



UNITED NATIONS

UNESCAP

Economic and
Social Commission
for Asia and
the Pacific

Statistical Newsletter

ISSN: 0252-3647

October 2005

No. 139



<http://www.unescap.org/stat>

Contents

Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts, 18-22 July, Bangkok..... 2

Workshop to Implement the United Nations Handbook on Non-profit Institutions in the System of National Accounts, 22-23 September, Bangkok..... 3

Fourth UNSIAP/UNESCAP Management Seminar for the Heads of National Statistical Offices in Asia and the Pacific, 27-29 September, Putrajaya..... 3

Expert Group Meeting on Affordable Technologies for Disseminating Official Statistics, 5-7 October, Bangkok..... 4

Regional Workshop on Comprehensive National Plan of Action on Disability – Towards the Mid-point Review of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific (BMF), 19-21 October, Bangkok..... 6

Activities in progress 6

Missions of UNESCAP Statistics Staff..... 8

Visitors to the UNESCAP Statistics Division..... 8

Publications released by the UNESCAP Statistics Division..... 8

Statistics Division Events..... 8

Staff movements 9

From the Editor

Welcome to the October 2005 edition of the Statistical Newsletter. The Statistics Division hosted three important events in the third quarter of 2005, namely the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts, the Workshop to Implement the United Nations Handbook on Non-profit Institutions in the System of National Accounts, and the Fourth UNSIAP/UNESCAP Management Seminar for the Heads of National Statistical Offices in Asia and the Pacific.

A very significant event for the staff of the Division and for the international statistical community was the retirement of Mr. Andrew Flatt from UNESCAP.

As this newsletter is released later than usual, two important events that took place in October are also covered in this issue: the Expert Group Meeting on Affordable Technologies for Disseminating Official Statistics and the Workshop on the Implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action: development of National Plan of Action on Disability.

As always, we welcome your comments on the newsletter and wish you enjoyable reading.

Second Session of the Committee on Poverty Reduction, 23-25 November, Bangkok

In accordance with the mid-term review adopted through the Commission resolution 61/1 on 18 May 2005, the work of Statistics has been subsumed under the Committee on Poverty Reduction. The Second Session of the Committee on Poverty Reduction will be held in Bangkok on 23 to 25 November 2005. For details on this meeting, refer to <http://www.unescap.org/pdd/CPR/CPR2005/index.asp>.

Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts, 18-22 July, Bangkok

The Advisory Expert Group (AEG) on National Accounts organized in Bangkok in July was the third of a series of global AEG meetings. This third AEG was preceded by one in Washington D.C., U.S.A. in February 2004 and one in New York, U.S.A. in December 2004.

The AEG aims to be a forum for comprehensive discussions on a wide range of issues, as outlined in its meeting agenda. The agenda of this AEG contained 48 documented issues, of which 38 were for decision and the remaining 10 for information to participants. Also, the AEG was given previews on a number of topics.

The AEG reached recommendations on several important issues. The meeting concluded that the discussion process and e-discussions had worked very efficiently. Furthermore, the new formats used for reports would encourage more effective consultation with the broader international community.

The meeting concluded that the week's work was an important milestone for the AEG and that the AEG is on course to reach the targets set by the Statistical Commission. The next AEG meeting will be held at the ECB in Frankfurt, starting in the week beginning January 30, 2006. It will be the last of the issue-oriented meetings. The agenda will be ambitious, including: (a) pensions, (b) informal sector, (c) financial services, (d) leases and licenses, and (e) special purpose vehicles.

The issues discussed in the AEG are rather technical and specific. For details on the issues and disseminated documents the reader can refer to the specific site linked from ESCAP Statistics Division website at http://www.unescap.org/stat/meet/past_meet.asp or at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/AEG.htm>.

