



Editorial

The most important statistical event in the third quarter of 2009 was undoubtedly the 57th session of the International Statistical Institute (ISI) in Durban from 16 to 22 August 2009. For Africa this event was cause for celebration: it was the first time that 3,000 delegates of the statistical fraternity from across the world were congregating in sub-Saharan Africa. For South Africa, and more particularly for statistics South Africa and Mr. Pali Lehohla, the Statistician General, this was the successful culmination of eight years of preparation and hard work. The result was a happy blend of serious work and social events which steeped delegates in the warmth and vibrant spirit of Africa. The conference was opened by no other than the South African President Mr. Jacob Zuma himself who called upon statisticians to face the data challenges of the global financial crisis. The Minister responsible for statistics, Trevor Manuel, urged statisticians to tell politicians what they need to hear and not what they like to hear.

The ISI, established in 1885, is currently composed of around 2,000 elected members and 3,000 individual members together representing more than 130 countries. Its mission is to promote the understanding, development and good practice of statistics worldwide through promotion of excellence in statistical research, statistical education, statistical practice and professional standards. Every two years the ISI brings together its entire membership to exchange new ideas and discuss current trends in statistical development.

The African Development Bank played a major role in funding the 57th session of the ISI by sponsoring massive participation of nationals from every country in Africa. In Mauritius, it sponsored three top management officials from the Central Statistics Office (CSO) while Statistics South Africa took in charge a young statistician from the Bank of Mauritius and a young woman statistician from the University of Mauritius. The World Bank financed the participation of the Chief Health Statistician from the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life, and the Inwent Centre in Bonn did the same for two of its alumni at the CSO.

The conference stretched over six days with a total of 1,600 papers presented in 60 daily sessions of around 2 hours each.

In this Issue

Editorial	1
ISI Conference	2
GDDS - Senior Management Seminar	3
Workshop on ICP- Africa	4
Workshop on CPI	5
Closing Workshop on GDDS II Project - Health Statistics Module	6
Workshop on Project Management	7
Workshop on the 2010 World Programme on Censuses	8
Workshop on Labour Statistics	9
Séminaire du Développement de la Macroéconomie	11
Study Tour to UNODC	12
Training course on Measuring ICT access and use in businesses	13
Second UNDP mission on Tourism Satellite Account	14
Workshop to disseminate Methodologies and Tools for the development of gender statistics	15
Performance Management System	16
Progress – e-Business Plan	17
Visits on the CSO Website	18
Important Indicators	19
New Publications received	20
Training/Meetings attended by staff	21
Staffing Development	23
Obituary	24
Customer Care	24

International Statistical Institute (ISI) Conference

The ISI is the leader in the development of statistical methods and their application and has the objective to promote the understanding, development, and good practice of statistics worldwide. It held its 57th session in Durban, South Africa from 16 to 22 August 2009.

Given that it was the first time that the ISI conference was organised in sub-Saharan Africa since it was founded in 1885, many African Statisticians could make it to the conference. There was a total of around 2,500 delegates at the conference among whom a high number of young statisticians.

Thanks to sponsorship from the African Development Bank (AfDB) the Director of Central Statistics Office (CSO), Mr. H. Bundhoo and two Deputy Directors, Ms. Cheung Kai Suet and Ms. Y. Cassimally attended the conference. Other delegates from Mauritius included Mr. A. Sookun and Ms. D. Balgobin, CSO Statisticians; Mr. N. Jeeanody, Chief Health Statistician; Mr. H. Gendoo, Statistician at the Bank of Mauritius; and Ms. Jawaheer, Lecturer at the University of Mauritius.

The ISI conference was opened by South African President, Mr. Jacob Zuma, who focused on the challenges facing statisticians caused by the global financial crisis. The South African Minister responsible for statistics, Mr. Trevor Manuel, stressed on the importance of reliable statistics to address the development agenda. He once again encouraged statisticians to tell politicians what they need to hear and not what they want to hear.

The conference comprised a series of presentations by specialists and practitioners in various statistical fields such as 'Contemporary methodological challenges in Social Statistics', 'Institutional Strengthening – The role of Official Statistics in meeting global challenges', 'Modelling environmental data', 'Measuring bank services', 'Statistics in Finance' and 'Challenges faced in Statistics Education in African Countries' – to name but a few of them.

Two presentations were given by Mauritian participants. During a session entitled 'Data challenges for monitoring the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) in Africa' on 20 August 2009, Ms. Cassimally presented a paper entitled 'Data challenges in monitoring MDGs in Mauritius' prepared by Ms. Rughoobur, CSO Statistician. Mr. H. Bundhoo was the discussant and commented on the two papers presented during the session. On the same day at a session organised by the World Bank entitled 'The General Data Dissemination System (GDSS) for Africa – Building Capacity Development in Statistics', Mr. Jeeanody gave a presentation on the Mauritian experience with respect to health statistics. The title of his presentation was 'GDSS II Project to improve health statistics in Mauritius'.



Mr. H. Bundhoo, Director of Statistics, commenting on the two papers on MDGs presented during the ISI Conference

Attending the ISI was indeed an enriching experience; it provided the opportunity to share and acquire knowledge in developments in the statistical field.

General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) - Senior Management Seminar

The seminar on management for senior officers was organised by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) from 6 to 8 July 2009 in Pretoria, South Africa, following lessons learnt from the GDDS II project of the Bank. This project is a three-year (2007 to 2009) capacity building project involving 18 countries and covering seven areas. The lack of capacity in management in National Statistical Offices was identified as one of the main problems encountered by countries in the successful implementation of the GDDS II project. The seminar was intended for senior officers working in institutions involved in the production of official statistics against the background that statistical capacity building is closely related to management processes in statistical offices and within national statistical systems.

