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From the Editor

This third quarter issue of the *Statistical Newsletter* opens with a report on the preparations for the thirteenth Committee on Statistics. The report presents main substantive items of the agenda that will be discussed by the Committee during its session from 27 to 29 November. This session of the Committee is of particular importance, as the changes in the UNESCAP conference structure will affect the way statistics are discussed in the future.

As a revision of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) is planned to come into effect in 2007, a UNSD/ASEAN/UNESCAP workshop on classification issues is reported on. The workshop offered the opportunity to discuss region-specific concerns and to set in motion a process to inject regional inputs into the 2007 ISIC revision.

Also reported on are several meetings for which the Statistics Division provided resource persons on the subjects of poverty statistics, development indicators, and environmental and economic accounting.

We also report on the sixth meeting of the Regional Resource Group on Integrating Paid and Unpaid Work into National Policies and the progress in the preparation of a guidebook and monograph on this issue.

As always, we wish you good reading.



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Social Commission
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the Pacific

Preparations for the thirteenth Committee on Statistics

The thirteenth session of the Committee on Statistics will take place in Bangkok from 27 to 29 November. A provisional agenda for the session was drafted by the Committee at its twelfth session and has been further refined through discussions between the secretariat and the Bureau of the Committee on Statistics.

The Committee will adopt the provisional agenda for its thirteenth session, integrating whatever changes it considers necessary. Only the main substantive items of the annotated provisional agenda are being reported on in the present article.

- Overview of significant global and regional issues in official statistics

The Committee will review developments in official statistics over the past year which may have significant implications for statistical offices in the region. The review, in a note by the secretariat, is organized largely along subject-matter lines. It covers topics raised at a number of forums, including the 2002 sessions of the United Nations Statistical Commission, UNESCAP, the Inter-agency Meeting on Coordination of Statistical Activities, and selected city groups. It focuses on subjects not specifically covered under other agenda items.

- Statistical indicators for monitoring the millennium development goals

A secretariat note will review technical and other aspects of the indicators that have been selected to measure progress towards achieving the millennium development goals and targets. The note will cover recent discussions on the choice of the indicators, their relationship to the targets, and the broader question of harmonization and rationalization of development indicators. The conclusions of a meeting on the topic held for the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations will also be reported. The Committee will also consider invited papers from two countries, which will discuss practical issues being encountered in the process of data collection for the indicators of the millennium development goals.

- Poverty statistics

The Committee will discuss the topic on the basis of a number of documents, including the report of the Regional Seminar for Asian Managers on Monitoring and Evaluation of Poverty Reduction Programmes, to be held at Bangkok from 9 to 11 October 2002. A secretariat paper will report on recent initiatives UNESCAP has taken in the area of poverty statistics and will discuss selected issues of

concern to both users and producers of the data. A second secretariat note will comprise a comparative study of the sources used for poverty measures, outlining the reasons why they give different results and assessing their respective merits. Invited papers from countries will describe alternative approaches to poverty measurement currently under discussion at national level. The Committee will be invited to frame an action plan for further work in this area.

- Gender statistics: methodological issues related to informal employment

Although women constitute a large presence in homework, micro enterprise and the informal sector, existing data tend to conceal wide variations in circumstances within these sectors and hence inhibit the development of gender-responsive policies and programmes. The Committee will be invited to consider some alternative methodologies through a paper on a gender approach to the collection and use of statistics for the informal sector, homework and time allocation studies.

- The non-observed economy

A presentation from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development will highlight the main features of Measuring the Non-Observed Economy - A Handbook, which that organization has recently published. The Committee is expected, inter alia, to consider activities which might be undertaken to utilize the guidance contained in the Handbook, which will be available as a background document.

- International Comparison Programme

Over the past two years the statistical offices in the region have been following closely, and contributing to, the plans to conduct a further round of the International Comparison Programme (ICP). The Asian and Pacific regional comparison has been identified as a potential flagship capacity-building project, strengthening capabilities in the fields of national accounts and prices as well as generating updated purchasing power parities. The secretariat has already completed some research on topics such as poverty-related purchasing power parities. The Committee will discuss the item on the basis of a status report from the World Bank, which is acting as the interim global coordinator of ICP.

