



JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT

The Ninth Session of the ASEAN Community Statistical System Committee (ACSS9) 9-11 October 2019, Bangkok, Thailand



1. The Ninth Session of the ASEAN Community Statistical System Committee (ACSS9), hosted by Thailand National Statistical Office (TNSO), was held on 9 to 11 October 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Session was chaired by Ms. Hataichanok Chinauparwat, Inspector of the Thailand National Statistical Office, with Mr. Pham Quang Vinh, Deputy Director General of the General Statistical Office of Viet Nam as the Co-chairperson.
2. Aligned with the overall theme of Thailand's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2019 of *"Advancing Partnership for Sustainability"*, and as part of our continuous commitment to further enhance regional statistical cooperation and respond proactively to emerging statistical requirements, we implemented the ACSS work programme 2019 as follows:

Key Deliverables of the ACSS Work Programmes 2019

3. In meeting increasing data requirements for monitoring ASEAN integration, we continued our statistical programmes aimed at providing timely and comparable statistics on international merchandise trade, foreign direct investment, international trade in services, Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), National Accounts and other macroeconomic and social indicators.
4. We noted the further clarification on the Key Performance Indicators of the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) System of the ACSS Strategic Plan 2016-2025. We are



encouraged by the 2019 preliminary results from the M&E monitoring in building robust statistical systems as compared to the 2018 baseline.

5. We endorsed the implementation framework for the ACSS Open Data Initiative for Statistics. The framework detailed the ACSS Open Data implementation plan covering (i) key indicators from the four statistical domains of Socio-Demography, Macroeconomics, Trade and Investment, and Connectivity and Environment, (ii) an assessment methodology for the ACSS Open Data Index in line with internationally recognised Open Data indices, and (iii) an assessment tool for monitoring the Open Data progress of ASEANstats as well as ASEAN Member States. We recognised that with the baseline establishment of the ACSS Open Data Index in 2020 and more Open Data practices, considerable benefits can be accrued through easier access to official statistics required for informed policy planning.
6. In recognition of the potential use of Big Data in official statistics as new sources of data, we support the on-going development of a concept paper on the potential use of big data for further enhancement of ACSS official statistics. Big Data can also play a significant role in improving the timeliness and relevance of official statistics, and reducing the costs of statistics compilation.
7. We congratulated Department of Statistics Malaysia on the successful conclusion on the 62nd International Statistical Institute World Statistics Congress 2019 (ISI WSC) in Kuala Lumpur, 18 to 23 August 2019.

Key Achievements at the National Level

8. We commended the efforts of the ASEAN Member States in meeting increasing data needs and enhancing data quality at the national level. Recent initiatives include:
 - i) Brunei Darussalam's (1) continuous efforts to strengthen its dissemination of statistics and enhancing its data accessibility with the launch of eData Library in the Department of Economic Planning and Development website, enabling users to download back series data, (2) recent participation in International Monetary Fund's Enhanced General Data Dissemination System on 26 August 2019, with the hosting of the National Summary Data Page on the Department's website, and (3) release of statistical publications made available on the Department's website for the public at no charge;
 - ii) Cambodia's (1) conduct of General Population Census, Socio-Economic Survey, (Inter-Censal Agriculture Survey, and Labour Force Survey, (2) release of the provisional population totals for General Population Census 2019 and (3) establishment of a new statistical and administrative data input and dissemination tool using .Stat Suite (with data based on the legacy CAMInfo platform) covering SDG indicators and all other development related indicators;



- iii) Indonesia (1) use of Area Sampling Frame, an objective measurement to estimate the harvested area of paddy, for agricultural statistics development, (2) hosting of the "Regional Workshop on the Use of MPD for Official Statistics", attended by participant from 12 countries, and (3) appointment of BPS Chief Statistician along with National Statisticians from nine other NSOs as Friends of Chair for Future of Economics Statistics (UNSD);
- iv) Lao PDR's (1) enhanced production and monitoring of the SDG indicators through the assignment of the Lao Statistics Bureau as the member of National SDGs Secretariat for national implementation SDGs, (2) preparation of two national censuses namely the Third Economic Census and Third Lao Agricultural Census, (3) completion of the field data collection on sixth Lao Expenditure and Consumption Survey, and (4) completion of the report of population projection 2016-2045, the disability monograph, youth population and Employment report;
- v) Malaysia's (1) 70 years celebration of Department of Statistics (DOSM) establishment through various program to promote awareness on statistical literacy such as Statistics Talk with Parliamentary Members, (2) release of Initial Assessment of the SDGs Indicators and National SDGs Data Monitoring Dashboard Phase 1, (3) production of new statistical products, i.e., Crime Statistics Malaysia 2018, Marriage & Divorce Statistics Malaysia 2018 and My Local Stats 2018 consisting of statistics at the administrative district level, (4) rebasing of Gross Domestic Product statistics to the year 2015, (5) release of Input-Output Tables 2015, and (6) launch of Interactive Malaysia Statistical Business Register (i-MSBR);
- vi) Myanmar's (1) launch of the latest national poverty line and living conditions of the Myanmar people based on the Myanmar Living Conditions Survey conducted in 2017, (2) implementation of the National Indicator Framework which involves 41% SDGs indicators for the monitoring and evaluation towards the Myanmar Sustainable and Development Plan (2018-2030), and (3) conduct of Inter-Census survey, Child Labor survey, Myanmar Micronutrient and Food Consumption survey, Survey on Livestock Production and National Forest Inventory Survey in 2019;
- vii) Philippines' (1) rebasing of its CPI and WPI of construction materials to 2012, (2) release of the National Accounts 20 days earlier, (3) expansion of sample size of the Family Income and Expenditures Survey to 180,000 households to provide estimates at lower level of geographic areas, (4) release of initial estimates of the Multidimensional Poverty Index and more frequent (quarterly) releases of vital statistics, (5) development of the Philippines Standard Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes – the first in ASEAN, (6) release of the Philippines Statistical Development Program 2018-2023, and (7) localisation of SDG indicators;
- viii) Singapore's (1) latest benchmarking of its national accounts to reference year 2015 and adoption of annual chain-linking methodology to improve international