The seminar brought together senior management of National Statistical Offices to discuss key management issues. Resource persons were experts with vast knowledge in statistics and in managing organisations and projects: Mr. Hermann Habermann, former Director of the United Nations Statistical Division; Ms. Hilikka Vihavainen, Director for International Affairs, Statistics Finland; Ms. Mary Strode, Consultant from the Oxford Policy Management Ltd; Mr. Oliver Chinganya, IMF and Mr. Ronal Luttkhuizen, Manager of GDDS II project.

Presentations and discussions held on the basis of countries' management priorities and practices were on the following:

- (i) National statistical systems

- (ii) Managing statistical organizations
- (iii) Project management
- (iv) Managing quality in statistics
- (v) Managing people and projects
- (vi) Getting results out of activities

Some of the points retained from the workshop are:

- (i) **the importance of a national quality framework and a culture of data quality in national statistical organisations**, with commitment of all present at all times and pervading all aspects of the work of statistical offices from training of data collectors to transparency in data dissemination and accepting only work done with the assurance of quality. Reference was made to the generic Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF) of the IMF and the South African Statistical Quality Assessment Framework (SASQAF).
- (ii) **the need for a corporate plan** outlining the mission and values of the organization and setting the objectives and strategies to achieve them. The corporate plan provides for a high level framework that can be used for the preparation of annual work programmes, and from which individual units and ultimately individuals develop their own detailed plans and performance agreements. It sets the direction and codifies the principles of statistical offices. It helps employees understand the key values of the organization and their place in it and is the glue which binds the organisation together.
- (iii) **the use of project-based approach in statistical activities** was recommended for more effectiveness and efficiency particularly in a context of time, cost and quality constraints. The design and implementation of projects with focus on defined responsibilities, deliverables and milestones were covered while stressing on the importance of tools for monitoring, communication, and risk assessment and mitigation.

Workshop on International Comparison Program for Africa (ICP-Africa)

The workshop was conducted in Durban, South Africa from 12 to 15 August 2009 within the framework of Phase II of the Statistical Capacity Building Project of the African Development Bank (AfDB) for the update of purchasing power parities (PPP). The workshop consisted of two parts: (i) Data quality and validation (12-13 August 2009) and (ii) Breakdown of the Gross Domestic Product (14 - 15 August 2009).

Data quality and validation

The focus of the first part of the workshop was on data validation with presentations on intra- and inter- countries validation tools by resource persons from the AfDB. The importance of price data quality, a prerequisite to the quality of the PPP, was stressed upon while attention of participants was drawn on the fact that data validation did not necessarily consist in reducing the variability of the data sets, but rather to explain it. Participants proceeded with the validation of their country data using the appropriate validation tools.

Countries were informed of the work programme till 2010 and were requested to organise and subscribe to the planning of activities for the period 2009 to 2010. Health services, pharmaceutical products and education surveys are to be conducted in October 2009, and the household consumption items survey in September and November 2009. In 2010, the survey will be conducted in February, April, June, August and October in the capital city only. Countries are requested to submit data of products common to both ICP and Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the months when the ICP survey is not conducted.

Breakdown of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

The second part of the workshop which lasted for one and a half days focused on the review of the breakdown of the GDP of countries and the elaboration of a matrix of sub-regional GDP weights for 2007 and 2008.

A case study based on the 1993 SNA and 2008 SNA covering changes in General Government Final Consumption Expenditure and Investment was also presented and discussed. It was noted that the implementation of the 2008 SNA will have an impact in the current ICP classification and on the countries' GDP structure while conceptual and practical issues related to ICP requirements will have to be thrashed out before the 2011 round of the ICP.

Workshop on Consumer Price Index (CPI)

The African Development Bank (AfDB) organised a workshop on CPI compilation in Durban, South Africa from 14 to 15 August 2009, prior to the conference organised by the International Statistical Institute (ISI). Ms Y. Cassimally, Deputy Director at the Central Statistics Office (CSO) responsible for CPI, among others, attended the workshop.

The objective of the workshop was to raise awareness among CPI practitioners in developing countries, particularly in Africa, of the new Supplementary Handbook on Consumer Price Indices which is to be published under the auspices of Inter-secretariat Working Group on Price Statistics comprising International Monetary Fund (IMF), International Labour Organisation (ILO), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), World Bank and Eurostat.

The Handbook supplements the ILO Manual on the CPI. It provides practical guidance on all aspects of compiling a CPI, and offers advice on a whole range of operational issues from the sampling and collection of prices through to index construction and final publication. It also deals with specific problems in certain areas of CPI compilation such as how to deal with seasonal products and, substitution and quality change.

In the case of Mauritius, the CPI is compiled according to international standards as set by the ILO and is in line with the recommendations put forward for the region by SADC and COMESA. There were no major issues that need to be taken on board in the compilation of the national CPI. Nevertheless, the Handbook is an important reference material to be used as a guide at the office.

Closing Workshop on GDDS II Project - Health Statistics Module

Mauritius participated, through the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life and the Central Statistics Office, in the World Bank General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) II Project on Health Statistics. The project aims at improving health statistics through provision of technical assistance. At the launch workshop in Botswana in October 2007, priorities were defined to suit national requirements for the improvement of the Health Information System (HIS).

The first mission of technical assistance by Dr Arthur Heywood, World Bank Expert, held in December 2008 was to assess the local HIS of the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life. The assessment was done using the Health Metric Network (HMN) tool of the World Health Organisation (WHO) through consultations and discussions with stakeholders. The second mission held in January 2009 had as main objective to formulate a Health Information System Strengthening Strategic Plan for compliance with the HMN.

The closing workshop on GDDS II Project of the World Bank on Health Statistics was held from 9 to 11 July 2009 in Pretoria, South Africa. The main objectives of the closing workshop were:

- (i) to take stock of the progress made by each country following the technical assistance obtained under the GDDS II Project;
- (ii) to learn from other countries' experiences; and
- (iii) to look at the future plan for each country.

