative research (15-26 July)
- Combining qualitative and quantitative methods (1-12 July)
- Qualitative Methods: Overview & Semi-Structured Interviewing (1-12 July)
- Qualitative data analysis with/without computers (15-26 July)
- Workshop in Survey Sampling Techniques (3 June-26 July)
- Data collection methods (3 June-26 July)
- Methods of survey sampling (3 June-26 July)
- Evaluation research design (1-26 July)
- Proseminar I: Population research in developing countries (3-28 June)
- Proseminar II: Population research in developing countries (1-26 July)
- Building and testing structural equation models (1-26 July)

One Week Courses

- Statistics analysis with missing data (22-26 July)
- Introduction to survey quality (24-28 June)
- Event history calendar interviewing (17-21 June)
- Web Survey Design (8-12 July)
- Web Survey Implementation (8-12 July)
- Event History Analysis (17-21 June)
- Introduction to Questionnaire Design (10-14 June)
- Questions for Interviewer-Administered Surveys: An Introduction (24-28 June)
- Introduction to Small Area Estimation (15-19 July)
- Model-Based Small Area Estimation (22-26 July)

Workshops

- Changing lives of older couples: exploring bereavement among older adults (3-7 June)
- Examining the health and retirement study (8-12 July)
- Introduction to the survey research process (10-14 June)

Fees to attend as a Summer Scholar range from \$750 for a one-week course to \$2,200 for four classes.

For further information, please contact:

Summer Institute in Survey Research Techniques
P.O. Box 1248, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106

Phone: 734-764-6595

Fax: 734-764-8263

Email: summers@isr.umich.edu

Web site: <http://www.isr.umich.edu/src/si/>

Publications released by the Statistics Division

- *Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific, Volume XXXI, No.3, September 2001;*
- *Statistical Newsletter, No. 123*

Missions of ESCAP Statistics Division Staff

Mr. Andrew J. Flatt, Director, Statistics Division undertook a mission to:

New York (6-7 December): To attend, as a Panel member, the third session of the Statistical Advisory Panel for the Human Development Report commissioned by UNDP, New York, 6-7 December 2001

Mr. Loh, Meng Kow, Chief, Statistical Information Services, undertook the following missions:

Hong Kong, China (12-13 November) and *China* (18-24 November): To undertake a joint mission with a consultant to hold discussions on the integration of work on CPI and ICP with the Census and Statistics Department of Hong Kong and the National Bureau of Statistics of China

Jakarta (3-7 December): A joint mission with **Ms Heidi Arboleda**, Regional Adviser on National Accounts, to represent ESCAP and to serve as resource person respectively in the ASEAN

Workshop on the Informal Sector, Jakarta, 3-7 December 2001

Mr Joel Jere, Statistician, undertook a mission to:

Jakarta (19-20 November): To undertake a joint mission with a consultant to hold discussions on integration of work on CPI and ICP with BPS-Statistics Indonesia, the National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS) and the Bank of Indonesia.

Mr Ilpo Survo, Programme Officer, undertook a mission to:

Bangladesh (29 October-2 November): To follow-up two different pending outputs of the UNFPA-funded project RAS/96/P12-Application of New technology in Population Data Collection, Processing, Dissemination, and Presentation, with a view to completing all activities by the end of 2001

Mr. Roberto Pagan, Associate Statistician, undertook a mission to

Manila (1-5 October): Along with **Ms Heidi Arboleda**, Regional Adviser on National Accounts, to act as resource persons at the Workshop on ASEAN Development Indicators, Manila, 1-5 October 2001

Ms. Heidi Arboleda, Regional Adviser on National Accounts, undertook missions to:

Nepal (19-23 November): To provide advice on the preparation of Manual on National Accounts for Nepal and to assist in finalizing the programme of work for the migration to 1993 SNA

Hanoi (10-11 December): To act as resource person at the Workshop on Development of ASEAN Surveillance and Proxy Indicators, Hanoi, 10-11 December 2001

Mr. Nuri M. Ozsever, Specialist on Population Data Processing and Database Management with the UNFPA/CST in Bangkok, visited the following countries:

Lao PDR (6-15 November): To assist the Center of Population Studies of the National University of Laos (NUOL) in conducting Advanced SPSS training; and to discuss the current status as well as future activities of various surveys/researches undertaken by the Center.

Phnom Penh (27-29 November): To represent UNFPA at the high level Asia-Pacific Regional

Meeting (PreCom) for the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Philippines (5-15 December): To review and evaluate the management information system (MIS) in the Province of Nueva Vizcaya

Ms. Luisa T. Engracia, ESCAP Regional Adviser on Population Statistics with the UNFPA/ CST in Kathmandu, visited the following countries:

Kyrgyzstan (22 October - 6 November): To review the status of implementation of UNFPA's sub-programme on Population and Development Strategies (PDS) and to make recommendations on additional activities that may be supported by UNFPA.

Tajikistan (10-18 December): To give technical assistance to the government in the formulation of a national population policy

Visitors to the Statistics Division

1. **Mr. Jacob Ryten**, Consultant for World Bank on International Comparison Programme
2. **Ms. Carol Cosgrove-Sacks**, Director, Trade Division, ECE, Geneva
3. **Mr. Jehan Raheem**, Expert on project evaluation
4. **Mr Helmut Blaufuss**, Expert on project planning
5. **Mr Robert Johnston**, Chief, Statistical Services Branch, United Nations Statistical Division

Staff Movements

Ms Selma Guven, Statistician in the Statistics Development Section, was assigned to the newly established Poverty Centre/Unit in the Office of the Executive Secretary, effective November 2001

Mr Roberto Pagan left ESCAP Statistics Division in December 2001 to move to the Economic Commission for Europe in Geneva. We wish Roberto good luck in his new responsibilities in the ECE Statistical Division and hope to have him working with us in the future again.

The Statistical Newsletter is published quarterly by the Statistics Division of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). It is not an official publication of ESCAP and has been issued without formal editing. Opinions expressed in it do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations.

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News items, articles and viewpoints on statistical matters from readers who wish to contribute to the *Statistical Newsletter* are most welcome. The Editor reserves the right to edit and publish manuscripts in accordance with the editorial requirements of this publication. All correspondence should be addressed to:

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