Regional MDG database now available online



A regional Millennium Development Goals (MDG) database has been developed in support of the analysis for the second regional MDG report entitled "A future within reach: reshaping institutions in a region of disparities to meet the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the

Pacific". The online database, which can be accessed at <http://www.unescap.org/stat/data>, and covers MDG indicator data for the 58 UNESCAP regional members and associate members as extracted from the global Millennium Indicators Database on 30 April 2005. In addition, the regional database maintains a set of socio-economic indicators as published by the UNESCAP Statistics Division in various regional publications.

A CD-ROM version of the database, based on DevInfo technology, was released together with the second regional MDG report in Manila on 7 September 2005. The report was commissioned through a tripartite initiative of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Using the latest data, the report tracks each country or territory's progress in each of the MDG targets and assesses whether it will achieve that target by 2015. The report is available at

<http://www.unescap.org/mdgap/2ndMDGreport/index.htm>.

Workshop to Implement the United Nations Handbook on Non-profit Institutions in the System of National Accounts, 22-23 September, Bangkok

Non-profit or civil society organizations, philanthropy, and voluntarism have recently attracted increased attention throughout Asia as important potential contributors to the solution of pressing national problems of poverty alleviation, development, environmental protection, and social exclusion. The new United Nations Handbook on Non-profit Institutions in the System of National Accounts, which was developed jointly by the Johns Hopkins Centre for Civil Society Studies and the United Nations Statistics Division and subsequently accepted by the United Nations Statistical Commission, seeks to develop a more comprehensive and explicit economic profile of non-profit institutions than that available under SNA 1993, which allocates non-profit entities among several different economic sectors based largely on their source of revenue.

The new Handbook calls for the creation of a satellite account. This satellite account will give a greater visibility to the vital role that non-profit institutions (NPIs) play in Asian economies, as has for example been underscored in the recent Asian Tsunami disaster in the aftermaths of which NPIs have been at the forefront of assisting the victims.

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme, and the Johns Hopkins Centre for Civil Society Studies (JHU/CCSS), jointly organized a Workshop to Implement the United Nations Handbook on Non-Profit Institutions in the System of National Accounts in Asia. The Sasakawa Peace Foundation provided generous funding for the realisation of the workshop.

Participants attending the workshop mainly worked in the area of national accounts in National Statistical Offices and in civil society organizations. There were 36 delegates from 15 countries in Asia and the Pacific present in the workshop, coming from Australia; Bangladesh; China; Hong Kong, China; India; Islamic Republic of Iran; Japan; Kyrgyzstan; New Zealand; Pakistan; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Singapore; Thailand; and Viet Nam. Other participants included representatives from the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (UNSIAP), the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, and the co-organizing organizations.

The purpose of the workshop was to introduce participants from Asia to the new Handbook and to encourage additional Asia and Pacific countries to adopt it. The two-day programme not only introduced the new Handbook, discussing what it was and why it was needed, it also looked into experiences in implementing the Handbook and how NPIs are currently covered in National Statistical Systems. Some countries, including Australia and Japan, have successfully implemented the Handbook, while New Zealand is in the process of implementing it. Based on the workshop discussions, a number of other countries are currently considering its implementation.

The second day of the workshop was reserved for discussion of technical issues as definitions, compilation of data on NPIs and classification of NPIs, and next steps to be taken to implement the Handbook.

The UNV programme has a strong interest in the Handbook and therefore has agreed to provide technical assistance to countries that are implementing it. This includes the recruitment of volunteer statisticians to work with national statistical agencies on the implementation effort.

Specific recommendations of JHU/CCSS to move the implementation process forward included estimating the local costs of implementing the Handbook. It suggested that where external support is needed beyond that available through the provision of a volunteer statistician, countries could provide JHU/CCSS with a best estimate of the funding that will be needed and suggestions about where to raise these funds.

A copy of the Handbook can be secured from United Nations Publications at <http://www.un.org/Pubs/catalog.htm> or downloaded from the JHU/CCSS website at the following web address: <http://www.jhu.edu/gnisp>. The meeting report and will become available at <http://www.jhu.edu/ccss/unhandbook/meetings.html#??05>.