The workshop was attended by participants from countries which benefited from technical assistance from the World Bank, namely Lesotho, Mauritius, Sudan and Tanzania. Botswana which also participated in the project was not present at the closing workshop. The four participating countries gave presentations on their experiences of the project. Each of the presentation was discussed. Dr Arthur Heywood gave presentations on:

- (i) Health Information System Assessment and Strategic Planning - The case for Mauritius
- (ii) Health Metric Network Framework & Roadmap, that is what the HMN tries to do
- (iii) The Performance of Routine Information System Management (PRISM) Framework as an alternative measurement tool to HMN

Messrs. Garrett Daniell and Etienne de Fortier, experts from Geospace International, gave presentations on:

- (i) General overview of available ICT technology, focusing on data warehousing
- (ii) A Health Data Warehouse – Lesotho
- (iii) Geographical Information System (GIS) and Health

Countries were invited to formulate issues of interest and concern into questions which were then discussed. This session was interesting and informative.

At the end of the workshop, participating countries presented their future plans for the GDDS project and these were discussed. All countries showed high interest to progress in the tasks they have started

and pointed out that technical assistance in specific areas are required; it was proposed that the GDDS II Project be extended to ensure good progress in improving and strengthening the HIS.

Workshop on Project Management

Mauritius is participating in the IMF GDDS II project and at the end of the project in September 2009, it was proposed that a workshop on “Project Management approach to designing and implementing results oriented statistical activities” be held in Mauritius.

The proposal was made following observations made by World Bank and IMF Consultants on the lack of project management skills among National Statistical Offices (NSOs) staff, and the lack of good working relationship between NSOs and other data producing agencies.

In order to respond to this concern, the World Bank and IMF had already held various workshops in different countries to discuss the project management approach of dealing with different activities at NSOs to allow a strategic look at delivering statistical activities. In addition, seminars on the essence of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and how to prepare them have helped to create a mutual working relationship of common purpose and understanding to certain agreed deliverables between NSOs and other data producers. Given that many countries have benefited from the workshops, two half-day sessions based on the same concepts were held jointly by IMF and World Bank on 27 August 2009 (afternoon) and 28 August 2009 (morning).

The workshop was aimed for staff of the National Statistical System and the twenty participants were representatives of the main data producers in Mauritius namely the Central Statistics Office, the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Empowerment and the Bank of Mauritius. The resource persons were Mr. Ronald Luttikhuisen from the World Bank and Mr. Oliver Chinganya from the IMF.



Mr. Ronald Luttikhuisen from World Bank giving his presentations

The presentations made covered the following subjects:

- (i) The theory of project management process; aspects of project management in statistics and the Work Break-down Structure Approach
- (ii) Lessons learnt in Project Management
- (iii) The IMF Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF) and how each of the five dimensions is pertinent to the different activities in a statistical project
- (iv) Costing of projects
- (v) Use of MoU

The handouts of the presentations made during the workshop are posted on the intranet of the Office.

Workshop on the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses: Census Evaluation and Post Enumeration Surveys

The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) organised and conducted a Workshop on the 2010 World Programme for Population and Housing Censuses: Census Evaluation and Post Enumeration Surveys, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 14 to 18 September 2009. The workshop was hosted by the African Centre for Statistics at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).

The workshop was attended by delegates from countries of the African region namely, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, Sudan, Southern Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The resource persons from UNSD were Mr. Jean Michel DURR, Ms. Margaret MBOGONI and Dr. BANGA.

The objective of the workshop was to present an overview of the various methods of evaluating censuses with a focus on the Post Enumeration Survey (PES) methodology with regard to:

- (i) Planning and implementation;
- (ii) Frames and sample design;
- (iii) Methodologies for evaluating content and coverage errors;
- (iv) Matching procedures;
- (v) Imputation of missing values; and
- (vi) Tabulation and dual system of estimation.

The workshop also offered the possibility to the participants to present and discuss the experience of their countries on different aspects of census evaluation and the PES.

During the workshop, sessions were dedicated on the following topics:

- (i) Overview of census evaluation and selected methods used
- (ii) Post enumeration survey
- (iii) Sampling frames and sample design
- (iv) Evaluation of census coverage errors

- (v) Matching
- (vi) Estimation of coverage and content errors

Some of the recommendations and observations made during the workshop were:

- (i) The participants recognised the importance of PES as a tool for objective census evaluation.
- (ii) PES should be maintained as simple as possible. In that regard, participants recommended that variables included in the questionnaire be limited to the basic demographic characteristics.
- (iii) The PES questionnaire should include only items that are necessary for measurement of coverage and content error and therefore should not be overloaded with unrelated items.
- (iv) In general, there is limited capacity for census evaluation in the region. Efforts should, therefore, be made to develop the capacity of the countries to conduct PES and other evaluation methods.
- (v) Budget is a critical issue. It is recommended that the budget for the PES be part of the census budget.
- (vi) In the region, PES is conducted on average three months after the census enumeration, which could be improved by better management and organisation. In order to minimise memory lapses and effects of migration, it is recommended to conduct the PES as soon as possible after the census.
- (vii) Matching may be problematic. The meeting concluded that field reconciliation visits should be undertaken to tackle unresolved cases.
- (viii) While maintaining operational independence between the census and the PES, planning for the census and for PES should be synchronised.
- (ix) The PES should be completely implemented including the processing, analysis and dissemination of results.
- (x) The participants recommended that the Africa Symposia on Statistical Development (ASSD) discuss the question of census evaluation and propose mechanism for sharing experience.

Workshop on Labour Statistics in the context of Population Censuses

The workshop on Labour Statistics in the context of Population Censuses was held in Durban, South Africa from 12 to 14 August 2009. It was organised by the African Development Bank (AfDB) in collaboration with the Statistics South Africa and International Labour Organisation (ILO).

The workshop focused on the collection and use of data on economic characteristics in population censuses. The content was based on the United Nations (UN) Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 2 (2008) and the ILO/UN Handbook on Measuring the Economically Active Population and Related Characteristics in Population Censuses (2009). The resource persons were: Messrs S. Young, I. Chernyhev, D. Hunter and R. Hussmanns from ILO and Ms. E. Go from UNSD.