- Measuring the knowledge-based economy

Collecting and organizing data on many aspects of the so-called information society has become an increasingly important challenge for statistical offices in the region. An invited country paper describing a new statistical framework for the knowledge-based economy will form the basis for the Committee's discussion.

- **Action plan on the implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts**

The Commission, at its fifty-eighth session, endorsed the implementation of the secretariat's proposed action plan on the implementation of the 1993 SNA but indicated that the plan needed to be further articulated and include the responsibilities of the countries. The Committee will consider a secretariat note which will describe current and potential activities under the plan.

- **Statistical capacity-building**

Within the broad scope of this agenda item, the Committee will focus on the fostering of the institutional capacity necessary to maintain the integrity and legitimacy of the national statistical service and its products. An invited paper will describe possible measures to this end, for the Committee's consideration.

- **Organization of future work in the area of statistics in accordance with the new conference structure of the Commission**

At its fifty-eighth session, the Commission adopted resolution 58/1 of 22 May 2002 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission. There will be three thematic committees, including the Committee on Poverty Reduction, and their respective subcommittees, including the Subcommittee on Statistics. Since the new conference structure will take effect from 2003, the present session of the Committee will be its last. A secretariat note will contain the terms of reference of the Committee on Poverty Reduction, to which the Subcommittee on Statistics will report. The Committee will be invited to deliberate on how future work in the area of statistics will be organized, with a view to the Subcommittee on Statistics playing as fruitful a role as possible under the new conference structure.

The objectives of the Workshop were to improve the work on classification in the ASEAN sub-region by providing a medium for statisticians to be informed about recent developments at the global level and to become involved in the work on international classifications. It was also an occasion to address special issues relevant to the participating countries. The discussions focused on the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) and the Central Product Classification (CPC), their recent updates in 2002 and their more comprehensive revision planned for 2007.

Participants shared experiences on implementation of economic activity and product classifications in their national economies and reached a number of conclusions to guide future work in this area.

It was noted that the need to reflect the large number of classification changes that took place in the 1990s is an imperative that outweighs the need for stability of time series. It was feared that not adjusting for these changes would lead to a proliferation of classifications, making international comparisons difficult or impossible.

Concerning the implementation of ISIC, a number of countries raised questions about what constitutes the optimum level of disaggregation. While the detail in some areas of manufacturing may exceed the possibilities for data collection in many countries, the areas of agriculture and fishing have been identified as lacking sufficient details to reflect the specificities of the region.

Outsourcing of manufacturing, such as assembly activities and activities related to the processing of agricultural products for a fee, was also identified as an area in need of a clearer treatment in the future ISIC classification. Participants also called for a more consistent treatment of take-out restaurants and street vendors of food (restaurants versus retail sale) for which differences exist at the regional level itself.

Demand for statistics is often product related. Such statistics should be based on the product classification offered by CPC rather than the ISIC structure, which is an activity classification. However, since ISIC is used as a proxy for products in many countries, the workshop pointed out that its structure should provide an easier way to identify products. Activities related to agricultural commodities of importance for the region such as sugar cane, tea, and fruits should be separately identifiable. A similar breakdown for animal farming should also be considered.

The Workshop also took note of the importance of classification correspondence tables for use in System of National Accounts (SNA) related work. An important use of correspondence tables is the link they provide between imported and exported goods and services and the main SNA destination categories as

UNSD/ASEAN/UNESCAP Workshop on International Economic and Social Classifications in ASEAN countries, Hanoi, 10-14 June 2002

The Workshop, hosted by the General Statistical Office of Viet Nam, was conducted as part of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) programme to strengthen capacities for statistical development in ASEAN countries. Twenty-five participants from ASEAN countries as well as from Australia, China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea took part. The workshop was organized in cooperation with the ASEAN Secretariat and UNESCAP.

reflected in the Classification by Broad Economic Categories (BEC), i.e. intermediate consumption, final consumption and capital formation. As the present BEC links with Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) cover internationally traded goods only, the Workshop suggested the development of a link between the BEC and the CPC which would also include coverage of services.

