

SM showcases its Statistical Business Register at the 60th World Statistics Congress (WSC) in Rio

The 60th WSC was organised by the International Statistical Institute (ISI) in collaboration with the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), in Rio from 26 to 31 July 2015. The ISI is the leader in the development of statistical methods and their application and has as objective the promotion of the understanding, development and good practice of statistics worldwide.

Thanks to the sponsorship from the African Development Bank (AfDB), SM has been able to showcase its Statistical Business Register (SBR) at this biennial conference, attended by members of the statistical community worldwide.

At the congress, Mr. S. Mungralee, Senior Statistician, presented a paper on *'Statistical Business Register: Design, Development and Implementation'* and Mr. V. Madhow, IT consultant at SM, made a presentation on *'Development and Implementation of a Generic Statistical Business Register System'*. These two presentations and two others, namely, *'Statistical Business Register: Underlying Concepts and Methods'* by Mr. Michael Colledge, SBR Consultant at AfDB, and *'Statistical Business Register: Inputs, Processes and Outputs'* by Mrs Marietha Gouws, BR Manager, Statistics South Africa were intended to illustrate the SBR Guidelines, with reference to specific examples of their application in African countries.

Attendees showed their enthusiasm and interest in SM's Generic SBR. Mr. Oliver Chinganya, Division Manager for the Statistical Capacity Building Division, Statistics Department of the AfDB, expressed his appreciation of the work done at SM and strongly advised that other African countries should follow and implement such system at the earliest.

International Youth Day 2015

In 1999, the United Nations General Assembly designated 12 August as the International Youth Day. The theme chosen for this year's celebration was 'Youth Civic Engagement'. The engagement and participation of youth in political, economic and social development is essential in achieving sustainable human development.

To mark this event, the Ministry of Youth and Sports organized a half-day forum on the theme "Building a Resilient Youth for Civic Engagement" in which 138 young people aged between 17 and 29 years participated.

The objective of the forum was to encourage young people to participate in public life so that they can be empowered to bring a full contribution to society, including sustainable development and peace through resilience.

With our ageing population, the youth defined as persons aged 15-24 years (UN), now represents 16% of the population down from 23% in 1972; the share is estimated to decline further to reach 9% in 2055.

Board Committee on Labour Statistics

The committee was set up to assess the quality and relevance of statistics on labour force, employment and unemployment produced by Statistics Mauritius, evaluate the current data collection instrument and to come up with recommendations for the improvement of labour statistics.

The recommendations made by the committee are as follows:

- SM to improve the results of the CMPHS by increasing sample size fourfold;
- SM to request for ILO technical assistance for the conduct a Labour Force Sample Survey with sufficiently large sample in 2016;
- SM to align definitions used with international recommendations;
- SM to improve statistics on foreign labour by tapping all existing sources;
- SM to compile statistics for the list of indicators recommended by the committee based on the KILM of the ILO;
- SM to strengthen working collaboration with other departments, make optimum use of statistics from all data sources, reconcile and produce comprehensive and coherent best estimates;
- SM to satisfy users' interests and needs.

The recommendations of the committee will be studied and, if appropriate, implemented in a phased manner taking into consideration the cost implications.

Board Committee on Tourism Statistics

With the challenges being faced by the tourism sector, there is a pressing need to improve the tourism statistics system to better inform policies for the development of this pillar of the economy. In this context, a committee on 'Improvement of Tourism Statistics' was set up under the Statistics Board in September 2014 to recommend how to make the current System of Tourism Statistics more responsive to users' needs. The recommendations made by the committee included the following:

- Tourism statistics should capture the whole hospitality sector and include establishments of all sizes from both the hotel and non-hotel sector as well as related informal activities
- Statistics on tourist arrivals should be disseminated in such a way as to allow users to better assess results of market diversification strategies and broadened tourist product portfolios
- The methodology of compiling tourism earnings should be reviewed
- There should be more coherence between statistics based on tourism surveys and data from the Passport and Immigration Office (PIO)

The Board while acknowledging that implementation of the recommendations cannot be done without the support of various stakeholders, requested SM to work on an implementation work-plan with defined timelines.