The different topics presented at the workshop together with some important points to be retained and considered at the Population Census in 2011 in Mauritius are:

Planning and design of population censuses for the collection of data on economic characteristics

- (i) Continue the Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey operations during preparations for and during the census.
- (ii) Communicate census plan, operations and outputs to user groups and the general public throughout the entire census process.
- (iii) Pre-test of the whole census process (data collection, field operation, data processing) to be conducted about one year prior to the conduct of the census.
- (iv) Use of sampling data processing to produce advance tabulations.
- (v) Core topics recommended in the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Rev. 2 (UN, 2009): Activity status, Occupation, Industry and Status in employment.
- (vi) Additional recommended topics: Time worked, income, institutional sector of employment, employment in the informal sector, informal employment (new concept) and place of work.

Economically active population, employment and unemployment - Definitions and design of census questions

- (i) Priority rules: 1 - Employment, 2 - Unemployment, 3 - Economic inactivity. Employment includes students, housewives, pensioners who were employed during the reference period as well as employed persons registered as unemployed.
- (ii) In spite of much criticism of the one-hour criteria for identifying a person as employed, the International Conference of Labour Statisticians has reconfirmed it for want of a better alternative.
- (iii) Criteria of standard definition for unemployment: without work, currently available for work and seeking work. Unemployment under the standard definition includes students, housewives, pensioners who are actively seeking work and currently available for work. It excludes (a) employed persons looking for another job or additional job and (b) persons without work, who are not actively seeking work and/or not currently available for work (e.g. discouraged workers).

Employment characteristics - Definition, classification and coding process

- (i) For the purpose of international comparison, it is recommended to use the most recent revision classification at the time of census.
- (ii) Coders may be specialised in the coding of one or few variables. The coding of industry and occupation should be kept together.
- (iii) To avoid boredom with repetitive process, use rotation between processes.

Data processing, tabulation, analysis and dissemination

- (i) Plan for processing should be formulated as an integral part of the overall census plan, and it is very important to involve data processing staff from the inception of the planning process.
- (ii) Extensive testing of processing systems must be undertaken in advance of the census.
- (iii) Check for large number of unusual cases should be done before publications.

- (iv) It may be more appropriate to release more detailed tables electronically.
- (v) Metadata should accompany all tabulations.
- (vi) Dissemination of census results should be regarded as an ongoing process to service the needs of users over a long period of time.
- (vii) A detailed plan for producing different census outputs should be guided by early user consultations.
- (viii) Results on economic characteristics to be released at a time close to the time when other related topics, such as education, are released.
- (ix) Custom tabulations from a separate, purposely built online dissemination database designed and extracted directly by users.
- (x) Dissemination outputs should include a summary of census evaluation, an assessment of data quality and an explanation of the difference between estimates from different sources.
- (xi) Draw up a comprehensive and coordinated programme of analytical studies phased over several years.

Statistical concept for measuring informality

- (i) Informal sector: enterprise-based – relates to characteristics of the private enterprise in which the person works.
- (ii) Informal employment: job-based – relates to the conditions of employment of a person.
- (iii) All persons employed in at least one informal sector enterprises (Informal own account enterprises, enterprises of informal employers) irrespective of their status in employment and whether it is their main or secondary job.
- (iv) Informal employment: Total number of informal jobs, whether carried out in the formal sector enterprises, informal sector enterprises, or households. Employees are considered to have informal jobs if their employment relationship is not subject to national labour legislation, income taxation, social protection or entitlement to certain employment benefits.

Population Census data on economic characteristics v/s data from other statistical sources

- (i) Census provides sampling frames for surveys, most popular method is multi-stage sampling, and allows the production of master sample for economy and convenience.
- (ii) Small area or small domain estimation can be made in conjunction with Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates.
- (iii) Evaluation of LFS data - a perfect reconciliation of Population Census and LFS data is never possible.

Séminaire du Développement de la Macroéconomie

The Government of China represented by the Academy of Macroeconomics Research (AMR) of the Ministry of Commerce organised a seminar in Beijing from 3 to 23 August 2009 on macroeconomic policies implemented in China during the previous decades. French-speaking African countries were invited to attend this seminar and 24 countries with 47 participants attended the seminar.

The main objective of the seminar was to sensitise African countries to adopt the successful macroeconomic decisions taken by China. The participants were mainly economists and heads of macroeconomics divisions from the Ministry of Finance. There were also representatives from Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Customs Departments, Central Banks and National Statistical Offices.

Presentations were done by economists engaged in research work at the AMR and discussions were focused on the economic situations of participating countries. The presentations consisted of an overview of developments in the Chinese economy for the past 30 years and prospects for future decades. Since 1978 China has experienced massive developments and 1978 was characterised as the period where the prevailing Government at that time took the decision of restructuring the economy which eventually proved to be a masterstroke in achieving economic development. This is justified by the fact that China is now one of the largest developing economies of the world in terms of economic growth, investment in capital formation, exports and employment creation. The main decision was to quit the socialist regime and open the economy to attract investment and implement policies aiming at creating employment and achieving higher growth.

China was not spared by the recent financial crisis which has affected mostly its exports. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth would decrease from double-digit to 7.5% in 2009 which is a very good performance when compared to the effects other big economies have had to endure during the crisis. Economists from China firmly believe that once the financial crisis phenomenon is over, the economy would grow more and more and may become the leading country in the world in 25 years` time. Challenges that remain for this country are the threat of energy-crisis because of growing demand due to massive investment in infrastructure and buildings and the development of West-China compared to East-China.

