



Editorial

It is a great honour for me to sign this editorial note as the Ag. Director of Statistics in replacement of Mr. Harish Bundhoo who after 40 years of dedicated work at the service of statistics will retire in May 2010. My tributes here to an outstanding Statistician and Director who throughout his career has been advocating for professionalism and rigour.

With the start of this new decade, I cannot but seize the opportunity to focus my address on achievements of the Office over the past ten years. The past decade has been rich in events. From a quasi-unknown and low-profiled institution, the Central Statistics Office has grown into a recognised authority for the provision of official statistics central to Government in national decision making and development.

Today, the importance of Statistics is widely recognised. Mauritius enjoys a relatively high level of statistical awareness. Stakeholders and the media look forward to the regular periodic release of economic and social statistics, particularly on economic growth, unemployment and inflation. These data are used every year to determine the quantum of salary compensation. Poverty and income statistics play an important role in determining policies relating to social aid, whilst NGOs use mapping of local area relative development indices based on census data, for poverty alleviation initiatives. Population estimates by local authority areas are the basis for allocation of financial grants by Central Government. The Bank of Mauritius uses inflation, and statistics of exports and imports among others, to inform decisions of the Monetary Policy Committee. The CSO participates actively in developing performance indicators and targets which are used by development partners such as the World Bank and the European Union for release of funds for budget support.

New tools have been developed such as the Social Accounting Matrix, Environmental-Economic Accounts and Tourism Satellite Accounts, while better data are now available - just to mention a few - ICT statistics; Poverty statistics; Crime, Justice and Security statistics; MDG statistics; and statistics on Time Use.

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Major dates and landmarks during the past ten years are:

2000:

- (i) **Overhauling of the 1951 Statistics Act by Parliament with the 2000 Act** to be more in line with the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.
- (ii) **Subscription to the General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)**, a framework that guides in developing sound statistical systems as the basis for disseminating data to the public.

2001:

- (iii) **Development of the Website of the Office:** to show case what we are and what we do, and to disseminate rapidly the statistics we produce to all users, both local and international.
- (iv) **Report on Observance of Standards and Codes (ROSC):** data quality assessment according to the Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF) undertaken by the IMF following subscription to the GDDS

2005:

- (v) **Publication of the “Guide to the CSO”** to create better awareness and understanding of the CSO and its products, to encourage both professional data users and the public at large to make more effective use of the services it provides.
- (vi) **Participation in the International Comparison Programme** of the World Bank in 2005; in 2007, CSO member of the “Friends of the Chair” of the UNSD set up to evaluate the programme and make proposal on the next round.

2006:

- (vii) **Publication of a Customer Charter** to inform on our responsibilities as regards the standards of service to our customers.
- (viii) **Development of a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS)**, providing for a coherent roadmap for strengthening statistical capacity to address challenges facing the national statistical system comprising producers, suppliers and users.
- (ix) **Development of an e-business plan**, providing for Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) solutions in terms of hardware and application system software, communication facilities, and efficient use of IT to raise the performance of CSO’s operations to a level at par with international standards on delivery of e-business services. Implementation started in 2008 and is expected to be completed in 2012.
- (x) **Performance Management System (PMS)** to measure in a systematic and effective manner the performance of the office, both at organisational and individual levels. Piloted in 2006, the system is now fully embedded in the work culture of the Office.

2007:

- (xi) **Report on Observance of Standards and Codes (ROSC):** second data quality assessment made by the IMF, in view of Government’s intention to have Mauritius graduate to the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) to facilitate the country’s access to international capital markets.

2008:

- (xii) **SDDS:** Relevant data categories falling under the responsibility of CSO fully compliant with the standards of the IMF in terms of coverage, periodicity and timeliness.

2009:

- (xiii) **National Statistics System:** A Memorandum of Understanding signed with Bank of Mauritius to promote best practices and avoid overlapping and duplication in the production of statistics. Coordination and collaboration arrangements with the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life, the Ministry of Social Security, the Judiciary and the Police and Prison departments are in progress.

This decade will be full of challenges if we are to keep up with the rapid developments in statistics. The conduct of Housing and Population Census, use of information technology, development of a marketing/dissemination strategy, setting up of a National Quality Framework for official statistics, development of Codes of Practice for all producers of statistics, extensive use of administrative data instead of conduct of surveys to reduce cost and respondents' burden, and setting up of live Central Population and Business databases will be high priorities for this decade.

African Statistics Day

The Central Statistics Office (CSO) conducted a half-day workshop on 26 November 2009 at Labourdonnais Waterfront Hotel, Port Louis to mark the celebration of African Statistics Day whose theme for 2009 was Strengthening Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems in Support of National Development and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Africa.

Participants to the workshop comprised mainly representatives of ministries and government departments directly concerned with vital statistics. Ms. Cheung Kai Suet, Ag. Director of Statistics, made an opening statement and Mr. A. Mansoor, Financial Secretary, opened the workshop. The following presentations were given:

- (i) Strengthening Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems in support of national development and MDGs in Africa - Towards new initiatives and approaches by Ms. Y. Cassimally, Deputy Director, CSO
- (ii) Status of the Civil Registration System in Mauritius by Mr. S. Chukun, Principal Civil Status Officer, Civil Status Division
- (iii) Status of the Vital Statistics System in Mauritius by Ms. S.B. Nunhuck, Statistician, CSO
- (iv) Vital statistics generated from Civil Registration - An essential component of the Health System by Mr. N. Jeeanody, Chief Health Statistician, Ministry of Health and Quality of Life
- (v) Way forward for Mauritius by Mr. D. Juleemun, Principal Statistician, CSO



Mr. Ali Mansoor (centre), Ms. Cheung Kai Suet (right) and Ms. Cassimally (left)

After the presentations, participants agreed that, given the complete vital registration system in the country, the next step for Mauritius would be to set up a live population database that could be linked to application systems at various ministries and government departments. Through sharing of information across departments, administrative procedures would be smoother with the result that the public will be better served; at the same time statistical needs will be better met.

