Advancing Statistics for Development

ESCAP Statistics
An overview of ongoing initiatives

Workshop on Tourism Statistics
Bangkok, March 2012

ESCAP

• Intergovernmental forum with a membership of 62 Governments (58 in the region)
• United Nations arm in the Asia-Pacific region
• Carries out work in the following areas: Macroeconomic Policy and Development; Statistics; Trade and Investment; Transport; Environment and sustainable development; Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction; and Social Development.
ESCAP Statistics

- ESCAP serves as a regional forum for leaders of national statistical systems – through the ESCAP Committee on Statistics
- The Committee establishes priorities and promotes capacity development of national statistics systems advocacy, through
  - Advocacy;
  - Initiating the development of tools for targeting national efforts (core sets of statistics);
  - Providing guidance on capacity development, including training;
  - Promoting knowledge sharing and technical cooperation among countries, including through South-South cooperation

ESCAP Committee on Statistics work programme

2020 Strategy - adopted December 2010

- **Goal 1:** Ensuring that all countries in the region by 2020 have the capability to provide an agreed basic range of population, economic, social and environmental statistics
- **Goal 2:** Creating a more adaptive and cost-effective information management environment for NSOs through stronger collaboration

Support and commitment

- Commission resolutions:
  - 67/10: Core set of economic statistics
  - 67/11: Strengthening statistical capacity
  - 67/12: Improvement of civil registration and vital statistics

Regional guidance & implementation

- Regional mechanisms for implementing work towards the goals of the Committee
Structure of regional guidance & implementation

- **ESCAP Committee of Statistics and its Bureau**
- **Steering Group for the Regional Programme on Economic Statistics**
- **Technical Advisory Group for Social Statistics**
- **Steering Group for Agricultural Statistics**

**Partners for Statistics Development in Asia-Pacific (The Partnership)**

- **Guided by**: Partners - international, regional and sub-regional organizations and bilateral donors concerned with the improvement of statistics in Asia and the Pacific.
- **Goal**: Improving the combined impact of capacity building activities through coordination, synergy and complementarity among international agencies and donors.
- **Agreed to align themselves with the ESCAP Committee on Statistics.**
Regional Programme on Economic Statistics

- **Guided by:** Steering Group on Economic Statistics - which includes 14 national and 6 international experts
- **Goal:** To improve the soundness of economic analysis and decision-making through increased availability and effective use of a core set of timely, reliable and comparable economic statistics.

Core Set of Economic Statistics

- Adopted by ESCAP Committee on Statistics and Commission, it includes the following domains:
  - Prices and costs
  - Demand and output
  - Income and wealth
  - Money and banking
  - Government
  - Labour market
  - Natural resources and the environment
Link between economic core set and tourism

• Compilation of detailed national accounts is included in the core set and should follow ISIC classifications

• Short term indicators on consumer demand are specified and the core set states:
  – For countries with important tourism industries, STI covering inbound tourist numbers, accommodation occupancy rates etc. may be needed.

Programme on Agriculture Statistics

• Guided by: Steering Group on Agriculture Statistics – which includes representation from 5 NSOs, 10 ministries of agriculture, 1 national agricultural policy and research institutes, and 7 international organizations

• Goal: To inform policy makers by improving statistics related to food security and agriculture.
Regional Programme on Social Statistics

- Guided by: Technical Advisory Group on Social Statistics – which includes 10 national and 4 international experts
- Goals (being developed): Determine the scope of the programme by assessing significant social policy issues in the region and the indicators associated with these issues; the determine indicators can then be used to guide social statistics capacity development in the region.

Proposed Social Statistics Domains

- A core set on social statistics is still in draft form but the following domains are currently proposed:
  - Population
  - Health and disability
  - Income and Expenditure/ material wellbeing
  - Employment
  - Education
  - Housing
  - Information and Communication
  - Crime and Justice
  - Family and community
  - Culture and leisure
Link between social core set and tourism

- It is proposed that the culture and leisure domain of the proposed framework will include statistics related to tourism.
- Other links may also develop as this area of work is still in the beginning phases.

Coordination of Statistical Training

- **Guided by:** Working Group on the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific – which includes 10 experts from countries that have statistical training facilities or active statistical training programmes that are open to both nationals and foreign nationals.
- **Goal:** To avoid duplication and increase effectiveness of training by improving the coordination of statistical training providers and donor agencies in the region.
- **Link with tourism statistics:** The working group is mandated to improve coordination across all areas of statistical training, including tourism.
### Other ESCAP initiatives

**Capacity development**
- Production & dissemination of basic statistics
  - Vital statistics and civil registration; MDGs (including data disaggregation and small area estimation)
- NSS operations
  - Advisory services; modernization of SIS
- New measurements & standards
  - Disability; gender; informal sector & informal employment

**Information & analysis**
- Statistical analysis
  - Millennium Development Goals
- Statistical information services
  - Statistical Yearbook

### Link between tourism and initiatives

- Modernization of Statistical Information Systems – strengthens systems as a whole
- There are links between tourism and gender; and tourism and the informal sector – these issues could be further explored when these areas are strengthened
- Statistical information services – the Yearbook and database contain a dedicated section on international tourism in the region, the Yearbook draft text was a collaborative effort of UNWTO and ESCAP.
Tourism is thriving in Asia and the Pacific, where inbound tourist arrivals totaled almost 204 million or nearly 22% of the world total in 2010, up 13% from 2009. All subregions except the Pacific recorded double-digit percentage increases in inbound tourist arrivals. Region-wide expenditures by inbound tourists rose to US$249 billion in 2010, increasing by nearly 22% in a single year. The three destination countries of the most inbound tourism arrivals were China, Malaysia and Turkey.

### Inbound tourism arrivals, world and Asia-Pacific, 1995 to 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Inbound tourism – Arrivals (Millions)</th>
<th>Inbound tourism expenditure (Billion US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>France (77.8)</td>
<td>United States (103.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>United States (99.8)</td>
<td>Spain (52.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>China (55.7)</td>
<td>France (46.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Spain (52.7)</td>
<td>China (45.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Italy (43.6)</td>
<td>Italy (38.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>United Kingdom (28.1)</td>
<td>Germany (34.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Turkey (27.0)</td>
<td>United Kingdom (30.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Germany (26.9)</td>
<td>Australia (30.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Malaysia (24.6)</td>
<td>Hong Kong, China (23.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Mexico (22.4)</td>
<td>Turkey (20.8)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: UNWTO World Tourism Barometer, Interim update, April 2011

Thank you!

Strengthening the ‘evidence’ for evidence-based policy making:

[http://www.unescap.org/stat](http://www.unescap.org/stat)