Study Tour to UNODC Headquarter in Vienna, Austria and to the Home Office of the United Kingdom in London

Within the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) mandate to monitor and analyse global drug and crime trends, the project “Collection and analysis of data and trends in drugs, crime and victimisation”, funded by the UN Development Account, has been designed to assist countries in the African region to build capacity in the collection and analysis of data on crime, drugs and criminal justice. In this regard, UNODC provided assistance to several countries for the implementation of victim and business surveys. One of the components of the various assistances provided to African countries is a study tour to the statistician of the Central Statistics Office responsible for these statistics with the purpose of training the staff on collecting data on crime and criminal justice system, sharing experience and best practices and strengthening partnerships. The Study Tour took place at UNODC in Vienna from 7 to 8 September 2009 and at the Home Office in UK from 10 to 18 September 2009.

The main objectives of the study tour were to:

- (i) Acquire knowledge and become familiar with the following issues:
 - (a) Designing and conducting household and business surveys on crime and corruption
 - (b) Compiling administrative data with a view to filling in the UN questionnaires on drugs, crime and criminal justice system
 - (c) Analysing and disseminating victimisation survey and administrative data
- (ii) Share experience and best practices used in Mauritius
- (iii) Strengthen partnership between UNODC and CSO

During the study tour, discussions were focussed on the following:

UNODC, Vienna

- (i) Overview of the status of implementation of “Data for Africa” programme
- (ii) Status of data collection on the UN Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (CTS) in Africa and recommendations to improve quantitative and qualitative replies to questionnaires
- (iii) Design of victimisation surveys – background material: UN manual on victimisation; Design of business and other surveys; Possibility to carry out similar surveys in Mauritius
- (iv) Review of Addis Ababa Conference recommendations on improving crime and criminal justice statistics and their follow up in Mauritius
- (v) UNODC-UNECA online forum of African experts

Home Office, London

- (i) General aspects of the British Crime Survey (BCS) and confront methodologies used at CSO and BCS
- (ii) Share experience and best practices with BCS and other services of the British criminal justice system
- (iii) Discussion on design and process of victimisation surveys and questionnaires; analysis, reporting and dissemination of data on crime and criminal justice
- (iv) Overview of Police, Prosecution, Prison, Judiciary and Probation Statistics activities, methods and challenges
- (v) Discussion on how BCS figures are merged with police statistics of crime recorded to produce a joint document
- (vi) Local data collection and IT system
- (vii) Review of crime statistics to improve public trust

Training Course on Measuring Information and Communication Technology (ICT) access and use in businesses

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), jointly with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), organised a training course on “Measuring Information and Communication Technology (ICT) access and use in businesses” from 20 – 24 July 2009 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The objective of the training course was to strengthen the capacities of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in the African region to produce internationally comparable statistics on the access and use of ICT in businesses, on the ICT sector and on trade in ICT goods.

The training course was designed for the staff of NSOs and other national institutions in charge of the production of official statistics on the information society. Some 19 participants from 14 Anglophone African countries attended the training course. The office was represented by the statistician in charge of the ICT unit.

Given its technical nature, participants were required to have a background in statistics or economics. The training course included interactive discussions of concepts related to measuring information society and practical exercises. It was based on the UNCTAD 'Manual for the Production of Statistics on the Information Economy, 2009 Revised Edition'.

The training was conducted by Mr. José Antonio Piriheiro from the New University of Lisbon. He was assisted by Mr. Torbjorn Frederiksson and Ms. Scarlett Fondeur Gil from UNCTAD.

The course comprised five modules:

- (i) Concepts and definitions of ICT indicators
- (ii) Developing an ICT data collection strategy
- (iii) Designing ICT in business survey
- (iv) Processing ICT survey data
- (v) Disseminating ICT data

Each module included practical exercises and participants were required to complete a test.

Second UNDP mission on Tourism Satellite Account

Background

Government proposes to develop the tourism sector as one of the strongest pillars of the economy by increasing the number of tourist arrivals from the current 900,000 to 2,000,000 by 2015. In this context, statistical tools need to be developed to assess and monitor the direct and indirect effects of tourism on the economy in terms of value addition, employment and income; and to provide insight in the sustainability of the sector and action needed to address any potential negative impacts on the society and environment. A Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) will help achieve these objectives.

Construction of a TSA

The services of Mr. J. Falconi, an international consultant in the field of tourism statistics was made available to the CSO by UNDP, to assist in the construction of the TSA and also to analyse and interpret the results. The Consultant undertook a first mission to the CSO from 13 to 24 April 2009. Focus was mainly on the definition of guidelines for the elaboration of an experimental TSA and evaluation of the Mauritius tourism *statistical* system. By the end of the mission, the consultant made proposals on how to construct an experimental TSA for the year 2005 based mainly on the 2005 Supply and Use Table and data from the 2006 Survey of Outgoing Tourists.

Second mission of Consultant: August – September 2009

The Consultant was on a second mission to the CSO from 25 August to 5 September 2009 to assess the experimental account for 2005 and make projections for 2006 to 2008. He also proposed measures to improve inbound tourism statistics and new data collection instruments for outbound and domestic tourism, for more detailed information required for the elaboration of a final TSA. The setting up of an Inter institutional Platform (IP) comprising suppliers of basic tourism information, planning and control officers, producers and users of tourism statistics from both the public and private sector was highly recommended for collaboration and coordination of activities.

The mission ended by a presentation on the methodology of experimental TSA and the accounts worked out for Mauritius. The 2005 accounts as well as the projections made for 2006 to 2008 were analysed. Stakeholders present were also introduced to the importance and methodological framework of the TSA as regards economic analysis of the tourism sector in Mauritius.

Workshop to disseminate Methodologies and Tools for the development of gender statistics

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) organised a four-day workshop to disseminate methodologies and tools for the development of Gender Statistics in Lusaka, Zambia from 29 June to 2 July 2009. The workshop was led by Mr. Omar Abdourahman and Ms. Awa Thiongane from UNECA. Mauritius was represented by one statistician from the Central Statistics Office and one officer from the Ministry of Women's Right, Child Development and Family Welfare.

