



# 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

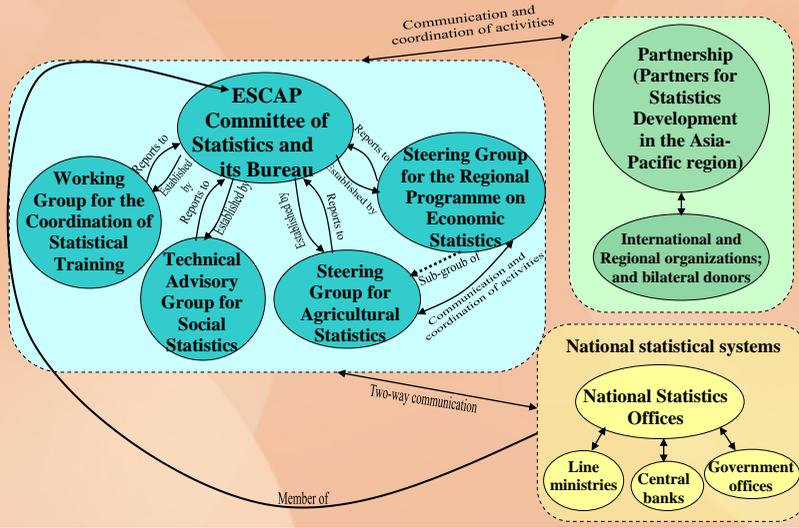


#### Regional guidance & implementation

- Regional mechanisms for implementing work towards the goals of the Committee



## Structure of regional guidance & implementation



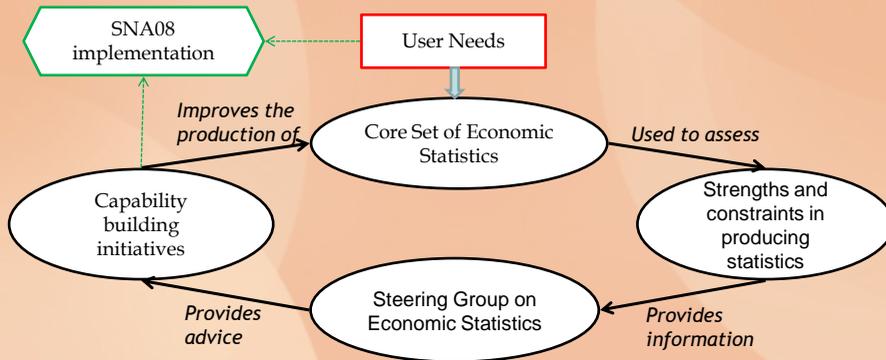
## Partners for Statistics Development in Asia-Pacific (The Partnership)

- **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.*



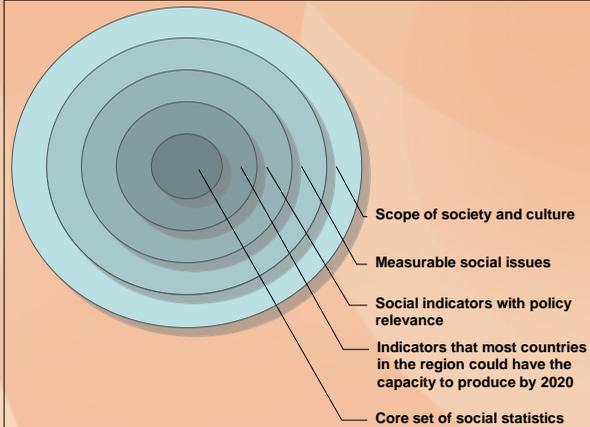
## Programme on Agriculture Statistics

- **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 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



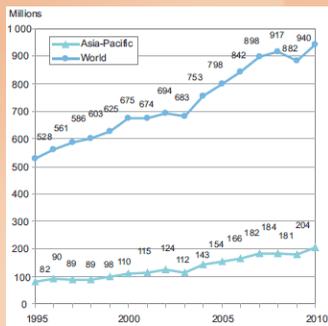
## Link between tourism and initiatives

- 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.
  - <http://www.unescap.org/stat/data/syb2011/index.asp>



## Statistical Yearbook

*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.*



Rank	Inbound tourism – Arrivals (Millions)	Inbound tourism expenditure (Billion US\$)
1	France (77.8)	United States (103.1)
2	United States (59.8)	Spain (52.5)
3	China (55.7)	France (46.3)
4	Spain (52.7)	China (45.8)
5	Italy (43.6)	Italy (38.8)
6	United Kingdom (28.1)	Germany (34.7)
7	Turkey (27.0)	United Kingdom (30.4)
8	Germany (26.9)	Australia (30.1)
9	Malaysia (24.6)	Hong Kong, China (23.0)
10	Mexico (22.4)	Turkey (20.8)

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

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



**Thank you!**

**Strengthening the 'evidence' for evidence-based  
policy making:**

<http://www.unescap.org/stat>