

Workshop on Developing Tourism Statistics and the Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) Project

Cebu, Philippines
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Conclusions

What we have found

1. Importance of setting up a system of tourism statistics as a condition for the setting up of a TSA. A TSA cannot be set up independently from its statistical sources, and without independent information **both** on demand and on supply.
2. As a consequence, setting up a TSA is not a short term objective that can be easily met only with hard work: there are important requisites in terms of data (on the different forms of tourism and categories of tourism expenditure, on supply) that need to be addressed. You cannot have one next year....
3. Importance of the Interinstitutional platform, at different levels (see the Philippines example) (**political and technical**) and the commitment of resources (quantity and quality), both financial and technical; need to develop management skills
4. **Importance of reading the manuals**, debate it within the group, identify and discuss the treatment of borderline cases, that help to understand its logic: issues of visitors in transit over a territory, treatment of children, imputations, etc... both from the theoretical point of view and its implication at the observation level. There is no need to understand all of it immediately. Recall that from the conceptual perspective, the reference is the treatment in National Accounts, and the national accounts compilers should provide this knowledge. TSA is Satellite to National Accounts (another requirement, a System of National Accounts incorporating a detailed supply and use table and the corresponding make and use matrices...)
5. Tourism statistics and TSA give priority to the measurement of direct effect and of economic importance; it is not an economic impact or assessment model, it does not include indirect, nor imputed effects and does not include the study of leakages: these are other types of issues, that can be faced combining the TSA will additional information derived from sophisticated IxO frameworks or CGE models.
6. Employment is a new dimension of tourism statistics that needs to be faced. This is because much is expected from tourism in terms of creation of jobs in communities that often are not appropriate for other types of industries to be developed, because tourism also generates low skilled jobs, that although not always well remunerated can be offered to women, unemployed, and can be a first step towards employability.

7. Importance to clarify the relationship with Balance of Payments data and to have clear that there are conceptual differences between the two sets of data that need to be acknowledged. Balance of Payments data are not official data for inbound tourism consumption or outbound tourism consumption in the same way that Immigration data are not official data for inbound tourism and outbound tourism. Nevertheless, the collaboration with Balance of Payments compilers should be sought: UNWTO and IMF will promptly implement their won process of collaboration that should be taken as a example for countries to implement it too at their national level.
8. Importance to change the point of view and develop proper indicator regarding the “volume” of tourism flows and move from number of arrivals/departures to a set a more complex indicators that include: number of overnights spent by nonresident visitors within the country/number of overnights spent by resident visitors abroad, and the flow of excursionists (nonresidents/residents), extending then to more complex dimensions including purpose of visit, types of place of stay (paying/non paying), types of mode of transport, etc.
9. The subregional perspective: It has to be developed in coordination and in reference with the national level or the other way round (see the case of China in which a TSA was first developed at regional level, and then extended to the national one, whereas in Australia, the experience was from the national level to the regional one...).
10. Finally, countries of the region should be aware of the upcoming Capacity Building Program that is to be offered in the region, and take the necessary step to be included in the program, by showing their commitment to the setting up of a statistical system for tourism.