The main objectives of the workshop were to:

- (i) brainstorm on how to introduce cost-effective ways of generating gender-disaggregated statistics;
- (ii) improve the capacity of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) to integrate the gender perspective into national census undertaking during the '2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses'; and
- (iii) advocate for the production and dissemination of gender statistics through training and dissemination of tools developed by UNECA namely:
 - (a) The African Gender and Development Index (AGDI)
 - (b) The Gender African Supplement to the Principles and Recommendations on Population and Housing Censuses
 - (c) Time Use Studies

The African Gender and Development Index (AGDI) is a tool that UNECA has developed to measure the performance of Member States in meeting their commitments and obligations towards the international and regional conventions on gender equality and women's advancement they are signatory to.

The United Nations produces a series of international recommendations to guide countries in planning and carrying out improved and cost effective censuses, known as the Principles and Recommendations on Population and Housing Censuses. These recommendations are revisited during different rounds of the censuses to reflect new and emerging issues. However, in order to meet the

specific needs of African countries, UNECA prepared the Africa Addendum to the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses. This guide was briefly introduced during the workshop as many African countries would be conducting the Population and Housing Census in 2010.

The Time Use Survey (TUS) is currently the most appropriate tool to assess the paid (market work) and the unpaid work (non-market work), both of women and men to estimate the contribution of this invisible unpaid work to human welfare, and to the economy. In Mauritius, a TUS was conducted by the CSO in 2003. Gender experts from UNECA recommended that such a survey be carried out every 5 years.

The workshop was also a good platform for knowledge sharing and interaction between both gender specialists and statisticians on gender statistics issues.

Performance Management System (PMS)

This paper highlights issues that were discussed at the 8th meeting of the PMS Moderating Committee held on 10 August 2009. Discussions at the meeting focused on competency framework, assessment method, and reward for good performance.

As you would have noticed, this newsletter is being used as a vehicle for providing feedback on a regular basis to the staff on issues relating to the PMS, in particular those issues that are being addressed at the level of the Moderating Committee. This platform is also available to officers who wish to share their own insights and experiences on the implementation of the PMS at this office.

At its meeting held on 10 August 2009, the Moderating Committee looked again into the earlier suggestion of having a Competency Framework customized to the specific needs of the Central Statistics Office. The Committee discussed proposals for the assessment of each grade on the basis of 5 core competencies essential for effective performance and 5 other competencies to be mutually agreed upon by the appraiser and the appraisee from a list of competencies to be worked out by the office. It is expected that the office would come up with a final proposal on the matter in the coming weeks.

The Moderating Committee also discussed the findings of an exercise carried out in the grade of Statistician to compare ratings obtained by officers in the grade at the end-of-year review of 2008 and to evaluate to what extent assessment of achievements and competencies had been done in a standardized and consistent manner. The exercise revealed that the ratings were generally not consistent from one appraiser to another; however, the ranking of officers in terms of performance was consistent. This led to suggestions that ranking be used for the purpose of rewarding performance in the context of the PMS. All implications would be looked into by the Committee before a final stand is taken on the matter.

The discussions at the Moderating Committee testify to the efforts made by the office to continuously improve the PMS to ensure that it is sustained over time. The issues mentioned above are very pertinent. Most importantly, they translate the desire to ensure that performance is fairly assessed and

rewarded. If the perception is that this is not the case, the PMS will inexorably lose its credibility and ultimately can be a failure. The challenge is that all parties at all levels actively participate in the debate and bring their contribution to the continuous improvement of the system. Management through the Moderating Committee is showing its pledge to a sustained, equitable and effective PMS. This is a clear signal that performance, merit and reward are top priorities for this office.

Progress – e-Business Plan

Eleven months have already lapsed since the start of the implementation of the first phase of the e-Business Plan. This phase spans over 13 months, from October 2008 to November 2009. Progress of work covering the period July to September 2009 is given below.

Project 1: Modernising IT Environment

During the third quarter of 2009, the 5 servers purchased have been delivered by the suppliers. The specialised ‘Server Room’ had been set-up on the first floor to accommodate the precious equipments so that they could operate under recommended standard conditions for optimal efficiency. Security being an important aspect, the server room has been designed in such a way that access to it could be possible only after composing a valid combination of codes, known only by relevant officers of the IT Unit.

With the delivery of the servers, it can be said that the CSO is now equipped with the right infrastructure (PC, networking system, servers etc) to develop the New Application Structure, on which will be built the centralised integrated database, the ultimate aim of implementing the e-Business Plan.

It is also good to note that the CSO will be recruiting, under the Capacity Building Programme, a consultant for the development of a Geographical Information System at the office. The consultant is expected to start work in November 2009.

Project 2: Developing New Application Architecture (NAA)

During the first phase of the implementation of the e-Business Plan, it is expected that the development of the NAA will be completed for 4 units at the CSO (Labour, Central Business Register, Trade, and Consumer Price Index). During the period July to September 2009, the development of the new system has been completed in Labour and CBR units, while work has already started in Trade Unit. Several meetings, working sessions and presentations were conducted by Mr. Madhow, IT Project Manager, to ensure that the NAA developed in Labour and CBR are harmonised in terms of IT structure as well as in terms of concepts, definitions and classifications.

Concerning CPI unit, work will start by end of October 2009. It is expected that the NAA will be completed for the targeted four units within the time frame set-up, i.e. before end of November 2009.

Project 3: Data Capture through Scanning

At the end of the first semester, after the evaluation exercise, the best bidder for the pilot exercise concerning this project was identified. However, following the decision of postponing the census to 2011, the whole tendering exercise had to be cancelled and priorities concerning this project reviewed. Tendering exercise for this project will be launched once again in 2010.