In order to achieve this, the concerned ministries and the CSO will work jointly. The Central Population Database (CPD) currently under the responsibility of the Civil Status Division which contains information on births, marriages and deaths should be extended and updated with data from different sources.

Geographical Information System (GIS) Project

Under the Capacity Building Programme of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Empowerment, the Central Statistics Office (CSO) hired the services of Alan Mills Consulting Ltd (AMCL) to implement the CSO GIS Project. This project aims at developing a GIS to capture, process, display and analyse geographically reference information in various fields and produce dissemination tools (CD, Interactive website etc.). The ultimate aim is to allow users to create interactive queries in a user friendly manner by making use of GIS.

The project is split into seven phases starting from November 2009 to June 2010. Mr. Alan Mills, Lead consultant and his assistant Mr. Naim Ahmad Shaik Jooman completed the first phase of the project which spanned from 9 to 27 November 2009. This phase covered the scoping of the needs for a GIS, the existing situation, identifying the gaps and a proposed plan of action for the remainder of the project.



Mr. Alan MILLS introducing Geographical Information System (GIS) to CSO Staff

The consultant is currently finalising the report on Phase 1 of the project which will include the final implementation plan for the remaining phases of the project. Phase 2 is expected to start in February 2010.

Censuses and Surveys

Needs Assessment for Census Analysis (NACCA)

A conference was organised by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Dakar from 11 to 13 November 2009. The main objective was to create a dialogue between census specialists and population data users that would contribute to census analyses that are timely, accurate, and relevant to the policy needs of the African region.

The participants were:

- (i) census specialists from NSOs and Mauritius was represented by a Principal Statistician from the Central Statistics Office;
- (ii) representatives of Ministries of Planning and other users of census data;
- (iii) representatives of universities and research organisations in the region;
- (iv) technical specialists from other regions, to transmit successful experiences from their countries or regions; and
- (v) representatives of international organisations or donor countries active in funding or technically supporting the censuses in the region.

In addition to experiences of participating countries in census analysis, other presentations covered the following areas:

- (i) imputation of census data and its effect on fertility and mortality estimations;
- (ii) problems of indirect estimation in the current demographic situation of Africa;
- (iii) analysis framework developed with the African Development Bank;
- (iv) intended activities of the UNSD in support of census analysis in Africa;
- (v) Own Children Methods and their application in Africa;
- (vi) potential uses of census information for environmental analysis and climate change;
- (vii) uses of census information for poverty analysis, including poverty maps;
- (viii) use of census information for gender analysis;
- (ix) experiences and guidelines in the use of census information for maternal mortality estimation;
- (x) techniques for the statistical integration of census and survey information;
- (xi) use of census information in the analysis of education; and
- (xii) needs assessment in the area of population projections, including the evaluation of existing or the need for new/additional software.

Inputs and recommendations from the conference will be used to provide guidance in the preparation of technical orientation guides or manuals for census analysis in four priority fields, namely:

- (i) basic demographic measures of fertility, mortality and international migration;
- (ii) special analyses related to internal migration, urbanisation, and ageing;
- (iii) the application of census analysis to environmental issues and climate change; and
- (iv) population projections, particularly at the sub-national level.

5th African Symposium on Statistical Development

The 5th African Symposium on Statistical Development (ASSD) was held in Dakar, Senegal from 19 to 21 November 2009. The Acting Director of Statistics and a Principal Statistician from the Central Statistics Office participated in this symposium.

The theme of the meeting was “Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Data Dissemination: Bringing Suppliers and Users Closer in the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses”. During the three day meeting, presentations were made on:

- (i) The progress made on the ASSD journey;
- (ii) Use of ICT in the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Census;
- (iii) Managing Census Stakeholders in fragile States; and
- (iv) Measuring progress towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) using Population and Housing Census data.

“Atelier Régional de Formation sur le Logiciel CSPro”

A training course was conducted by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for French speaking countries of the African continent. It was held at the “Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Statistique et d’Economie Appliquée (ENSEA)” in Abidjan, Ivory Coast from 5 to 23 October 2009.

There were 21 participants from 7 African countries, namely Central African Republic, Niger, Togo, Ivory Coast, Burundi, Mauritius, Sao Tomé, Cameroun and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The training course in Abidjan was mainly targeted for beginners in CSPro (Census and Survey Processing System), a software developed by the US Bureau of Census for the processing of data for censuses and surveys. Two Senior Statistical Officers from the Central Statistics Office (CSO) attended the training course.

The training course on the CSPro software was mainly geared towards the following:

- (i) Creation of data dictionaries
- (ii) Creation of data entry application and data entry forms
- (iii) Tabulation, including programming logic behind the production of tables
- (iv) Logic and programming in CSEntry
- (v) Logic and programming in data cleaning using CSBatch

The training course was conducted by Mr. Robert De Clercq (UN Consultant) and Mr. Joshua Handley (ex-CSPro developer at the US Bureau of Census). The training covered both theory and practical sessions and also Census methodology was described in order that participants could view CSPro from a wider angle rather than as a stand-alone application for data processing. Participants and instructors shared their experiences in the application of CSPro for Census data processing. Further to this training, the CSO intends to tap into the powers of CSPro for processing data from its forthcoming 2011 Housing and Population Census.

