

Joint Media Statement

The 6th Session of the ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS) Committee

1-3 November 2016, Vientiane, Lao PDR

The 6th Session of the ACSS Committee, hosted by Lao Statistics Bureau (LSB), Ministry of Planning and Investment, was chaired by Dr. Samaychanh Boupha, Head of LSB and Vice-Minister. Dr. Lisa Grace S. Bersales, National Statistician and Civil Registrar General of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), served as Co-chairperson.

On this day, 3rd of November 2016, the 6th Session of the ACSS Committee represented by the Heads of the National Statistical Office of the ASEAN Member States (AMS) jointly issues this Joint Media Statement and reaffirms our commitment to respond proactively to emerging statistical requirements in the implementation of ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together.

Institutional strengthening, enhancement of ACSS and its sustainability

In pursuit of the ACSS Vision of “A responsive ASEAN Community Statistical System providing high quality statistics”, we appreciate the efforts of the AMS to further strengthen statistical cooperation. Recent initiatives were undertaken at the national level such as (i) Brunei Darussalam’s appointment of the National Statistics Committee focal person, (ii) Myanmar’s establishment of the Central Committee on Data Accuracy and Quality of Statistics as well as the endorsement of its National Strategy for the Development of Statistics, (iii) Viet Nam’s enhancement of statistical legal environment through the passing of the Statistics Law 2015 which came into effect in July 2016 and the implementation of Strategy of the Viet Nam Integration into ASEAN Statistics Community for the period 2016-2020, (iv) Thailand’s implementation of the second phase of the Statistical Master Plan and the issuance of the new Cabinet order in September 2016 designating its National Statistics Office as the national data integration agency, (v) Lao PDR’s mid-term assessment on the implementation of Strategy for the Development of the National Statistical System 2010-2020 and extended to 2025, and revision of Lao Statistics Law (vi) Cambodia’s approval of its Statistics Law in December 2015 (vii) Indonesia’s implementation of the Statistical Capacity Building for the Development of Statistics, (viii) Malaysia, Philippines and ASEANstats’ participation as peer reviewers of the Myanmar National Statistical System (NSS).

To ensure good governance and accountability, we endorse the key performance indicators of the ACSS Strategic Plan 2016-2025, the ACSS Communication Strategy, and the Implementation Plan on the Policies and Guidelines on Confidentiality, Data Sharing, Analysis, and Dissemination to measure and monitor outcomes in the process of building robust statistical systems at both regional and national levels.

We welcome the conduct of pilot exercise on the Cascading and Echoing of Outcomes of Meetings of ACSS and ASEAN bodies by PSA and Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) of Myanmar to improve national coordination and visibility of the ACSS in the NSS.

Improvement of response to greater ASEAN data needs

We recognise the continuing initiatives of the Working Groups on International Investment Statistics, Statistics of International Trade in Services, and the International Merchandise Trade Statistics to comply with internationally agreed frameworks in the harmonisation of

ASEAN statistics and the implementation of the ACSS Code of Practice Assessment Measures on Statistical Process and Statistical Output.

We welcome the creation of the Working Group on the System of National Accounts (SNA) to oversee ASEAN SNA-related data requirements. We commend the efforts of DOS Singapore, DOS Malaysia (DOSM), PSA, and LSB in the compilation and dissemination of National Accounts statistics based on the SNA 2008 framework. We thank Badan Pusat Statistik (BPS-Statistics Indonesia) for taking on the leadership role at the resumption of the groundwork on SNA in ASEAN.

We endorse the revised Broad Framework for the Sustainable Development of ASEAN Statistics to better respond to developments arising from ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and to incorporate these new regional priorities into the ASEAN statistical framework.

We resolve to continue to support ASEAN integration monitoring effort, including in support of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) 2025 Monitoring and Evaluation Framework that has been endorsed by the ASEAN Economic Ministers and the AEC Council.

Response to emerging global initiatives

In our commitment to the global call for the effective implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) by 2030, we endorse the Terms of Reference of the Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals Indicators in the development of ASEAN SDG indicators.