Fourth UNSIAP/UNESCAP Management Seminar for the Heads of National Statistical Offices in Asia and the Pacific, 27-29 September, Putrajaya

The United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (UNSIAP) organized the Fourth Management Seminar for the heads of National Statistical Offices in the region. The seminar is part of a series of seminars that UNSIAP launched in 2003 to strengthen leadership and management capabilities of



the heads of National Statistical Offices. The fundamental principal of these seminars is to strengthen leadership and management capabilities of the National Statistical Offices in support for economic and social development through constructive discussion and exchange of ideas and experiences in dealing with statistical challenges and opportunities arising from national and global goals. A specific objective of this fourth seminar was to introduce results-based project and programme management using the logical framework approach.

The 31 participants from 28 countries in the UNESCAP region spent three days in Putrajaya in Malaysia studying and discussing the basic principles of result-based programme and project management (RBM) and the logical framework approach (LFA), which includes a situation analysis to identify problems and formulate expected results, as well as defining assumptions, indicators and means of verification. The seminar also focused on various key issues in programme and project management such as the programme and project cycle, monitoring and evaluation and linking projects to programmes.

The last day of the seminar was used to share experiences in managing programmes and projects in National Statistical Offices and to discuss how the participants could apply RBM and LFA in their own organizations. In this respect, the participants also benefited from the experiences of the Australian Bureau of Statistics and Statistics New Zealand in managing statistical innovation and improvement programmes.

The seminar had a highly interactive and participative approach. It proved to be a successful forum for

experience sharing on managing programmes and projects in their offices and the participants felt that the discussions were stimulating the flow of thoughts and ideas.

Expert Group Meeting on Affordable Technologies for Disseminating Official Statistics, 5-7 October, Bangkok

The Statistics Division of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) organized an Expert Group Meeting on Affordable Technologies for Disseminating Official Statistics in October. The purpose of the Expert Group Meeting (EGM) was to prepare recommendations that would help government departments and the secretariat to appraise available information technologies and standards for their statistical data dissemination strategies and develop user-friendly data dissemination web sites.

The EGM was attended by 26 experts from various countries in the region, including Cambodia; China; Hong Kong, China; India; Indonesia; Kyrgyzstan; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Macao, China; Malaysia; Mongolia; Philippines; Sri Lanka; Thailand; Vanuatu and Viet Nam, as well as by resource persons and representatives of international organizations.

The EGM assessed the feasibility of using selected low cost software solutions for disseminating official statistics on the web and on CD-ROMs and reviewed the commonalities of selected web sites that disseminate official statistics in a user-friendly manner. Selected data dissemination applications were

presented to the EGM, including DevInfo (United Nations Children's Fund/ United Nations Development Group), the PCAxis family (Statistics Sweden), PopGIS (Secretariat of the Pacific Community), the Microdata Dissemination Toolkit (World Bank) and CD-ROM Builder and REDATAM (United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean).

The use of open source software for data dissemination and new data exchange standards (notably SDMX) and the importance of these standards in future statistical data dissemination and collection efforts were also discussed. Presentations introduced the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) initiative, the Metadata Common Vocabulary, the Data Documentation Initiative (DDI), the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative (DCMI) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Specification and Standardization of Data Elements (ISO/IEC 11179).

In addition, the EGM reviewed a framework that the secretariat had devised for evaluating data dissemination software and discussed how data dissemination websites could be assessed using a framework, based on content, access, navigation and cost to user. The EGM noted that it is necessary to follow the latest developments of web technology and data exchange standards, which both affect how statistical data should be published and exchanged.