comparability, (2) release of the Singapore Supply, Use and Input-Output Tables 2015 to support policy analyses, and (3) SingStat Website's top global ranking in the 2018/19 Open Data Inventory;

- ix) Thailand's activities in preparation of National Statistical Strategy for the Development of using new data sources such as administrative data and satellite data to produce efficient, effective and reliable Economic and Social Statistics involving stakeholders at the national levels such as Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Ministry of Interior and relevant private sectors in order to leverage from available data sources, reduce statistical production cost and respondent burden; and
- x) Viet Nam's (1) conduct of the 2019 Population and Housing Census on 1st April 2019 using CAPI leading to the release of data much faster than the previous censuses, (2) Prime Minister's endorsement of the Viet Nam Statistical Quality Framework (VSQF), consisting of 19 dimensions and 92 elements to ensure the quality of statistical information provided to data users, and (3) development of a set of tool, methodology and procedure to assess the official statistics, which allow data producers to conduct self-assessment based on the VSQF from 2020 onwards.

9. We are pleased to note the increasing use of administrative data sources and Big Data by ASEAN Member States in the production of official statistics. In particular, we are encouraged by the following:

- (i) Indonesia's use of Mobile Positioning Data for calculating tourism and mobility statistics, utilization of administrative data combined with traditional multimode data collection for upcoming Population Census 2020 and improvement of sectoral data quality as the source of administrative data by providing coaching clinic and management system;
- (ii) Malaysia's Census Transformation Programme which employs integration of administrative data from various agencies into Malaysia Integrated Population Census System and Statistics Big Data Analytics initiatives covering modules on Trade by Enterprise Characteristic, Price Intelligence, Public Maturity Assessment on Official Statistics and Real Time Business Status;
- (iii) Philippines' use of multisource data in the estimation of SDG 9.1.1 Rural Access Index which measures the proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road; use of administrative data in the compilation of national accounts, FDIs, IMTS, SITS and vital statistics; and



- (iv) Singapore's use of web-based data sources to profile Singapore's internet economy, nowcasting of economic indicators with Google Trend, web-scraping online price data for the compilation of the Consumer Price Index.

Appreciation for Development Partners and International Organisations

10. We appreciated the contribution of the ASEAN Regional Integration Support by the EU (ARISE) Plus Programme in providing Technical Assistance to support the ACSS in strengthening the institutional framework and coordinating role of the ACSS, improving the availability and comparability of key statistics for monitoring ASEAN regional integration and narrowing the gaps in statistical capacity among ASEAN Member States.
11. We thanked the International Organisations, namely the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) on their participation and informative sharing of experiences and best practices on the use of Big Data and Administrative Data for Official Statistics. We acknowledged with appreciation their support towards our goal of a more responsive ACSS providing high quality statistics in support of the ASEAN integration.

Handover of the ACSS Chairmanship in 2020

12. We expressed our sincere gratitude to the Government of Thailand, through Thailand National Statistical Office, for its excellent chairmanship, warm hospitality and impeccable arrangements for the Ninth Session of the ACSS Committee.
13. We welcomed the ACSS Chairmanship of Viet Nam General Statistical Office in 2020.

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ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS) Committee

1. BRUNEI DARUSSALAM: **Ms. Nur Amani Haziqah Abdullah Yawang**
2. KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA: **Mrs. Hang Lina**
3. REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA: **Mr. Ari Nugraha**
4. LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC: **Dr. Samaychanh Boupcha**
5. MALAYSIA: **Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin**
6. THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR: **Mr. San Myint**
7. REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES: **Dr. Claire Dennis Mapa**
8. REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE: **Ms. Priyadharshini Navaratnam**
9. KINGDOM OF THAILAND: **Ms. Hataichanok Chinauparwat**
10. THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM: **Mr. Pham Quang Vinh**
11. ASEAN SECRETARIAT: **Dr. Ahmad Zafarullah**

Bangkok, Thailand, 11 October 2019