

## **United Nations General Assembly endorses the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics**

The United Nations General Assembly endorsed the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics on 29 January 2014. This is the first time that the Fundamental Principles have received such high recognition at the global political level.

The Fundamental Principles, drafted some 20 years ago, are still relevant and were adopted without any change except for the preamble which has been revised to take into account new global developments of the past 20 years.

It is to be noted that the Fundamental Principles guide the production and dissemination of all official statistics worldwide. Mauritius is no exception as we used these principles as the basis for drafting the national Code of Practice (CoP) for Official Statistics which was launched in September last year.

## **IMF/AfDB assists SM to streamline data submission to international agencies**

The IMF and AfDB are jointly providing technical assistance to African countries to assist in their data submission and reporting. In this context, an IMF/AfDB delegation comprising Ms. Yutong Li and Mr. Vidyananda Eswaran from IMF, Mr. Beejaye Kokil and Mr. Balaji Subbaraman from AfDB visited SM and Bank of Mauritius (BOM) from 27 to 30 January 2014.



*The IMF/AfDB mission with SM staff after the wrap-up session*

During the mission, the Consultants presented the overall strategy of the Open Data Platform (ODP) which is to standardize and streamline the data submission process to international organizations. They also gave hands-on training to SM and BOM staff on how to submit data securely to the IMF through the ODP using the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX).

In the same vein, data submissions to other organizations can be streamlined and AfDB is working in partnership with African countries and international organizations to facilitate the process.

## **FAO IT assists SM to disseminate agriculture statistics in user-friendly ways**

FAO expert Yann Laurent fielded a mission at SM on 22 January 2014 and presented CountrySTAT which is a web-based information system for managing and disseminating food and agriculture statistics at regional, national and sub national levels. Country STAT can contribute towards the centralisation, harmonisation, standardisation, integration and validation of food and agriculture from different sources. It includes functionalities such as dynamic charts, maps, tables, and mobile data collection. It can also be used to disseminate non-agricultural statistics.

In line with its philosophy of improving its data dissemination practices to enhance use of statistics, SM will be soon installing CountrySTAT for the benefit of all users.

## **SM attends the 7th meeting of the Committee of Directors of the African Union (AU)**

Set Fong Cheung Tung Shing, Principal Statistician at SM, attended the seventh meeting of the Committee of heads of National Statistics Offices of AU member states held in Johannesburg from 5 to 7 December 2013.

The meeting whose theme was "Production of Economic Statistics in Africa" considered the challenges inherent in the production and use of economic statistics to support the transformation of African economies. It also reviewed the implementation status of the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA), the African Charter on Statistics, and the African Symposium on Statistical Development (ASSD).

It is to be noted that Mauritius was the first country to sign and ratify the African Charter. In response to the new statistical challenges, the country has taken the commitment to adopt the latest internationally accepted methodological standards on five main macro-economic statistics, namely the Consumer Price Index Manual 2004, the System of National Accounts 2008, the Government Financial Statistics Manual 2001, Balance of Payments Manual 6 and Monetary Financial Statistics Manual 2000.