The EGM assisted the UNESCAP secretariat in identifying some critical issues related to the facilitation of access to statistical data by all stakeholders in society and recommended the secretariat integrates these issues into its work programme by; (1) organizing forums and developing pilot projects on data and metadata exchange standards; (2) reviewing the content of UNSIAP training programmes in respect of data dissemination technologies, including open source applications and data and metadata exchange standards; and (3) acting



**Expert Group Meeting on Affordable Technologies for Disseminating Official Statistics
5-7 October 2005, Bangkok, Thailand**

Last Row: Mr Kuan Boon Wah (Malaysia), Mr Pham Viet Ha (Viet Nam), Mr Wei Liu (UNESCAP), Mr Jan P. Smith (UNESCAP), Mr K. Goudswaard (UNICEF), Mr Eric Hermouet (UNESCAP), Ms Margaretha Barkhof (UNESCAP), Mr Jesper Moller (Resource Person), Mr Shri Samiran Mallick (India), Mr Blaise Ehounoubakrohi (UNESCAP), Mr Parmod K. Sharma (Hong Kong, China); **Second Row:** Mr Benuel Lenge (Vanuatu), Mr Nyi Nyi Thauang (UNESCO), Mr Lao Lok Un (Frankie) (Macao, China), Mr Mazlan Sulong (Malaysia), Mr Mohammad Ari Nugraha (Indonesia), Mr Soukanh Sykayphack (Lao PDR), Mr S.A.S. Bandulasena (Sri Lanka), Mr Candido J. Astrologo (Philippines), Ms Malee Wongsaroje (Thailand), Ms Dambijantsan Enkhzaya (Mongolia), Mr Lars Nordback (Resource Person); **Front Row:** Mr Has Bunton (Cambodia), Mr Liang Damin (China), Mr Li Qing (China), Mr Arthur Jorari (Resource Person), Mr Ilpo Survo (UNESCAP), Mr Muhammad Q. Hasan (Resource Person), Mr Roberto Pagan (UNESCAP), Ms Nurjamal Karasheva (Kyrgyzstan), Ms Chayanit Wangdee (UNICEF), Ms Kulapranee Emyoo (UNICEF)

as a reference centre for new technologies and facilitating the exchange of best practices in official data dissemination.

For the interested reader, meeting documents, presentations and the meeting report can be found at <http://www.unescap.org/stat/meet/egm-dd/index.asp>.

Regional Workshop on Comprehensive National Plan of Action on Disability – Towards the Mid-point Review of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific (BMF), 19-21 October, Bangkok

Participants representing governments, intergovernmental organizations, and civil society, including disabled persons organizations, as well as the private sector met at Bangkok from 19 to 21 October 2005 at the UNESCAP Regional Workshop on Comprehensive National Plan of Action on Disability; towards the Mid-point Review of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific (BMF).

The BMF promotes a paradigm shift from a charity-based approach to a rights-based approach to disability and development. It supports also the elaboration of an international convention on the rights of persons with disabilities. The immediate purposes of the workshop were to analyze successes and any shortcomings in the implementation of the BMF, and to exchange views on key issues concerning national action planning and realization of disability-inclusive development.

Participating countries presented a brief country paper on their vision toward planning and programming from the disability perspective, and on issues as participation and instrumental arrangements, resource mobilization, setting a timeframe and implementation management issues, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting and public information.

The UNESCAP Statistics Division informed the meeting on recent international, regional and national initiatives in the area of disability statistics and data collection.

In their final statement the participants of the workshop stressed the essential role of disability-inclusive development in both achieving the goals of

the Millennium Declaration and promoting and realising the human rights, enhanced standards of living, well-being and human security of persons with disabilities as set forth in BMF. They recognized the importance of four actions in this context. One of these actions is directly related to statistics and statistical capacity. This action focuses on ensuring the availability of current and reliable national data and statistics on disability for accurate analysis, planning, programming, budgeting and evaluation, and building national capacities with a view to identifying quantifiable and verifiable disability-sensitive measures of progress.

The meeting documents can be found at <http://www.worldenable.net/bmf2005/Default.htm>. Presentations made during the workshop are available from the meeting programme at <http://www.worldenable.net/bmf2005/programme.htm>.