Expert Group Meeting on Census Data Processing, Analysis and Dissemination

The Expert Group Meeting, in connection with the 2010 Round of the Housing and Population Census (PHC), was held in Pretoria, South Africa from 5 to 7 October 2009. It was jointly organised by the African Centre for Statistics (ACS) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and Statistics South Africa (StatSA). A Statistician from the Central Statistics Office attended this meeting.

The main objectives of the meeting were to:

- (i) gather inputs, experience and country good practices relating to issues in census data processing, analysis and dissemination; and
- (ii) discuss the draft version of the implementation handbook, “African Experience on Census Data Processing, Analysis and Dissemination”, which will be used as a guide to African countries in carrying out their PHCs.

Discussions were mainly focused on the following topics:

- (a) Planning & preparation of Census Data Processing
 - (i) Plans for census data processing should include: testing/quality assurance, compilation of preliminary results, preparation of tabulations, evaluation and analysis of census results, storage and retrieval from a database, identification of errors, smooth internet and/or web communications etc.
 - (ii) Countries should make maximum use of data processing technologies in the planning and control of field operations and other census administration.
 - (iii) Estimates of data capture and computer processing workloads should be made early to enable timely procurement.
- (b) Methods of data processing
 - (i) Data processing should be regarded as a chained process involving recording, analysing, summarising, calculating, disseminating and sorting data.
 - (ii) Census officers involved in data processing should be familiar with the various elements of census data processing.
- (c) Form design and testing
 - (i) Form design varies with the method of enumeration and processing.
 - (ii) Due consideration should be given to factors such as respondent burden; format and question wording; layout and design of response areas.
- (d) Infrastructure and system
 - (i) A proper evaluation of software needs to be done prior to its acquisition.
 - (ii) National Statistical Offices (NSOs) should look into the different possibilities of software acquisition such as off-the-shelf packages, contracting out the complete and/or part of the system or even obtaining free software such as IMPS or CSPro.
- (e) Outsourcing and external consultants
 - (i) NSOs should be encouraged to have bilateral agreements to acquire the series of international consultants as technical advisers.
 - (ii) It is important that outsourced projects are carefully monitored against all specifications.
- (f) Data capture
 - (i) NSOs still using the classical approach of “key from paper” for data conversion of census and surveys should be encouraged to use scanning technology for its data capture.
 - (ii) Different types of data capturing exist: Key from Image (KFI); Optical Mark Recognition (OMR), Optical Character Recognition (OCR), Intelligent Character Recognition (ICR), Intelligent Recognition (IR) and Personal Digital Assistant (PDA).
 - (iii) NSOs should be encouraged to use state of the art technologies in the quest to meeting the requirements of the Special Data Dissemination Standards (SDDS).

Labour Statistics

Harmonisation of Labour Market Statistics in Africa

A workshop was organised by the Department of Social Affairs of the African Union Commission in collaboration with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in Addis Ababa from 14 to 15 December 2009. A Principal Statistician from the Central Statistics Office of Mauritius served as a resource person to present and discuss the Labour Market Statistical System in Mauritius.

Participants included representatives from employers' organisations, trade unions, the ILO, the African Union and other organisations responsible for the production and dissemination of labour market statistics in the region. The workshop was intended to pursue the objectives of harmonising the concepts, definitions and labour market indicators, preparation of a labour market statistical yearbook and the upgrading of national services in the African region. This was in response to the needs of various stakeholders for comparable information based on standard definitions, concepts and methods.

Final recommendations, to be drafted by a committee of experts and based on the inputs from the workshop, would relate to the methodology of production, analysis and dissemination of Labour Market Information (LMI), related governance issues and technical and financial partnership on the African Labour Market Information System (LMIS).

Production of Statistics on Informal Sector Employment and Informal Employment

A workshop was organised by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), in collaboration with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the National Bureau of Statistics of Tanzania, in Dar es Salaam from 28 September to 2 October 2009. The participants came from the following countries: Angola, Lesotho, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Consultants from Afristat, UNECA and ILO provided technical support. A Statistician from the Central Statistics Office attended this workshop.

The main objectives of the workshop were to:

- (i) strengthen the capacity of participating countries to collect, analyse, and disseminate statistics on employment, particularly on women's and men's participation in the informal sector and in informal employment
- (ii) disseminate the methodologies of employment in informal sector and that of informal employment

Based on the discussions held during the workshop in order to allow for international comparison whereby "Agriculture, forestry and fishing" is excluded in the computation of informal sector, the following recommendations were made:

- (a) Countries should collect/process data relating to the:
 - (i) Legal organisation/ institutional sector of the enterprise
 - (ii) Type of accounts kept for the enterprise
 - (iii) Registration of the enterprise
 - (iv) Number of persons usually employed by the enterprise

in respect of all employed persons (except employees of governments, public- or state- owned enterprises, and non-profit institutions), distinguishing between employment in agriculture, forestry and fishing, and other branches of economic activity.

