

SM receives technical assistance on Government Finance Statistics (GFS) from the International Monetary Fund (IMF)



A mission consisting of Mrs. Sagé de Clerck, Senior Economist at the IMF's Statistics Division, and Dr. Brooks Robinson, Economist and GFS expert, was fielded from 23 April to 6 May 2014.

The purpose of the mission was to review the office's progress in GFS, assess new potential data sources on developing balance sheets and provide guidance for improvements. As part of their tasks, the mission visited concerned stakeholders to explain the purpose of GFS and enlist their cooperation in providing data required to SM. In their recommendations, the Consultants also considered the requirements of the recently updated GFS manual - Government Finance Statistics Manual 2014 (GFSM 2014).

Given that the Mauritian authorities have shown interest in adhering to SDDS Plus in the medium term, the mission took note of the difficulties in obtaining high frequency data and made proposals thereon.

SM reviews the format and contents of its print publications

SM is currently revamping its data dissemination practices in line with Consultant Soobrayen Kalasopatan's proposals.

There will be changes in format, contents and mode of dissemination of print publications to make them more user-oriented. The main changes are:

- The 'digests' of statistics will be replaced by a set of tables with more time series and secondary statistics for web release only;
- The Economic and Social Indicators will be reshaped by adopting a more accessible language and by making optimal use of tables and charts to get the message across better to 'general users'; and
- Publications meant for professional users will be released on an ad-hoc basis on themes of topical interest.

SM professional staff was empowered to undertake these tasks during a capacity-building workshop held in April/May 2014 and are now working towards full implementation of the changes as from beginning of 2015.

The Africa Regional Technical Assistance Center South (AFRITAC South) organised a seminar on Producer Price Index (PPI)



In its continuing effort to build capacity in the field of price statistics, the AFRITAC South office in Mauritius held a second seminar from 14 to 18 April 2014 in Ebène.

SM was represented by Mr. D. Chinee, Ms. N. Guillaume and Ms. D. Ramphul. While the first seminar allowed participants to share their experience in the compilation of Consumer Price Index (CPI), the second focused on helping countries to set up or improve their Producer Price Index (PPI) system.

PPI measures the changes in the effective prices received by producers. It is a leading indicator of inflation; movement of PPI is usually indicative of a similar change of part of the CPI and can be used in economic analysis of inflation transmission process.

While PPI is compiled by very few African countries, SM regularly compiles and publishes two PPI, namely PPI-Manufacturing (PPI-M) and PPI-Agriculture (PPI-A).

Annual General Meeting the Central Statistics Office Staff Association

The Central Statistics Office Staff Association held its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 16th April 2014.

The President made an appeal to staff members to give a helping hand in the association affairs, especially in view of the forthcoming PRB report. He expressed his disappointment as well as that of all members on the reports of Messrs Manraj and Seeballuck on Errors and Omissions arising out of the PRB report, and thanked members for their solidarity in the protest march held in July 2013 by the Union. He added that the salary proposed for the post of Statistical Officer (SO) as well as the career prospects are serious threats to the future of the office as nobody will be attracted to join the office as SO.

The Director, present for the occasion, thanked all members for their good work and had a special mention for those Officers proceeding on retirement after so many years of service at the Office.

The meeting ended with the election of office bearers for 2014-2015. Executive Committee: Messrs E. Romjon, Y. Khetoo, J. Sowdagur, K. Somanah, D. Venkatasawmy, A. Pentiah and Ms N. Guillaume.