



UNITED NATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
AFFAIRS
STATISTICS DIVISION



GENERAL STATISTICAL OFFICE OF
VIETNAM

Regional Workshop for South-East Asian Countries

**STATISTICS OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN SERVICE:
CHALLENGES AND GOOD PRACTICES**

30 November - 3 December 2010, Hanoi, Vietnam

Final report of the seminar

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Statistics of International Trade in Services: Challenges and Good Practices
Workshop for the South East Asian (SEA) countries
30 November – 3 December 2010, Hanoi, Vietnam

I. Organization, purpose, objective and participants of the Workshop

The Workshop on “Statistics of International Trade in Services: Challenges and Good Practices” for the South East Asian countries was organized by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) in close cooperation with General Statistical Office of Vietnam. The workshop is organized within the framework of the UN/DESA Development Account project for the strengthening of the statistical capacity of countries in South East Asia. The workshop took place in Hanoi, Vietnam between 30 November and 3 December 2010.

The workshop aimed to provide training to representatives of national statistical offices, central banks of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Timor-Leste and Vietnam on the methodology of trade in services statistics and on current country-practices in compilation of trade in specific services sectors. The training focused on both the interpretation of conceptual issues and options for the implementation of the international recommendations, taking account of country specific circumstances and facilitating the establishment of a network of statisticians among these South East Asian countries. The workshop reviewed particularly the travel item and tourism statistics.

The workshop was attended by 30 participants from the SEA countries and international organizations. Representatives of the national statistical offices and the central banks of the SEA countries participated at the workshop, namely Cambodia, Myanmar, Lao, Vietnam and Timor Leste. The following international and supranational organizations sent representatives as resource persons to the workshop: the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat), the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

II. Summary

Tuesday, 30 November

Opening session

Ms. Tran Thi Hang on behalf of Dr. Do Thuc, Acting President of the General Statistical Office of Vietnam and Mr. Ronald Jansen, Chief of the Trade Statistics Branch on behalf of Paul Cheung, Director of UNSD addressed the participants.

Morning sessions

Overview of the new recommendations on Statistics of International Trade in Services” and “Overview of the SITS data availability and institutional arrangements in South East Asia”. The “Resident – Non-resident trade in services” session consisted of the following presentations: “Overview of the Balance of Payment and Investment Position Manual (BPM6)” and “Malaysia Balance of Payment” –

Afternoon sessions

The Extended Balance of Payment Services (EBOPS) classification section included the following presentations: “BOP/EBOPS/CPC”, “Definitions in SNA 2008”, “International Trade in Services Statistics of Vietnam”.

Wednesday, 1 December

Morning sessions

The Data collection of resident-non-resident trade in services statistics section included the following presentations: “International Transaction Reporting System (IRTS) – overview”, “Enterprise surveys”, “ITS Census 2009 in Vietnam”, “ASEAN requirements for SITS”, “Cambodia experience in SITS”. The following topics were discussed in parallel groups: Cooperation of the national statistical office and the central bank in collecting SITS data, ITRS, enterprise survey, household survey and other data sources.

Afternoon sessions:

The Foreign Affiliates Statistics, FDI and Multi-National Enterprise statistics session contained the following presentations: “Foreign Affiliate Statistics (FATS): concepts, legal framework and EU data”, “Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) statistics” and short presentations on FDI from Vietnam and Cambodia.

Thursday, 3 December

The Trade in services statistics by modes of supply session included the following presentations: “Measuring trade in services by GATS modes of supply”, “Development of Foreign Affiliates Statistics (FATS) – Mode 3 in Malaysia”. The metadata and quality of trade in services data session included the following presentations: “Data quality and metadata” and short presentations of the participating countries. The parallel discussion groups were focusing on the following issues: data quality assessment, the importance of providing metadata, FATS data collection and data quality. The travel and tourism statistics section included the following presentations: “Overview of the International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics 2008 (IRTS 2008)”, “Recommendations of the Workshop on “Developing National System of Tourism statistics: Challenges and Good Practices” (Vientiane, Lao DPR, 16-19 June 2009)”, “Vietnam experience in tourism statistics”.

Friday, 4 December

The data dissemination session contained the following presentations:

III. Conclusions and recommendations

The recommendations adopted by the participants were gathered in nine groups as it follows.

- I General
- II Statistics on resident/non-resident trade in services
- III Foreign Affiliates Statistics (FATS)
- IV Quality, metadata and dissemination
- V SITS by mode of supply
- VI Capacity building
- VII What is next?