- (b) Countries should collect/process data on:
 - (i) Payment of social security contributions by the employer
 - (ii) Possibility to benefit from paid annual leave or compensation instead of it
 - (iii) Possibility to benefit from paid sick leave
 - (iv) Existence of a written employment contract
 - (v) Job permanency / duration of contract

in respect of all employees, distinguishing between employment in agriculture, forestry and fishing, and other branches of economic activity.

- (c) To have data on informal sector employment and informal employment available more frequently, countries should strive to produce such data at least every 3 years and preferably more often.

National Accounts

Seminar on Macroeconomic Development

The seminar on macroeconomic development was held in Beijing with visit to Shanghai from 17 November to 7 December 2009 and was conducted by The Academy of Macroeconomic Research (AMR) which is directly under the National Development and Reform Commission of the Government of China. 67 participants from 38 aid-receivable developing countries attended the seminar and Mauritius was represented by a Statistician from the Central Statistics Office.

The objective of the seminar was to help the participants to acquaint themselves with the experiences of China with regard to macroeconomic management. The seminar consisted of three parts: lectures, on-site visits and group discussions. The lectures were delivered by experts and scholars of the AMR, who have a wide experience in the field of economic research and policy. The presentations covered a range of different issues ranging from an overview of the policies of reform and opening-up of the economy by China during the past three decades to the macroeconomic analysis of the economic situation. Measures taken by China for sustainable development with focus on industrial policies and foreign trade and investment were also covered.

The seminar also helped participants to gain a better understanding of the different measures taken by the Government of China to stabilise the economic situation in the wake of the global financial crisis. It is hoped that China's management mode would serve as a good example for developing countries which through the study of China macroeconomic development and planning can improve their macroeconomic management level.

Course on Financial Programming and Policies

A 2-week Course on Financial Programming and Policies was conducted by the International Monetary fund (IMF) in collaboration with the Joint Africa Institute (JAI) from 28 September to 9 October 2009 in Tunis.

The participants were representatives of Ministries of Finance, Central Banks and National Statistical Offices and Mauritius was represented by a Statistician from the Central Statistics Office.

The main aim of the course was to extend participants' understanding of the design and implementation of macroeconomic and financial policies and it covered the following:

- (i) The principal features of the different accounts used in macroeconomic analysis (national income, balance of payments, fiscal, and monetary accounts) and the interrelations among these accounts, and forecasting methods for each sector;
- (ii) The diagnosis of macroeconomic performance and analysis of the effects of macroeconomic and structural policies on the main variables of interest to policymakers, including output, prices, and the balance of payments; and
- (iii) The preparation of a macroeconomic policy program.

Environment Statistics

Expert Group Meeting on the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics

The Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES), organised by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) in collaboration with Statistics Canada, was held in New York from 10 to 12 November 2009.

The meeting was attended by 29 experts from Australia, Austria, Belize, Brazil, Canada, China, Finland, Guinea, India, Italy, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Philippines, Singapore, United Arab Emirates, USA, the European Commission Joint Research Centre, the European Environment Agency, the UN Children's Fund, the UN Environment Programme and the UN Division for Sustainable Development. A Principal Statistician from the Central Statistics Office attended this meeting.

The objectives of the Expert Group Meeting were to:

- (i) discuss the role of a framework in the development of environment statistics;
- (ii) assess the lessons learned when applying different frameworks;
- (iii) review the FDES in the light of new approaches and policy issues; and
- (iv) discuss the directions of the revision of the FDES and the modalities of the revision process.

The Meeting agreed on the following guiding principles for the revision process and stated that the revised FDES should:

- (i) use the existing FDES as the starting point and revise on the basis of improved scientific

- knowledge about the environment and new requirements created by emerging environmental concerns and their management.
- (ii) be comprehensive and integrative, an overarching framework that encompasses all aspects of the environment.
 - (iii) be kept short (maximum 50 pages), concise, and simple to understand and apply.
 - (iv) consider the ecosystem approach as the possible conceptual foundation.
 - (v) be relevant for both developed and developing countries.
 - (vi) aim at basic environment statistics that can serve multiple purposes and facilitate better data integration within the environment statistics domain and with other economic and social domains.
 - (vii) focus on the environment but it should include clear links to economic and social statistics, other frameworks and analytical models, and should be flexible in application to allow use for different purposes.
 - (viii) serve as an interface between producers and users and should mark out the role of different data producers.
 - (ix) target all producers of environment statistics; at the same time, users should also understand and relate to it.

The Meeting recommended the following process and modalities for the revision of the FDES:

- (i) The revision of the FDES should be implemented in two years and submitted to the Statistical Commission in 2012.
- (ii) UNSD should lead the process and ensure coordination with the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting.
- (iii) UNSD should convene an expert group including statisticians as well as representatives from the scientific and user communities from all regions to carry out the revision.
- (iv) The wider statistical community should engage in this work via electronic means.
- (v) The draft framework should be presented at upcoming international conferences, meetings and workshops in the field of environment statistics to ensure the widest possible discussion and agreement.

Geo-data for Measuring Environmental Change in Sub-Saharan Africa

A workshop on “Geo-data for Measuring Environmental Change in Sub-Saharan Africa” was organised by InWEnt Centre for Economic, Social and Environmental Statistics in Bonn, Germany from 30 September to 13 October 2009. The training course was designed for statisticians, researchers, policy makers and other users and producers of statistical information that deal with climate change and environmental issues. The participants were from Sub-Saharan African countries and Mauritius was represented by a Statistician from the Central Statistics Office. The main objectives of the workshop were to:

- (i) strengthen capacities to provide powerful statistical information, especially sound spatial data; and
- (ii) familiarise the participants with the main concepts to monitor environmental change in African Countries.

