

Joint Media Statement

The ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS) Committee
Second Session
27-28 September 2012, Siem Reap, Cambodia

Introduction

1. We, the ASEAN heads of statistical offices and members of the ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS) Committee, convened our second session in Siem Reap, Cambodia on 27-28 September 2012. We remain committed to provide relevant, timely and comparable statistics in support of the establishment of an ASEAN Community by 2015.
2. His Excellency Chhay Than, Senior Minister, Minister of Planning, Kingdom of Cambodia, delivered the keynote message.
3. Mr. San Sy Than, Director General, National Institute of Statistics, Cambodia, presided over our Meeting.

Institutional Strengthening

4. We continue to strengthen our institutional framework and governance through the adoption of the ACSS Code of Practice which builds on the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, ACSS' core values, as well as international best practices. The ACSS Code of Practice includes a set of indicators to assess the progress toward ensuring trust, accountability and highest professional standards in the development, production, dissemination and communication of ASEAN statistics.
5. We also continue to strengthen the implementation and monitoring of our Work Plans using the monitoring tools that we endorsed today. The ACSS Annual Work Plans and Multi-Year Action Plan 2011-2015 have been prepared in accordance with the Rules of Procedures which we adopted at the First Session of the ACSS Committee in 2011.
6. We are grateful to the ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) for the support expressed during the 44th AEM Meeting to the voluntary secondment programme of statistical officials as part of the measures to strengthen the ASEANstats. We agreed to work with the ASEAN Secretariat in developing the detailed arrangement of the secondment programme.
7. We recognize the importance of an effective communication and consultation mechanism between users and producers of official statistics in order to define statistical priorities and promote wider use of statistics. We task the Working Group on Data Sharing, Analysis, Dissemination and Communication of Statistics to explore how such consultation mechanism can be developed to improve the relevance and contribution of the ACSS toward the establishment of an ASEAN Community.

Strengthening ASEAN Statistics

8. We are encouraged by the progress in the harmonisation of ASEAN international merchandise trade statistics (IMTS), statistics on international trade in services (SITS) and foreign direct investment statistics (FDIS). We are grateful to the support provided by the EU-ASEAN Statistical Capacity Building (EASCAB) Programme and the ASEAN-Australia and New Zealand FTA (AANZFTA) Economic Work Programme in these initiatives. We are committed to further expand the coverage and details of IMTS, SITS, and FDIS compilation and dissemination. We agree to transform the task forces on IMTS and SITS into working groups and commit to making available the required resources for the effective functioning of the working groups.

9. We begin to work on developing a policy on data sharing, confidentiality and dissemination. Such policy is expected to facilitate wider dissemination and communication of statistics. We are also embarking on the development of a suitable system of data sharing and dissemination among the AMSs and ASEAN Secretariat to further promote collaboration toward more comparable ASEAN statistics.

10. While we work toward further strengthening our system of data sharing and dissemination, we are pleased to recognize the progress made in data dissemination including the quarterly IMTS publication and annual SITS and FDIS publications. We look forward to the publication of the first ASEAN Statistical Report on MDGs Indicators and second issue of ASEAN Brief this November. We endeavour to seek greater support from higher ASEAN bodies and to strengthen data dissemination and communication mechanisms at the national and ASEAN levels.

Capacity Building and Strengthening Partnership

11. We are encouraged by the continued assistance from our Dialogue Partners, development partners and other international organizations in building statistical capacity, especially by the European Union, Australia, New Zealand, as well as the German Foreign Office and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). We look forward to their increasing support and collaboration particularly in the improvement of national system's capacity, implementation of 2008 System of National Accounts, development of short-term economic indicators, as well as in other global and regional initiatives on statistics.

Hosting of the Meeting

12. We express our deep appreciation to the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia, through the National Institute of Statistics, for the excellent leadership, meeting arrangements and facilitation, as well as for the warm hospitality accorded to us during the Second Session of the ACSS Committee.

13. We acknowledge with appreciation the confirmation of the Department of Economic Planning and Development, Prime Minister's Office, to host the Third Session of the ACSS Committee in Brunei Darussalam, in the third quarter 2013.

ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS) Committee

- 1. BRUNEI DARUSSALAM: Dr. Hjh May Fa'ezah Hj Ahmad Ariffin**
- 2. CAMBODIA: Mr. San Sy Than**
- 3. INDONESIA: Dr. Suryamin**
- 4. LAO PDR: Dr. Samaychanh Bouphe**
- 5. MALAYSIA: Dr Abdul Rahman Hasan**
- 6. MYANMAR: Ms. Khin Swe Latt**
- 7. PHILIPPINES: Mr. Candido Astrologo**
- 8. SINGAPORE: Ms. Wong Wee Kim**
- 9. THAILAND: Ms. Chalermkwun Chiemprachanarakorn**
- 10. VIET NAM: Ms. Tran Thi hang**
- 11. ASEAN Secretariat: Dr. Aladdin D. Rillo**

Siem Reap, Cambodia, 28 September 2012