Visits on the CSO Website

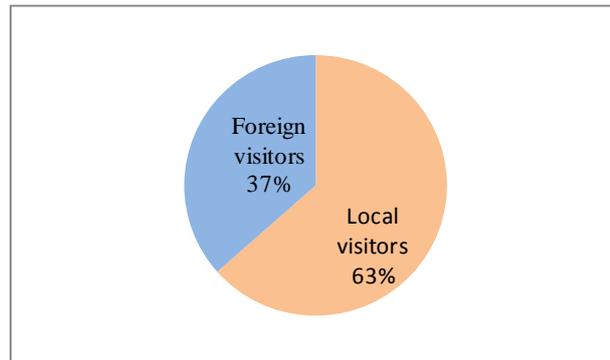
The total number of hits rose from 3,527 in July to 3,720 in August 2009, representing a 5.5% increase. It is noted that website hits from first timers increased by 13.7% while those from repeaters declined by 4.3%, for the period under review. The charts below show the share of website hits by first timers and repeaters for the months of July and August 2009.

Percentage distribution of hits from first timers and repeaters - July and August 2009



In August 2009, local visitors amounted to 2,361 compared to 1,359 foreigners. The diagram below depicts the share of local and foreign in August 2009.

Percentage distribution of foreign and local visitors - August 2009



Number of foreign visitors by country- August 2009

The number of foreign visitors by country in August 2009 is shown below.

Country	Number	%
United States	303	22.3
Great Britain (UK)	151	11.1
India	146	10.7
South Africa	74	5.5
Australia	67	4.9
Malaysia	59	4.3
France	56	4.1
Germany	32	2.4
Canada	24	1.8
Switzerland	13	1.0
Other countries	434	31.9
TOTAL	1359	100.0

Important Indicators released during the Third Quarter of 2009

GDP Growth Rate

Latest information gathered on the various sectors of the economy indicates that growth of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for 2008 was 5.0%, lower than the 5.3% growth estimated in June 2009.

On the basis of information gathered on key sectors of the economy and available data for the first semester of 2009, GDP is now forecasted to grow by 2.7% higher than the 2.5% growth forecasted in June 2009.

Consumer Price Index

The Consumer Price Index (CPI), which stood at 116.1 in March 2009, increased by 0.9% during the second quarter of 2009 to reach 117.1 in June 2009.

The inflation rate for the financial year 2008/09 was 6.9% compared to 8.8% for financial year 2007/08.

External Trade

During the first semester of 2009, total exports reached Rs 28,976 million, representing a decrease of 3.6% over the corresponding period of 2008, mostly explained by declines in re-exports and ship's stores and bunkers. Total imports for the same period fell by 14.1% to Rs 53,890 million. The trade deficit for the first semester of 2009 worked out to Rs 24,914 million, representing a decrease of 23.7% over the figure of Rs 32,656 million registered in the first semester of 2008.

For the year 2009, total exports are forecasted at around Rs 64,000 million and imports at Rs 114,000 million. The trade deficit would be around Rs 50,000 million, 22.1% lower than the previous year's deficit.

Unemployment

The unemployment rate for the second quarter of 2009 is estimated at 8.3% compared to 8.0% at the previous quarter and 7.4% at the corresponding quarter of 2008.

Unemployment rate for the year 2009 is expected to increase to 8.1% from 7.2% in 2008.

Tourist arrivals

Tourist arrivals decreased by 9.3% from 455,758 in the first semester of 2008 to 413,504 in the first semester of 2009. Gross tourism receipts for the first semester of 2009 were estimated at Rs 18,249 million, that is 17.7% lower than that for the same period of 2008.

The initial forecast of 835,000 tourist arrivals for the year 2009 is maintained (-10.3% over 2008) and gross tourism receipts will be around Rs 38.2 billion (-7.3% over 2008).

Producer Price Index- Manufacturing

The Producer Price Index-Manufacturing, which stood at 170.7 in March 2009, decreased by 2.9% during the second quarter of 2009 to reach 165.7 in June 2009. This is mainly explained by a fall of 2.2% in the sub-index "Manufacture of food products, beverages and tobacco".

The decline of 2.2% in the sub-index "Manufacture of food products, beverages and tobacco" was due to lower prices of "Production, processing and preservation of meat and meat products" (-10.7%), "Manufacture of grain mill products" (-1.2%) and "Manufacture of vegetable and animal oils and fats" (-2.4%).

New Publications received

The following publications have been acquired during the third quarter of 2009.

Local Publications

Reports

1. Bank of Mauritius

- (i) Annual Report-2008, 2009
- (ii) Financial Stability Report, June 2009

2. The Mauritius Sugar Terminal Corporation

Annual Report, 2006-2007, 2009

Foreign Publications

Periodicals

1. INSEE

- (i) Economie de la Réunion, July 2009
- (ii) Economie et Statistique, No. 419-420, 2008

2. IMF

International Financial Statistics, June 2009

3. Institute of Developing Economies, Japan

The Developing Economies, June 2009

Reports

1. United Nations

- (i) World Statistics Pocketbook, 2009
- (ii) Handbook on Geospatial Infrastructure in Support of Census Activities, 2009
- (iii) 2006 International Trade Statistics Yearbook, 2009
- (iv) Demographic Yearbook 2006, 2009

2. Statistics South Africa

South African Statistical Quality Assessment Framework (SASQAF), 2008

3. Institute of Developing Economies, Japan

Trade Indices and Change of Trade, 2009

4. Union for African Population Studies

African Population Studies, 2008

Trainings/meetings attended by Staff during the Third Quarter of 2009

(i) Overseas

Name	Programme	Country	Period
Mr. D. Pothegadoo	Workshop to disseminate tools and methodologies for collection & analysis of gender data	Lusaka, Zambia	29 June -2 July
Ms L. F. Cheung Kai Suet & Ms. M. Ganoo	GDDS Senior Management Seminar	Pretoria, South Africa	6 - 8 July
Ms. M. Ganoo	Closing Workshop on Health Statistics, GDDS II Project	South Africa	9 -11 July
Mr. A. Bundhoo	Training Course on Measuring ICT Access and use in Business	Ethiopia	20- 24 July
Ms. M. Ganoo	Workshop on Labour Statistics in the context of Population Censuses	South Africa	12 - 14 August
Ms. L. F. Cheung Kai Suet	ICP Data validation and National Accounts	South Africa	12-15 August
Ms. Y. Cassimally	Workshop on CPI compilation	South Africa	14- 15 August
Mr. H. Bundhoo	Heads of National Statistical Offices' Meetings	South Africa	15 August
Mr. H. Bundhoo, Ms. L. F. Cheung Kai Suet & Ms. Y. Cassimally	International Statistical Institute Conference	South Africa	16- 22 August
Mr. D. Jagai	Développement de la Macroéconomie	Republic of China	3 - 23 August
Ms. N. Guillaume	Study Tour to Statistics and Surveys Sections of UNODC and to Home Office, U.K	Austria & England	7 - 18 September