The Workshop stressed the importance of classification work as the basis for statistical data collection and analysis. To that effect, it recognized the usefulness of constituting or maintaining a committee-like structure to bring together users and producers of statistical data, so as to assist and provide guidance in the development and revision of economic classifications. The existence of Methods and Standards Sections within national statistical organizations was also considered as valuable in order to improve the harmonization and implementation of economic and social classifications.

The Workshop also established recommendations for future action plans. For countries without a distinct Standards and Classification Division, participants strongly supported the idea of designating at least one person as a "Classification Focal Point" to ensure better consistency in the treatment of classification issues and to provide a better access to international development work in that area. If resources allow, responsibility for different classifications or families of classification could be shared among several individuals.

The Workshop, recognizing the importance of a common regional input into the 2007 ISIC and CPC revision process, recommended that a Regional Working Group be created to discuss issues specific to the ASEAN/UNESCAP countries. Those would include a review of the treatment of agricultural activities and products, treatment of outsourcing and assembly activities, and the distinction between manufacturing and wholesale.

The Workshop suggested that UNSD, UNESCAP and ASEAN initiate the creation of such a group and explore possibilities for funding to hold regular meetings. Since strong participation will be a key element to its success, it was suggested that the "Classification Focal Points" attend the working group meetings.

Meeting documents and country papers presented during the Workshop are available from the UNSD web site at: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/intercop/training>

ADB Concluding Workshop on Building a Poverty Database, Beijing, 29-31 July 2002

The Concluding Workshop was the last of a series organized by ADB under its regional technical

assistance project (RETA 5917). The objective of the project is to develop a meaningful, comprehensive and accurate database and a regional monograph on poverty covering 18 countries of the region (Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam).

The database will primarily cover existing statistics and newly derived poverty and poverty-related indicators. It would also include documentation on concepts, definitions and methods used in deriving the statistical indicators presented.

The Concluding Workshop was the occasion for participants from the 18 countries encompassed by the poverty database project to review the draft monograph. The monograph consists of country chapters as well as chapters relating to a regional analysis of the poverty situation in Asia. UNESCAP provided a resource person for the Workshop.

Based on country paper presentations and project consultants' reports, the discussions centred on identification of statistical data and data sources. The Workshop agreed that data originating from national sources should clearly be indicated as such while data derived through estimations by the project consultants should also be identified.

UNESCAP Statistics Division presented its activities in the field of poverty statistics, focusing on capacity building to improve and harmonize methodologies for poverty measurement as well as to generate more accurate purchasing power parities (PPPs) that better reflect the expenditure patterns of the poor. In that regard, the upcoming round of the International Comparison Programme (ICP), will prove a vital tool for establishing accurate inter-country comparisons of poverty incidence based on a consumption bundle of essential commodities. (See *Statistical Newsletter No. 125, April 2002* on the launch of the new round of the ICP).

Concerning the inter-country comparability of poverty data across the region, ADB's lead consultant informed the meeting that for the definition of international poverty line, the database would use the value of US\$1.30 in 1993 PPP terms to be the equivalent to US\$1.00 in 1985, based on United States total inflation of 28% between the two reference years. However, some concerns were expressed that the new reference value could lead to confusion as the previous value of US\$1.08 at 1993 PPP has been widely accepted.

The Meeting was informed that the monograph will be published by the end of the year 2002 and that the database should be completed at the same time, to be launched online on ADB's web site at <http://www.adb.org>.

Workshop on Environmental and Economic Accounting, Jakarta, 23-27 September 2002

The purpose of the Workshop was to introduce the new Operational Manual for the United Nations Handbook on Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting. The manual was introduced in a draft form in a previous meeting held in Manila in September 2000.