The participants at this workshop:

I. General

1. Concluded that the event provided an excellent opportunity for countries to review the status of SITS compilation in the region, to elaborate challenges, to share their experiences and good practices as well as to obtain basic knowledge and further guidelines on BPM6 and MSITS 2010; the participants expressed their gratitude especially to the General Statistical Office of Viet Nam for being an excellent host and to the workshop organizers;
2. Recognized the efforts made by countries to the application of the MSITS2002 / BPM5 and concluded that countries face many challenges to comply with the recommendations of the revised manual, MSITS 2010 along with the BPM6, and that they will keep producing for the time being in MSITS2002 / BPM5 while preparing initial steps in the direction of implementation of the new international standards; expressed particular concern regarding the feasibility of compilation of the new BPM6 item of manufacturing services on physical inputs owned by others;
3. Expressed appreciation to the experts of WTO, Eurostat and the Department of Statistics Malaysia for sharing their knowledge and experience on SITS and FATS;

II. Statistics on resident/non-resident services trade in services

Strengthening legal basis

4. Noted the importance of the legal basis for the SITS compilation; and encouraged a closer cooperation among the relevant national agencies;

Methodological issues

5. Agreed that the EBOPS categories are used for data collection and dissemination;

III. Foreign Affiliates Statistics (FATS)

6. Agreed that FATS is of a high policy and analytical value and encouraged countries to continue or initiate the feasibility study of compiling such statistics; priority should be given to inward FATS as recommended in MSITS 2010 and countries are encouraged to begin dissemination of inward FATS in the near future;

IV. *Quality, metadata and dissemination*

7. Agreed that the quality of SITS remains a challenge and strengthening quality assurance programmes is required in countries;
8. Stressed the importance of publishing appropriate metadata to enhance data quality;
9. Concluded that (EBOPS and FATS) data reconciliation between interested partner countries is strongly encouraged;

V. *SITS by mode of supply*

10. Recognized the value of SITS by mode of supply and agreed that estimation of such statistics is encouraged using the simplified approach based on the availability of SITS and FATS;

VI. *Capacity building*

11. Realized the importance of further regional and national training programmes on (specific aspects of) SITS and FATS;
12. Urged TFSITS to soon complete the compilation guidance for the MSITS2010 manual, including good country practices, and to assist countries in the MSITS2010 implementation;

VII. *What's next?*

13. Welcomed UNSD's intention to place all workshop documents on the dedicated website of the workshop for reference and to develop a knowledge base on SITS and FATS.
14. Encouraged countries to cooperate with UNSD in providing the most recent SITS data and metadata needed to update the UN Service Trade database;
15. Encouraged countries to develop action plans to implement the recommendations contained in the revised MSITS2010 on SITS and FATS, and inform UNSD accordingly;

IV. Objectives:

Objective 1 SITS by EBOPS

Compile and publish statistics of international trade in services by EBOPS categories and main trading partners on a quarterly basis

Vietnam Model

- I. Data collection – based on enterprise surveys
 - a. Benchmark census [ITS census or Economic census] – every 5 years to establish the frame of enterprises active in international trade in services
 - b. Sampling survey – on a quarterly basis
 - c. Check coverage via ITRS and Tax information
 - d. Additional information [this will vary from country to country]
 - i. Reports of government agencies (including Port Authorities)
 - ii. Reports of corporations
 - iii. Expenditure surveys of foreign visitors (Travel exports)
 - iv. Dedicated expenditures survey (Travel imports)
 - v. Sample survey on goods importing enterprises every 5 years (Freight imports and Insurance imports)

II. Data publication

Goals	Time Frame / Periodicity	Agency / Task	Country specifics	Technical Assistance
Goal 1: Benchmark Census	Next Economic Census Every 5 years	NSO - Include a question on the Census Questionnaire inquiring if the enterprise had any Import/Export of Services in the last year	Cambodia – Economic Census – 2011 Laos – Economic Census – 2012 Myanmar – Wholesale trade statistics survey – 2011 Timor Leste – Business Activities survey – 2011 Vietnam – ITS Census – 2014	A) Vietnam B) Malaysia C) UNSD
Goal 2: Sample Survey for ITS	Develop and Test in 2011 Annual 2012 (Ref yr 2011) Annual 2013 (Ref yr 2012) Quarterly 2014	NSO - Develop and Test Questionnaire NSO and CB - Maintain frame of ITS enterprises NSO - Design sample of enterprises for survey Vietnam will share the ITS questionnaire with countries	Laos – annual to breakdown in quarters; start with development in 2013 after the 2012 census	A) Vietnam B) UNSD

Goal 3: Check coverage	Develop Method in 2011	NSO and CB - Develop Method to check coverage of enterprises involved in ITS using ITRS and additional sources (Tax information)		A) Malaysia B) Viet Nam C) UNSD
Goal 4: Working Committee for ITS data	Set up Working Committee in 2011	NSO and CB - Agree on Terms of Reference for the Working Committee and on the members to be included		