We commend on-going national open data initiatives along with the application of advanced tools and technology to ease data access by general public users. For instance, Singapore has made available [SingStat Table Builder](#), a web-based application within the SingStat Website, with access to over 22,000 time series data on key economic and socio-demographic characteristics from 60 public agencies. DOSM has also successfully launched the Statistics Data Warehouse (StatsDW) in June 2016 with historical data since 1974. This interactive platform provides the eDataBank, data visualisation and location intelligence which enable users to visualise and download data. LSB has successfully launched the results of the Population and Housing Census 2015. BPS-Statistics Indonesia will disseminate the results of Economic Census 2016 by end-2016.

Enhancement of dissemination, communication, visibility, and use of ASEAN statistics

We underscore the progress made by the ACSS, at the national and regional levels, in the dissemination and communication of statistics with the launch of new websites, use of interactive tools and infographics, and new communication channels including the social media to reach a wider target group of data users. We appreciate the efforts of the Working Group on Data Sharing, Analysis and Dissemination of ASEAN Statistics to improve dissemination and communication of statistics including the development of a Glossary for Laymen for the ASEANstats webpage, illustrating key regional statistics and definitions in simple terms in infographics. Following the regional training on infographics, BPS-Statistics Indonesia replicated the training at the headquarter/provincial/municipality/district levels and built a repository of infographics for internal users. Moreover, an expert from DOSM will conduct a national training on infographics in General Statistics Office (GSO) Viet Nam. To further promote the use of statistics, the PSA organised the 13th National Convention on Statistics in October 2016 highlighting two plenary sessions and 139 papers on 50 scientific sessions including a session on ASEAN statistics.

Bridging the gaps toward sustainable development in ASEAN statistics

We have embarked on the development of the ASEAN Statistical Training Agenda which aims to identify the needs and capacities of the NSS on the proposed organization of statistical trainings in the framework of ASEAN-Help-ASEAN cooperation and envisaged to complement the programmes of international institutions and donor-projects. BPS-Statistics Indonesia hosted a study visit for GSO Viet Nam on Gross Regional Domestic Products methodology; while Malaysia's Statistical Training Institute held two regional trainings on survey methodology and seasonal adjustment.

We endeavour to establish a pool of regional experts in the key areas of statistics through the ASEAN-help-ASEAN scheme and advance the statistical capacities of the ASEAN Member States and the ASEANstats with the continuous provision of trainings, workshops, and study visits and participation in international meetings.

Expanding statistical cooperation

We acknowledge the participation of the International Monetary Fund, PARIS 21, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, UN-World Food Programme as well as the EU-ASEAN COMPASS Project, ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Program II, GOPA, and the National Bureau of Statistics of China in the 6th Session of the ACSS Committee. The Committee highly appreciates the assistance from our Development Partners and International Organisations towards our journey as "A responsive ASEAN Community Statistical System providing high quality statistics."

Hosting of the Meeting

We express our sincere gratitude to the Government of Lao PDR, through the LSB, for its warm hospitality and excellent arrangements of the 6th Session of the ACSS Committee.

We confirm the Chairmanship of the Philippine Statistics Authority at the 7th Session of the ACSS Committee in October 2017.

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ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS) Committee

1. BRUNEI DARUSSALAM: **Mr. Asrul Adrain Ahmad**
2. KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA: **Mrs. Hang Lina**
3. REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA: **Mr. Mohammad Ari Nugraha**
4. LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC: **Dr. Samaychanh Boupha**
5. MALAYSIA: **Datuk Dr. Abdul Rahman Hasan**
6. THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR: **Dr. Wah Wah Maung**
7. REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES: **Dr. Lisa Grace S. Bersales**
8. REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE: **Mr. Tang Hsiu Chin**
9. KINGDOM OF THAILAND: **Ms. Nuannapa Thanasak**
10. THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM: **Dr. Vu Thanh Liem**
11. ASEAN SECRETARIAT: **Dr. Ahmad Zafarullah**

03 November 2016
Vientiane, Lao PDR