The Workshop, co-organized by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and Statistics Indonesia (BPS), drew together participants from Australia, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam. The ASEAN Secretariat was represented as well as UNESCAP who provided a resource person to make a presentation on the millennium development goals (MDGs).

The System of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting (SEEA) sets out a framework to systematically account for the stocks and flows of environmental resources. The handbook is a product of the 1993 revision of the System of National Accounts (SNA), which draws attention to the need for assessing the environmental sustainability of economic performance. Due to the complexity of issues and the lack of data in many areas relating to the SEEA, the handbook was completed with the recently published operational manual.

The SEEA uses the same classifications and definitions as the SNA so that environmental and economic data can be fully integrated and analysed. This close link, however, also means that countries attempting environmental accounting should preferably have adopted the 1993 SNA. The other major constraint is that fairly complete data on both inputs and outputs are needed for each of the different accounts: land, mineral, fish, and water. Moreover, as data would likely come from many different sources, harmonization methods and a common timeframe should be adopted. It is, however, possible to use estimates for missing data and several of the accounts presented by countries during the workshop made significant use of estimates.

Applying the SEEA modular approach allows a country to derive assets accounts, in physical and monetary values, to estimate environmental protection expenditures, to put a value on degradation in various environmental media and to derive economy-wide indicators of sustainable development. As such, besides being a monitoring tool for the environment, SEEA can also be applied to measure progress towards meeting goals identified in policies and plans. The use of such indicators, if used by policy makers, would contribute to improving resource management policies and regulations and would help progress towards more sustainable development. In that connection, the

workshop suggested that UNSD should consider producing advocacy material with country examples to convince policy makers of the usefulness of the data and explain the various uses.

In its preliminary conclusions, the Workshop expressed the need for having a strategic plan for the implementation of SEEA in the region and suggested that such a plan should be coordinated and designed by UNSD and UNESCAP. It stressed the importance of follow-up workshops and country projects which will enable countries to apply concepts presented during the workshop.

Expressing concerns about the complexity of the SEEA, the Workshop reaffirmed the importance of training material on the system. It recognized the usefulness of developing software for the compilation of accounts as it would facilitate the compilation exercise and serve as a training tool for the implementation of the SEEA.

The workshop highlighted the importance of building cooperation between data producers from different line ministries and the statistical offices and the significant role national statistical offices had to play in coordinating the various data sources, and in harmonizing concepts and definitions. In that regard, the Workshop recognized the importance of the SEEA framework in building a common vocabulary among the different experts (hydrologists for water accounts, biologists for fishery accounts, mining engineers for mining accounts, and so on).

Several participants mentioned the importance of making policy-makers aware of the usefulness of environmental accounting in designing and monitoring the impact of policies and it was recognized that national statistical offices should play an active role in advocating the importance of the SEEA.

More information on the SEEA is available from the UNSD web site at:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment>

Workshop materials and country papers presented in a series of sub-regional workshops in 2000 and 2001 are available from the Statistics Division web site at: <http://www.unUNESCAP.org/stat/envstat/envstatws.htm>

Follow-up Workshop on Development Indicators for the ASEAN countries, Manila, 30 September – 4 October 2002

The Workshop, organized by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB, Philippines), was a follow-up of the inception workshop on development

indicators for the ASEAN countries which was held in Manila in October 2001 under UNSD's project: Strengthening Regional Capacities for Statistical Development in South East Asia.

The Inception Workshop objectives were to:

- present international indicator sets and the methods used in their compilation;
- identify core indicators that are deemed relevant and important to the region;
- determine the data requirements for the core set of ASEAN indicators; and
- develop a common indicator framework and methodologies.

The Follow-up Workshop was attended by nearly all ASEAN countries as well as representatives from UNSD, the ASEAN Secretariat, ADB and UNICEF.