The resource persons were Dr. Uwe Singer (Senior Project Manager), Dr. Hans-Peter Thamm (GIS and Remote Sensing specialist) and Dr. Bernd Gutterer (Moderator). A broad overlook was given on the conceptual, technical and institutional requirements for an efficient set-up process and use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for Environmental Statistics in Sub-Saharan Africa, together with the potentials and applications of GIS software with special emphasis on GIS-open-source-software. The participants were taught how to organise a process of data collection and generation of relevant environmental information for decision making.

GIS - well performing and adapted to the local conditions - have to provide data and information about:

- (i) trends and predictable patterns of environmental change;
- (ii) anthropogenically-induced changes (e.g. global warming, desertification);
- (iii) long-term monitoring of natural and anthropogenically influenced systems; and
- (iv) implementation of activities deriving from global international obligations.

Price Statistics

The International Comparison Program (ICP) Data Validation Working Group Meeting

A workshop was jointly organised by COMESA, SADC and the African Development Bank (AfDB) in Benoni, South Africa from 9 to 11 December 2009. The participants came from 19 countries in the COMESA and SADC regions and Mauritius was represented by a Senior Statistical Officer from the Central Statistics Office. The chairperson was Mr. Koffi Marc Kouakou from the AfDB. The main objectives of the workshop were to:

- (i) enhance knowledge of data validation methodologies, tools, including average price computation with the Semper software and the Quaranta tables, and necessary guidelines to ensure data quality;
- (ii) proceed with the Inter country price data validation for 2009;
- (iii) review the other price surveys including Pharmaceutical Product Survey, Health and Education Surveys; and
- (iv) review the 2010 Work Program.

The status of the ICP data, submitted by participating countries, was presented during this meeting and Mauritius was the only country which submitted data on pharmaceutical products.

The workshop was found very important for activities in relation to ICP, particularly the discussions on the problems encountered during the validation of the country data. A good knowledge of validation leads to better quality and reliable statistics.

Trade Statistics

3rd Consultative Meeting on Harmonisation of International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) in SADC

The 3rd Consultative Meeting on Harmonisation of IMTS in SADC was held in Johannesburg, South Africa from 9 to 11 November 2009. The participants comprised Trade Statisticians of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and Officers, from the Revenue/Customs Authorities of SADC Member States, responsible for data capture, processing and analysis of trade data. Mauritius was represented by a Senior Statistical Officer from the Central Statistics Office.

The main objectives of the meeting were to:

- (i) review progress made with respect to the harmonisation of IMTS in SADC;
- (ii) identify major barriers to regular and timely transmission of trade data from Member States to the SADC Secretariat;
- (iii) identify appropriate mechanisms for improved flow and transmission of trade data from Revenue Authorities to NSOs of Member States and from National Statistical Offices of Member States to the SADC Secretariat;
- (iv) develop and build consensus on the outline for the SADC Common Statistical Rules Manual to guide compilation of IMTS in the region; and
- (v) review draft templates for Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)/Service Level Agreements to facilitate regular and timely transmission of trade data from Member States to the SADC Secretariat.

The two participants from each Member State made a joint presentation based on current practices i.c.w data collection and the compilation of IMTS. The country presentations also highlighted successes, constraints and any challenges as well as how these challenges are being addressed.

The workshop recommended that

- (a) the SADC Secretariat should:
 - (i) take steps to improve capacity (human resources and IT infrastructure and support) at the Secretariat for purposes of analysing and disseminating regional IMTS.
 - (ii) increase capacity of NSOs (or Customs as appropriate) in Eurotrace.
 - (iii) draft the SADC Common Statistical Rules Manual using the agreed outline and recommendations of the workshop as regards to the contents.
 - (iv) draft Service Level Agreements between the Secretariat and the respective Member States using the proposed template.
- (b) Member States should establish a network link between Customs Administrations and the NSOs to ensure regular and timely transmission of data from Customs Administrations to NSOs.

General

Induction Workshop on AfDB Statistical Capacity Building, Phase II

The workshop organised jointly by COMESA and SADC in the framework of Phase II of the Statistical Capacity Building Program (SCB) of the African Development Bank (AfDB). It provided a single platform for national statistical offices of the region to meet and discuss issues relating to the implementation of the SCB program. The workshop was attended by delegates from 12 countries and Mauritius was represented by a Principal Statistician from the Central Statistics Office.

The main objective of the workshop was to orient National Coordinators and Finance/Administration Assistants on administrative, budgetary and financial procedures in order to facilitate the smooth running of the second SCB program.

Main issues discussed during the workshop were:

- (i) Activities under the SCB Program and AfDB procedures and requirements for administration and management of the program
- (ii) Budgetary and financial rules for financial reporting
- (iii) SCB budget allocated to participating countries and work plan for 2009 and 2010

It was highly recommended that National Statistical Offices (NSOs) should:

- (i) comply with agreement signed with their respective Secretariats (SADC for Mauritius);
- (ii) seek necessary clearance from the Secretariat before procurement of goods and services that require such approval;
- (iii) seek authorisation before making any re-allocation of funds among budgeted items;
- (iv) not make loans and advance payments from project funds;
- (v) do bank reconciliation statement at the end of each month and financial reports in both local currency and US dollar submitted to the Secretariat on a monthly basis;
- (vi) organise workshops/meetings with finance officers and other officers concerned for proper understanding of procedures, rules and regulations; and
- (vii) make official communications including requests for approval, when necessary, through the Secretariat and not directly to AfDB.