(ii) Local*Seminar/Workshop*

Name	Programme	Organising Institution (s)	Period
Mr. F. Chutkai, Mr. J. Chandul, Mr. S. Janna Naikeny & Mr. S. Ramdhun	Training in Public Relations & Customer Care for Office Care Attendant	Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms (MCSAR)	30-31 July; 6-7 August; 10-11 September; 17-18 September
Ms. N. Guillaume	Refresher Course on First Aid	MCSAR in collaboration with St. John Ambulance	8 July-12 August
Ms. K. Pothegadoo	Workshop on Consumer Education	Ministry of Consumer Protection & Citizens Charter	12 August
Mr. J. Chandul	Sensibilising members towards their responsibilities	Government Office Attendant Union	13-14 August
Mr. D. Juleemun, Mr. A. Bahadoor, Mr. D. Pillay & Ms. P. Bucktowar	Training in Effective Communication Skills	MCSAR	12-14 August; 17-19 August & 31 August-2 September
Mr. H. Bundhoo, Ms. L. F. Cheung Kai Suet, Ms. Y. Cassimally, Mr. D. Bahadoor, Ms. M. Ganoo, Ms. G. Appadu, Ms. S. F. Cheung Tung Shing, Mr. C. Ramnath, Mr. K. Y. Wong Ping Lun, Mr. C. Arianaick, Mr. M. Dawoonauth, Mr. S. Bhonoo, Ms. N. Gujadhur & Ms. N. Guillaume	Workshop on Project Management Approach to designing and implementing results-oriented statistical activities for the main producers of statistics in the country	World Bank & IMF	27-28 August

In-house Training

Thirteen Statistical Officers and fifteen trainees (under the Empowerment Programme) followed a "Training course in Basic Statistics" organised by the Central Statistics Office. The course was conducted by the following resource persons: Mr. D. Bahadoor, Mr. B. Unmar and Mr. A. Sookun. The participants were:

Mr. H. Bissessur	Ms. D. Jogee	Ms. R. Pemsing
Ms. N. Boodhoo	Mr. I. Juhoor	Mr. D. Pillay Sanassy
Ms. L. D. Boodhun	Mr. C. Junkee	Ms. S. Punchoo
Ms. F. Boolakee	Ms. V. Kissoon	Ms. A. Pyeneeandee Pakeeroo
Ms. S. Boolaky	Mr. P. Korimboccus	Mr. N. Ragnath
Mr. P. Cheekhooree	Ms. P. Kutwaroo	Ms. S. Ramyed
Mr. S. Dookhurrun	Mr. R. Lutchmadoo	Ms. S. Seebaruth-Ramjug
Mr. A. Dooky	Ms. H. Maywah	Mr. A. Shreemantoo
Mr. D. Gujadhur	Ms. R. Moheeputh	
Mr. A. Jeebun	Mr. A. Nunhuck	



Mr. D. Bahadoor, resource person, giving lectures on “Basic Statistics”

Staffing Development

- (i) Mr. Satishing JUGOO, Statistical Officer, left the Central Statistics Office on 4 May 2009, to take up permanent employment at the Bank of Mauritius.
- (ii) Ms. Bibi Noorjahan ISSACK-BURRUN, Statistical Officer, has retired from the Government Service on ground of marriage.

Both Mr. Jugoo and Ms. Issack-Burrun have served dedicatedly at this office for 14 years and

we wish them well for the future.

- (iii) Fifteen trainees registered on the Empowerment Programme Interactive Platform are currently on placement at this office. Subject to satisfactory performance during an initial period of 3 months, their placement will be for a duration of 1 year as from August 2009.

Obituary

The Director of Statistics and all the staff of CSO deeply regret the loss of two staff, Ms. Rekha RAMPARSAD and Ms. Priya AUCHOYBUR, who passed away in July 2009. We are sincerely indebted to them for their valuable contribution to this office. May God help their families in these difficult moments.

Customer Care

One of the functions of the Publication Unit, located at the ground floor of the Central Statistics Office (CSO), LIC Centre, John Kennedy Street, Port Louis, is to provide guidance to visitors who come to this office in search of statistical information.

The unit receives on a daily basis visitors ranging from students to professional researchers. The table below shows the number of persons that visited CSO during the first three quarters of 2009. Among various areas of interest of the visitors, the most popular ones are National Accounts, Education, Labour, Demography and Price Indices.

Visitors by Area of Interest, 1st Quarter 2009 - 3rd Quarter 2009						
Area of interest	1st Quarter 2009		2nd Quarter 2009		3rd Quarter 2009	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
<i>Economic Statistics:</i>						
National Accounts	148	37.9	29	11.9	27	17.6
International Travel & Tourism	19	4.9	43	17.7	9	5.9
Education	19	4.9	8	3.3	15	9.8
External Trade	20	5.1	14	5.8	3	2.0
Other	24	6.1	29	11.9	13	8.5
<i>Social & Demographic Statistics:</i>						
Labour Force, Employment and Unemployment	51	13.0	40	16.5	20	13.1
Population & Vital Statistics	45	11.5	41	16.9	43	28.1
Other	9	2.3	12	4.9	5	3.3
<i>Price Indices:</i>						
Price Indices	40	10.2	4	1.6	3	2.0
<i>Other Statistics:</i>						
Other Statistics	16	4.1	23	9.5	15	9.8
TOTAL	391	100.0	243	100.0	153	100.0