UNESCAP Statistics Divisions provided a resource person to address the workshop on the relevance of the development indicators in the UNESCAP context. The Workshop was informed of UNESCAP's active role in building statistical capacity in the region, including capacity for data collection relating to the millennium development goals. UNESCAP would also be involved in analysing and monitoring progress towards the Goals.

The Inception Workshop had resulted in the establishment of a list of indicators, including MDG indicators, classified according to availability for each of the ASEAN countries. Frequency and sources of data for the indicators were also identified. Each of the development indicators identified was assessed based on its relevance to the countries and the sub-region and its availability.

The Follow-up Workshop's main objective was to evaluate the first draft of the publication on the ASEAN Development Indicators initiated at the Inception Workshop. It reviewed tables, metadata and descriptive text prepared for the publication. The Workshop also discussed how best to achieve consistency in the presentation of the publication and what its primary target group should be, statisticians or the public at large.

Following observations made during the workshop, a second draft will be prepared and presented for approval at the Fourth Meeting of the ASEAN Heads of Statistical Offices (AHSOM4, Yangon, December 2002) with a joint publication by UNSD and ASEAN planned for the third quarter of 2003. Development indicators time series will also be made available on the ASEAN Secretariat web site.

For more information, please refer to NSCB web site: www.nscb.gov.ph/events/asean/asean2002/about.htm

Meeting of the Regional Resource Group on Integrating Paid and Unpaid Work into National Policies, Bangkok, 23 September 2002

The Regional Resource Group (RRG) was created to develop methodological and policy-related aspects in measuring and valuing unpaid work. It is part of the Statistics Division activities in implementing a regional project on "Integrating Paid and Unpaid Work in National Policies" under the programme on "Promoting Gender Equality in the Asia-Pacific Region" of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). An important output of the project was the regional seminar held in Bangkok in September 2001 (see *Statistical Newsletter No. 123, October 2001*)

The meeting, organized by UNESCAP, was the sixth meeting of the Regional Resource Group and drew together consultants and experts from the Asia Pacific Gender Equality Network (APGEN), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

The meeting was organized back to back with a Synthesization Meeting on a Gender Approach to the Collection and Use of Statistics for the Informal Sector, Homework and Time Allocation as part of the UNIFEM/UNESCAP/APGEN project on this issue. The meeting was held from 19 to 20 September and was reported on to the Regional Resource Group. The synthesization meeting aimed at producing a concept paper with the following objectives:

- to establish whether the objective of standardized data collection instruments and systems of classification is attainable in respect of data on the informal sector, home work and time allocation, particularly in view of the need to identify the different roles and situations of women and men;
- to suggest alternative gender-responsive approaches to data collection that might be considered by national statistics offices to address the needs of policy makers, planners and programme staff in these and other fields of statistics;
- to explore the implications for users of these alternative approaches to data collection.

The paper, containing specific recommendations, will be presented at the thirteenth session of the Committee on Statistics in November.

The Resource Group also reviewed the *Guidebook on Integrating Paid and Unpaid Work into National Policies*. The guidebook, taking into account feedback obtained during the Bangkok workshop in 2001, has been finalized and the Regional Resource Group

advised that a professional publisher should be identified in order to get wider coverage and provide a better access to the publication by scholars and the general public. Draft chapters of the guidebook, as of May 2002, are available at the UNESCAP web site at http://www.ununescap.org/stat/meet/wipuw/wipuw_guidebook.htm

To complement the guidebook, a monograph on integrating paid and unpaid work is under preparation. In contrast to the guidebook, the monograph will not focus on case studies, but will present a thorough explanation of the different approaches. The monograph will be geared towards statisticians while the guidebook is essentially geared towards policy makers.

The Resource Group also decided that in presenting the message of the Guidebook to policy makers, short policy briefs would be more effective. The main objectives of the policy briefs, serving an advocacy role, would be to make unpaid work more visible and to present time use surveys as an effective way to measure its contribution to national economies. Since women are the main contributors to unpaid work, the policy briefs should also help formulate appropriate policies in this area.