Following the discussions and views expressed by participants during the meeting, sixteen resolutions were taken.

At the end of the meeting, through the Goree Declaration, participants declared that they:

- (i) shall develop a rolling plan on an annual basis to implement recommendations and resolutions of preceding symposia
- (ii) shall adopt the African Data Processing Handbook as data processing blueprint
- (iii) shall make use of ICT as an enhancement vehicle in the implementation of the Census Resource Mobilisation Strategy
- (iv) endeavour to cautiously use the most effective ICT to plan censuses, undertake census preparatory processes, collect, process, analyse and disseminate census data

- (v) shall consolidate their efforts to produce data that are relevant to assist monitor the targets of the MDGs
- (vi) shall develop a comprehensive African Census Peer Support Framework to give effect to the resolution to establish mechanisms to support countries undertaking censuses and especially those in a state of political, social and economic flux
- (vii) shall invest in the future by creating opportunities for, enticing and inspiring the African youth to pursue careers in statistics-oriented fields. This shall be done in an integrated fashion across Africa to avoid unnecessary duplication, encourage sharing of resources and bridging of skills gaps; and
- (viii) shall embark on an all-out effort to increase the prospects of the ASSD's sustainability.

PARIS21 Consortium Meeting

The PARIS21 Partnership organised, jointly with the Government of Senegal, its Consortium Meeting at the Hôtel Méridien Président in Dakar, Senegal from 16 to 18 November 2009. The opening speech was delivered by the President of Senegal. The event brought together some 440 participants from over 105 different countries. The participants comprised policy makers, statisticians, analysts, and civil society and private sector representatives from developing and developed countries, and multilateral organisations. Mauritius was represented by a Principal Statistician from the Central Statistics Office.

The objectives of the meeting were to:

- (i) consider the state of statistical development in developing countries and the achievements over the past decade;
- (ii) determine what still remains to be done; agree on the next steps and the responsibilities, roles and constraints of the various partners over the next decade; and
- (iii) review the achievements of the PARIS 21 Partnership and its Secretariat and agree on their future roles.

During the meeting, the main themes discussed were:

- (i) Demand for better statistics and use of data
- (ii) Strategy for statistical development
- (iii) Partnership for the development of statistics

The objectives of the meeting were reflected in the Dakar Declaration on the Development of Statistics where:

- (a) the participants unanimously affirmed that an effective and efficient statistical system is an essential element of good governance and that urgent action is still required if the data needed to monitor the Millennium Development Goals are to be provided by 2015
- (b) the Consortium called upon all partners to recognise that official statistics are a public good and that their production and dissemination is a core function of all governments
- (c) the Consortium called on all partners to take action in five key areas by 2014:
 - (i) the focus of attention should have moved from preparing strategic plans to implementing them with sustainable funding and technical capacity

- (ii) Governments and development partners should place all essential global statistical programmes on a sustainable financial and technical footing
- (iii) to ensure more effective co-ordination at all levels
- (iv) statistical systems in all countries should better meet the needs of users, operating in an efficient, cost-effective and results-based manner, in line with the core requirements of independence and integrity
- (v) the international community should support a programme of research and development to modernise statistical tools and technologies and to promote their use, especially in developing countries

16th SADC Statistics Committee Meeting

The objective of the SADC Statistics Committee (SSC) meetings is to provide strategic policy guidance to the implementation of the various statistics programmes being undertaken in SADC. The meetings also provide a forum for heads of national statistical offices (NSOs) in SADC member states to share knowledge and experiences regarding the execution and management of statistical activities for the fulfilment of national and regional statistical data requirements. Mauritius was represented by a Principal Statistician from the Central Statistics Office.

The 16th meeting of the Committee was held in Mbabane, Swaziland from 1 to 3 December 2009 and was attended by Directors of NSOs or their representatives from 12 countries. The SADC Secretariat presented progress reports on activities carried out since the last meeting held in 2008. The main activities comprised:

- (i) Harmonisation of Foreign Trade Statistics
- (ii) Regional Statistical Training
- (iii) SADC Development Account
- (iv) Initiatives for development in official statistics
- (v) Publication of selected Social and Economic Indicators
- (vi) Capacity Building for Regional Integration
- (vii) Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
- (viii) Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics
- (ix) African Development Bank Capacity Building, Phase II
- (x) Statistical Database Development in SADC

Following discussions, the Committee made the following recommendations:

- (a) Decisions taken at the meeting of the Council of Ministers of SADC member states in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo in September 2009 should be implemented. These concern mainly:
 - (i) prioritised activities for the harmonisation of foreign trade statistics in SADC, conduct of a feasibility study for the setting up of a regional training centre for training in official statistics
 - (ii) design and implementation of a project on census data analysis, similar to the Census Millennium Project, in collaboration with development partners
 - (iii) design and implementation of a regional programme on vital statistics in collaboration with UNSD

- (b) Training in international merchandise trade statistics should include IT staff and trade statisticians and there must be more effective collaboration between customs departments and national statistical offices for improved quality of data.
- (c) Translation of training materials for the Advanced Diploma in Statistics, into French and Portuguese should be finalised by March 2010.
- (d) Member states to cooperate fully with the Secretariat in the improvement of the SADC statistics unit website and national statistical offices' websites to include links to sites of key stakeholder institutions, including producers, users and suppliers of statistics.
- (e) The Secretariat would include in future reports of meetings and conferences where SADC was represented, the outcomes of the meetings in relation to regional and national statistical systems.
- (f) The Secretariat will in future liaise directly with Central Banks for data on international reserves.
- (g) The Secretariat will proceed with the recruitment of a Consultant to carry out the feasibility study in connection with the Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics in SADC.