- a. Working Committee of producers and main users of SITS and BOP, existing of NSO, Central Bank, relevant Ministries and national authorities
- b. NSO – publishes SITS by EBOPS and main trading partners on a quarterly basis at least in electronic format on the NSO website
- c. Central Bank – publishes BOP including service components on a quarterly basis

Objective 2 SITS Mode 3: FATS

Compile and publish foreign affiliates statistics by ICFA categories and main trading partners on an annual basis

Vietnam Model

Data collection – based on Annual Enterprise Survey, including specific question on foreign ownership

Data publication -- NSO – publishes Inward FATS by ICFA and main trading partners on annual basis at least in electronic format on the NSO website

Goals	Time Frame / Periodicity	Agency / Task	Country specifics	Technical Assistance
Goal : Develop Sample Survey	Develop and Test in 2011	NSO and CB- Develop and Test FDI/FATS Questionnaire Vietnam will share the AES questionnaire with countries		A) Vietnam B) Eurostat / ESCAB C) UNSD

Objective 3 SITS by Modes of Supply

Publish SITS by Modes of Supply and main trading partners on an annual basis

Data collection – based on SITS by EBOPS and FATS data

Data compilation – Simplified approach

Data publication – NSO publishes SITS by Modes of Supply and main trading partners on annual basis at least in electronic format on the NSO website

Achievable goals

Goals	Time Frame / Periodicity	Agency / Task	Country specifics	Technical Assistance
Goal : Compile SITS by Modes of Supply	Develop compilation method in 2011	NSO - Develop method using SITS by EBOPS data, FATS data, some Tourism/ Migration statistics		A) WTO B) UNSD

Annex I - Agenda

Tuesday, 30 November

8.00 – 8.30 Registration

Morning session 8.30 – 11.30

1. Opening of the workshop
2. Adoption of agenda
3. Overview of the new recommendations in Statistics of International Trade in Services (SITS)
4. Overview of SITS data availability and institutional arrangements in South East Asia

Part 1: Resident – Non-resident trade in services

5. The sixth edition of the Balance of Payment Manual (BPM6)
 - Overview
 - Resident – Non-resident trade in services
 - Compilation guidance
6. Balance of Payments Compilation – country examples

Lunch break

Afternoon session 13.30 – 16.30

7. The Extended Balance of Payment Services (EBOPS) classification
 - Overview of EBOPS 2010
 - Relation of EBOPS 2010 to CPC
 - Definition of services in SNA 2008
8. Trade in Services classifications and compilation issues – country examples

Wednesday, 1 December 2010

Morning session 8.00 – 11.30

9. Data collection of resident – non-resident trade in services statistics
 - International Transaction Reporting System
 - Enterprise surveys
 - Country presentations
10. Parallel group discussion: cooperation of the NSO and the central bank on data collection
11. General discussion - Presentation of the group discussion

Lunch break

Part 2: Commercial presence

Afternoon session 13.30 – 16.30

12. Foreign Affiliates statistics, FDI
 - Introduction and overview
 - Core data for FATS, FDI and MNE
 - Country examples
13. General discussion on FDI
14. EBOPS, FATS and FDI broken down by partner country
 - Introduction and Overview
 - Minimal requirements
 - Country examples

Thursday, 2 December 2010

Morning session 8.00 – 11.30

15. Trade in services statistics by modes of supply
 - i. Cross-border supply
 - ii. Consumption abroad
 - iii. Commercial presence
 - iv. Presence of natural persons
16. Metadata and quality of the trade in services data
 - Data quality and Metadata
 - Data quality assessment – country perspective
17. Parallel group discussion on EBOPS and FATS: Data compilation practices, data quality control and metadata, institutional arrangements - problems and solutions
18. Presentation of the group discussion

Lunch break

Part 3: Consumption abroad – Travel and Tourism statistics

Afternoon session 13.30 – 16.00

19. Travel and Tourism Statistics
 - Overview of the recommendations IRTS 2008 and MSITS 2010
 - Recommendations of the Workshop on “Developing National Systems of Tourism Statistics: Challenges and Good Practices” in Vientiane, Lao DPR, 16 - 19 June 2009
20. Parallel group discussion on Travel and Tourism statistics: Data compilation practices, data quality control and metadata, institutional arrangements - problems and solutions
21. Presentation of the group discussion

Friday, 3 December 2010

Part 4: Data dissemination

Extended morning session 8.00 – 13.00

22. Data dissemination
 - Overview of the international recommendations
 - Examples of integrated presentations of EBOPS and FATS, and Travel and Tourism statistics
 - Country examples
23. Conclusions and recommendations of the Workshop

24. Evaluation and closing of the workshop



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Hanoi, Vietnam, 30 November - 3 December 2010

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