Inter-agency Meeting on Coordination of Statistical Activities, New York, 17-19 September 2002

The United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), formerly the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), abolished the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities (and the other ACC subcommittees) at the end of December 2001. However, it recognized the need for a number of inter-agency bodies, including the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities, to pursue their coordination work as expert bodies.

Following up on a consultative meeting held during the last session of the Statistical Commission in March 2002, the present Inter-agency Meeting on Coordination of Statistical Activities had for primary objective to organize the new structure of coordination.

The meeting was attended by representatives of United Nations entities and programmes (UNSD, UNESCAP, UNECE, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNCHS, UNICEF and UNFPA) as well as specialized and related agencies (ILO, FAO, UNESCO, WHO, The World Bank, and the IMF).

Reviewing the issue of the quality of data used for indicators for the millennium development goals, the Meeting stressed the importance of national capacity

building in order for countries to be able to produce the necessary data for the monitoring of the MDGs.

To advance the quality of statistical data in developing countries, the Meeting recognized the need to develop close partnerships between international agencies and reporting national offices; to continue efforts to request and standardize metadata information; to improve coordination among national agencies involved in data reporting using mechanisms such as the General Data Dissemination System (GDDS); to strengthen statistical capacity; and to improve the transfer of technology to facilitate the flow of data.

On the issue of reducing the duplication of data collection from countries, agencies involved in data collection assured UNSD of their full cooperation in the preparation of a comprehensive report on this issue to be prepared for the thirty-fourth session of the Statistical Commission in 2003.

Coordination in the field of health statistics was given a high level of importance as the Meeting expressed concern about the overlap of the World Health Survey launched by WHO with other ongoing survey initiatives at the international and national levels. The Meeting recognized the problem of coordination at the country level where WHO often works with its mandated counterpart, the Ministry of Health, with little involvement of the national statistical office. The Meeting welcomed WHO's intentions to improve in-country coordination and to develop exchange of information on health statistics at the international level by designating a focal point on statistical matters.

For future inter-agency coordination purposes, the Meeting decided to establish the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA). The members of the Committee comprise all participants in the former ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities: United Nations Statistics Division, the regional commissions, United Nations programmes and funds, specialized agencies and related organizations, certain non-United Nations intergovernmental organizations (OECD, Eurostat, Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States, World Tourism Organization and World Trade Organization), regional development banks and the International Statistical Institute. Other organizations can participate by invitation. The United Nations Statistics Division acts as the secretariat.

The Meeting agreed that if the need arose the newly formed Committee should meet from 9 to 11 September 2003.

Training opportunities

The Institute of Social Studies (ISS), The Hague, The Netherlands, offers Doctorate and Masters of Arts Degree Programmes and short Postgraduate Diploma Programmes. The main focus of all programmes is practice-based study of development issues, planning and policy alternatives.

Starting in 2002 the ISS is now offering 6 to 10 week Diploma Programmes designed to enable professionals in various fields to respond to challenges and explore opportunities in dialogue with fellow professionals coming from different cultural and geographical settings. Of interest to statisticians, particularly national accountants, the ISS offers a 10 week programme on *Modelling and Accounting for Sustainable Development* from 16 April to 27 June 2003. After completing a macro-economic modelling and national accounting module, participants can choose between 2 other modules: macro-socio-economic modelling and econometrics; and national accounting and basic statistics.

Information on postgraduate short programmes and master degree courses of interest to statisticians is available from the ISS web site at <http://www.iss.nl>

Publications released by the Statistics Division

- *Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific, Volume XXXII, No.2, June 2002*
- *Statistical Newsletter, No. 126, July 2002*

Missions of UNESCAP Statistics Staff

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

New York (17-19 September): To represent UNESCAP and to chair the Inter-agency Meeting on the Coordination of Statistical Activities.

Mr Loh Meng Kow, Chief, Statistical Information Services Section, undertook a mission to:

Beijing (29-31 July): To participate in the ADB Concluding Workshop on Building a Poverty Database.