Performance Management System (PMS)

Performance Management System (PMS) and effective communication

One important element of the PMS is the communication process. Managing performance requires that appraisers and appraisees interact regularly on the job and during performance appraisal meetings. This implies that both parties should demonstrate effective communication skills.

Communication is commonly defined as the exchange of messages. More precisely, it involves the exchange of ideas, information, understanding, feelings, emotions etc. between individuals/groups. Communication affects everybody in the organisation. If effectively managed, the communication process will have a significant and positive impact on the performance of an organisation.

The main elements of the communication system are the message, the sender, the receiver, the medium etc. In the PMS context, messages will include work instructions, ideas and suggestions, performance targets and standards, emerging priorities, performance feed-back etc. Appraisers and appraisees will in turn be senders and receivers. Media for communication will take the form of face-to-face conversations, appraisal forms, telephone conversations, minutes on file, memos, e-mails etc.

Communication is effective when there is a common understanding of messages by both the sender and the receiver. This implies that there is due care and attention from both parties. It is the responsibility of the sender to ensure that his message is clear and contains no ambiguities. Likewise, the receiver should pay the necessary attention to the message so that it can be correctly interpreted and understood. Generally the sender will ascertain from any feed-back received that his message has

been correctly understood. At times when no immediate feed-back is expected, it is useful for the sender to prompt the receiver to confirm that the message has been interpreted as intended.

People who communicate effectively know that listening is as important as – if not more important than – talking. This is particularly pertinent for performance appraisal interviews. Appraisers should therefore avoid falling into the trap of monopolising performance appraisal meetings. They should encourage and afford the opportunity to appraisees to provide explanations, express views, rebut arguments, make proposals etc. In other words, the communication should be and should be seen to be a two-way process.

When communicating, using the appropriate style is also very important. Avoid being aggressive or provocative. Being passive can as well be harmful to relationships. Ideally people should be assertive when communicating. For the appraisers, this will help avoiding conflicts and maintaining good relationships with subordinates while at the same time ensuring that the work gets done as required. In communication, body language is equally important. Without effective communication, it is unlikely that the PMS will bring the desired results in the organisation. It therefore devolves on appraisers and appraisees to build and maintain a work atmosphere that is conducive to effective communication and by extension to improved organisational performance.

Progress – e-Business Plan

The implementation of the first phase of the e-Business Plan was completed in November 2009. This phase spanned over 13 months, from October 2008 to November 2009. The achievements during this phase are provided below.

Project 1: Modernising IT Environment

The office had modernised its IT infrastructure by acquiring 60 PCs, 22 laptops and 11 laser printers. This helped to achieve the PC/Staff ratio of almost 1:1 as recommended by the e-Business Plan and thus solved the problems of recurring breakdowns of PCs and helped thus to improve the quality and timeliness of information provided to our users.

The access to internet facilities as well as that to our Local Area Network (LAN) has been improved by the acquisition and installation of 60 additional datapoints and additional data switches. The bandwidth to access the LAN increased by tenfold from 100 MB to 1 Gigabit.

With the acquisition of 5 new servers on and above the already existing one, the CSO built a robust infrastructure to put in place the platform for developing and sustaining the centralised database, the most important aim of the e-Business Plan. This will provide the necessary platform to support e-communication as well as sharing of huge datasets not only within CSO but also with other data intensive institutions for years.

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.

Project 2: Developing New Application Architecture (NAA)

After intensive research and considering the users' needs at CSO, Mr. Vikash Madhow, IT Project Manager at CSO, with the support of a dedicated IT team, developed a New Application Architecture which would satisfy most, if not all, units at the CSO. This architecture had been tested successfully in the Demography Unit and by the end of the first phase, three other units of the CSO which had been using different applications, are now testing the standard New Application Structure. These units are Labour, Central Business Register and Trade. The standardisation of the IT systems in these units required several working sessions with the units concerned so that all attributes satisfying concepts, definition, classification and above all users' needs are catered for. With this new architecture business rules for data migration, editing, coding, validation, tabulation and reporting have been worked out so that most of these tasks which are labour intensive could be automated.

During this phase this office had also invested massively in analysis software to the tune of Rs 2.2 million by acquiring licenses of 22 modules of SPSS 17.0 and by upgrading the existing version of STATA from 7.0 to the latest 8.0. The investment also comprised the purchase of 5 licenses of Progress (National Accounts) and one license of AUTOCAD (Cartography).

Project 3: Data Capture through Scanning

The 'Proof of concept for the census Scanning Project' was an exercise carried out by the IT Project Manager to evaluate whether data processing using scanning devices could be cost-effectively and efficiently used by the CSO for its forthcoming census. After a few months of dedicated work with significant contribution from relevant officers at the CSO, the Project Manager arrived at the conclusion that the CSO could use this new technology at the next census. This triggered a series of procedures for contracting out this scanning project which includes launching request for proposals, assessment and evaluation of bids. 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.