Activities in progress

Second Session of the Committee on Poverty Reduction

In accordance with the mid-term review adopted through the Commission resolution 61/1 on 18 May 2005, the work of Statistics has been subsumed under the Committee on Poverty Reduction. The Statistics Division has worked on preparations for the Second Session of the Committee on Poverty Reduction in the past two quarters, which will be held in Bangkok from 23 to 25 November 2005. The agenda for the Committee on Poverty Reduction includes various statistical issues, including: 1) selected issues arising from the first session of the Subcommittee on Statistics, 2) statistical aspects and implications of the follow-up to the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly, 3) population and housing censuses, and 4) international recommendations for statistics on economic activities.

Five statistics-related documents have been prepared for the agenda. The documents and the agenda of the meeting are available from the meeting web page at <http://www.unescap.org/pdd/CPR/CPR2005/index.asp>.

PARIS21/UNESCAP Sub-regional Workshops

In line with the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics and its call for all low-income countries to have a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) by 2006, Partnership in statistics for development in the 21st century (PARIS21) and the Statistics Division of the United Nations Economic and

Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) are co-organising a series of four sub-regional workshops on NSDS for Asian countries funded by a UNDP-managed Japanese trust fund.

The first of these workshops will be held for South Asian countries and will take place from 13 to 15 December 2005 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. UNESCAP and PARIS21 will collaborate with the Department of Census and Statistics of Sri Lanka in the preparation and organization of the workshop.

It will be followed in 2006 by sub-regional workshops for East and Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia, and Central Asia. The main purpose of these workshops is to assist countries to strengthen their capacities in collecting and analyzing statistical data and to modernize the development of national statistical systems in national planning and policy frameworks for better policy planning direction is becoming increasingly important, which has also been highlighted in the Millennium Declaration Goals process.

The way to the 2010 round of censuses in Asia and the Pacific

Censuses constitute the basis for nearly all major statistical data collections in many developing countries of the region. Stating the crucial importance of population and housing censuses for a country is never a mistake. The United Nations in their global dimension, with UNESCAP as its regional arm for Asia and Pacific, have since decades informed its member countries, and sought views from them, in order to promote a useful exchange of experiences with regard to censuses and to support the design and execution of at least a population and a housing census, hopefully simultaneously, every ten years for all its member countries.

This is why views from Asian and Pacific census experts were collected at a regional Expert Group Meeting on Population and Housing Censuses, held in Bangkok in December 2004 (see Statistical Newsletter nr. 136). Further to that meeting, a survey on past practices and future plans for censuses in the Asia and Pacific region was carried out with a detailed questionnaire in the months from March to June 2005. Merging the information from the convened experts and that from the survey, enabled UNESCAP to provide comprehensive views and priorities from the region to the world experts gathered in New York from 22 to 26 August 2005, at the global Expert Group Meeting on Population and Housing Censuses. Information about the EGM in New York is available

at

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/egm/CensusEGM05/default.htm>.

While the main focus of the Expert Group Meeting in New York was to review the United Nations Principles and Recommendations for Population and

Housing Censuses (see <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/standmeth/principles/default.htm>), which provides advice, advocacy and technical support on main features of census taking for the benefit of its member countries, the United Nations, and especially its regional commissions, including UNESCAP, are aware of the need to provide also support to meet countries' highest priorities for their censuses.

Experts of the Asia and Pacific region identified which priority areas should be the basis for a support programme to countries in the region. These priority areas are:

- Effective use of IT and GIS for census operations,
- Using the census for measuring new and emerging priority issues,
- Planning and financing the next censuses, and
- Analysis, dissemination and utilization of census data.

Furthermore, they recommended that technical cooperation activities in the field of censuses also promote the use of modern tools for training of census enumerators and supervisors.

The UNESCAP secretariat will report to the Committee on Poverty Reduction meeting in Bangkok on 23-25 November 2005, about its findings and its strategy to design and implement a regional work programme for censuses able to address the Asia-Pacific priority needs. The Committee will also be informed of the Economic and Social Council's resolution 2005/13 "2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme" adopted on 22 July 2005, which calls for a concerted action among global and regional statistical institutions of the United Nations to support countries in this demanding task.