Ms Lene Mikkelsen, Chief, Statistics Development Section, undertook a mission to:

Jakarta (23-27 September): To attend the Workshop on Environmental and Economic Accounting for ASEAN countries.

Ms Selma Guven, Statistician, undertook missions to provide advisory services in the field of environment statistics as follows:

Azerbaijan (15-22 August)

Georgia (26-30 August)

Uzbekistan (30 September-4 October)

Mr Joel Jere, Statistician, undertook a mission in conjunction with home leave to:

Malawi (24-26 July): To participate in a PARIS21 Poverty Monitoring System Workshop, Blantyre, 24-26 July 2002.

Mr. Ilpo Survo, Programme Officer, undertook missions as follows:

Bangkok (19-20 September): To attend an ASEAN-organized Workshop on Measurement of the Digital Economy, Bangkok, 19-20 September 2002.

Manila (30 September-4 October): To represent UNESCAP and to act as resource person in the follow-up Workshop on Development Indicators for ASEAN countries, Manila, 30 September-4 October 2002.

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

Cambodia (16-30 July): to explore the possibilities of compiling GDP by the income approach.

Papua New Guinea (6-20 August): to assist the Economic Statistics Division in setting the benchmark estimates for some components of national accounts using the results of the 2000 Population Census.

Azerbaijan (26 August-6 September): to provide advice on identifying sources of information and indicators in the compilation of financial accounts of the System of National Accounts.

Thailand (11-13 September): to assist the Bank of Thailand in using SNA data for economic analysis both at the sector level and at the overall macroeconomics level, and to help provide an understanding of the data, including their

compilation method, linkages and application techniques.

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

Lao PDR (22-27 July): To assist the National Statistical Center in producing provincial tables to be included in the Provincial Reproductive Health Report.

Viet Nam (4-10 August): To assist the Planning Department, Ministry of Health (MOH) in reviewing the Health Management Information System (HMIS) and training manuals on use of HMIS.

Myanmar (18-23 August): To assist the Department of Population (DOP), Ministry of Immigration and Population in conducting Basic SPSS training for its personnel.

Myanmar (1-5 September): To assist the Ministry of Health in designing baseline surveys.

Lao PDR (16-25 September): To discuss and review the current status as well as future activities of various surveys/researches.

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

Tajikistan (8-19 July): To develop and install data entry and editing programmes (using CSpPro) and to train operators on the processing of the Tajikistan Demographic Survey.

Maldives (8-19 September): To review the first draft of the 2000 Census data analysis and to provide comments and suggestions for its revision.

Sri Lanka (20-25 September): To review the adequacy of existing data systems in terms of providing indicators needed for monitoring the goals of the population country programme and other global goals on reproductive health and population.

Visitors to the Statistics Division

1. **Mr. Frederick Dee Baker**, Senior Statistician, Asia and Pacific, FAO, Bangkok
2. **Mr Felix Moukoko-Ndoumbe**, Senior Officer (Resource Economics), Farm Management and Production Economics Service, Agricultural Support Systems Division, Agriculture Department, FAO, Rome
3. **Mr. Peter Wingfield Digby**, Statistical Consultant, Chiang Mai, Thailand.
4. **Mr. Najib M. Assifi**, Chief of Operations, UNFPA, Myanmar
5. **Mr. Srdjan Mrkic**, Demographic and Social Statistics, Statistics Division, UN, New York

Staff Movements

Mr Chol O Han joined the Statistics Development Section of the Division as associate statistician on 19 August 2002. Han was previous working with the Food Security and Sustainable Development Division of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in Addis Ababa.

Ms Heidi Arboleda, Regional Adviser on National Accounts separated from UNESCAP on 30 September 2002. In her five years of service, she delivered over 50 advisory and training missions to 27 countries in the region and made significant contributions to many aspects of the secretariat's work. She has made a lasting impact on national accounts in the region, and the secretariat joins her many friends in the countries in wishing her well.

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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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