The UNESCAP secretariat will timely inform UNESCAP members and associate members of new developments, including through this newsletter, about technical activities being organized in the field of population and housing censuses.

Missions of UNESCAP Statistics Staff

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

Manila, Philippines (15-18 August): To represent UNESCAP at the Sixth ASEAN Heads of Statistical Offices Meeting (AHSOM 6).

Mr. Roberto Pagan, Statistician, Statistical Development Section, undertook a mission to:

New York, U.S.A. (19-28 August): To represent UNESCAP at the United Nations Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses.

Mr. Eric Hermouet, Associate Statistician, Statistical Information Services Section, undertook a mission to:

Pyongyang, Democratic People's Republic of Korea (3-15 July): To give lecture sessions in the UNSIAP country course on DevInfo and MS Access software.

Mr. Pietro Gennari, Regional Adviser on Economic Statistics, visited the following countries:

Mongolia (31 July -9 August): To assist the National Statistical Office in developing procedures to compile new indicators for the construction industry (construction cost index; index of production).

Bangladesh (18-29 September): To provide technical assistance to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics in the construction of the new business register and in the adoption of the latest version of the

international Classification of Economic Activities (ISIC Rev 3.1)

China (25-30 July): To participate in the International Workshop on Economic Census held in Beijing and organized jointly by UNSD and the Central Bureau of Statistics.

Philippines (6-9 September): To support the Executive Secretary at the launch of the Second Regional Millennium Development Goals report in Manila.

Visitors to the UNESCAP Statistics Division

1. Mr. Maarten Boon, Chief Technical Advisor, United Nations Development Programme, Pyongyang, Democratic People's Republic of Korea.
2. Ms. Suttida Chaikitakol, Associate Portfolio Manager, United Nations Office for Project Services, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand.
3. Mr. Charles Myers, Lead Author, National Human Development Reports, UNDP, Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Publications released by the UNESCAP Statistics Division

- *Statistical Newsletter, No. 138, July 2005*
- *Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific, Volume XXV, Quarter 3, September 2005*

Statistics Division Events

Mr. Andrew Flatt, a staff of ESCAP for 28 years and Director of the Statistics Division since 1990, retired from UNESCAP on 31 August. 2005.

Andy has been a great supervisor, friend and mentor for many of us. Some expressions from colleagues here speak for themselves:

"..While it seems all too early for us, when we look at the achievements you have made, your retirement is duly deserved already at your young age. We have learned from you a palette of skills that will help us to cope with our work, the UN system and the statistical community far better than otherwise would be.."

"..You were not only setting high and uncompromising standards for all of us but also managing by example, not sitting and commanding from behind your desk but working personally very hard to meet those standards.."

"..At UNESCAP it is not only us who are regretting that you are leaving.."

".. I missed the informal happy hour farewell two weeks ago, but I am sure that praises were said regarding your contribution to the international statistical community, your contribution to the staff welfare, statistical and substantive support to place to place surveys and cost of living, living dictionary of staff rules that we relied upon. The plague you received from the local staff council was not oversized.."

Happy retirement, Andy!



The Statistics Division says goodbye to Andy, during his farewell party in Bangkok

Staff movements

Ms Patricia Alexander, Regional Advisor on Poverty Statistics, completed her assignment at the Statistics Division at the end of July. She has taken a new position in Bangkok as Regional Economic Adviser for the United Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM). We would like to wish Patricia good luck in her new assignment.

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

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Mention of any firm, licensed process or product does not imply endorsement by the United Nations.

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:

**Editor, Statistical Newsletter
Statistics Division
UNESCAP
United Nations Building
Rajadamnern Avenue
Bangkok 10200, Thailand**

Tel: (66-2) 288-1234
Fax: (66-2) 288-1082 (direct line)
(66-2) 288-1000 (general)
E-mail: stat.unescap@un.org
URL: <http://www.unescap.org/stat/>