Way forward

The first phase of the implementation of the e-Business Plan being completed successfully, this office looks forward to start the implementation of Phase 2 of the Project and eventually Phase 3. These two phases will consist of the implementation of a number of projects, all aimed at providing the CSO with state of the art IT technology to achieve its vision of being the provider of world class statistics. The main challengers are: the development of the New Application Structure for all units at the CSO and their migration onto the centralised database; the review of the web portal; the development of the CSO website to make it more interactive and user friendly; and finally the use of scanning technology in the forthcoming census. The e-Business Plan will also encompass the Geographical Information System (GIS) project which is to be implemented at the CSO in 2010.

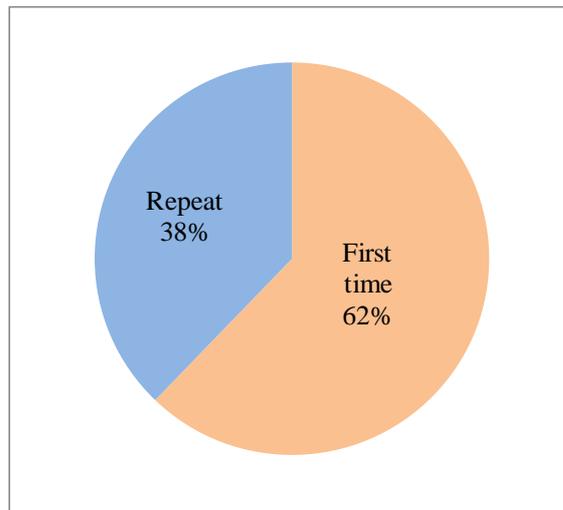
The CSO hereby wish to thank the IT Project Manager, Mr. Vikash Madhow, for his dedication, enthusiasm and high team spirit in driving the first phase of the e-Business Plan as well as all staff who, in one way or another, had helped us in completing the first phase of the project successfully.

The services of the CSO IT Project Manager, having lapsed in November 2009, the CSO is presently working on the recruitment of an IT Project Manager for the next two phases.

Visits on the CSO Website

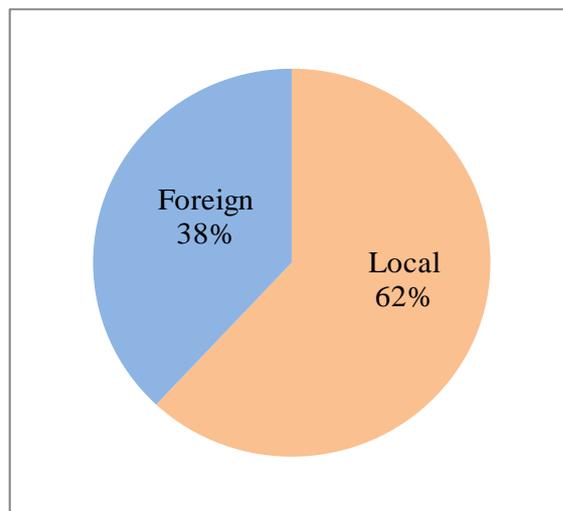
The total number of hits rose by 1.7% in November 2009 to reach 4,781 from 4,700 in October 2009 and fell by 17.8% in December 2009 to reach 3,931. The diagram below shows the share of website hits by first timers and repeaters during the Fourth Quarter of 2009 and it is to be noted that the share remained almost unchanged within each month of the quarter.

Percentage distribution of hits from first timers and repeaters – Fourth Quarter 2009



During the Fourth Quarter of 2009, local visitors amounted to 8,041 compared to 4,939 foreigners. The diagram below depicts the share of local and foreign visitors in the same period.

Percentage distribution of foreign and local visitors – Fourth Quarter 2009



The number of foreign visitors by country in the Fourth Quarter of 2009 is shown in the table below.

Number of foreign visitors by country – Fourth Quarter 2009

Country	Number	%
United States	1517	30.7
Great Britain (UK)	650	13.2
India	340	6.9
South Africa	223	4.5
Australia	194	3.9
France	162	3.3
Malaysia	142	2.9
Philippines	119	2.4
Canada	104	2.1
Switzerland	81	1.6
Russian Federation	71	1.4
Other countries	1336	27.1
TOTAL	4939	100.0

Important Indicators released during the Fourth Quarter of 2009

GDP Growth Rate

On the basis of latest information gathered on various sectors of the economy, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth for 2009 is now revised to 2.8% slightly higher than the 2.7% growth forecasted in September 2009.

On the basis of information gathered on the key sectors of the economy and taking into consideration measures announced in the last budget, GDP is expected to grow by around 4.3% in 2010, higher than the 2.8% growth in 2009.

Consumer Price Index

The Consumer Price Index (CPI), which stood at 115.5 in December 2008, registered a net increase of 10.7 point (or 1.5%) to reach 117.2 in December 2009.

The inflation rate was 9.7% for year 2008, 6.9%

for financial year 2008/09 and 2.5% for year 2009.

External Trade

Total export proceeds for the first nine months of 2009 were valued at Rs 45,187 million, showing a decrease of 6.1% over the corresponding nine months of last year. Total imports for the same period fell by 14.5% to Rs 82,802 million. The trade deficit for the same period worked out to Rs 37,615 million, which is 22.9% lower than the figure of Rs 48,769 million for the corresponding period of 2008.

Based on trends for previous years and actual data for 2009 till September, total exports for the year 2009 are expected to be of the order of Rs 63,000 million against imports of Rs 116,000 million. The trade deficit would be around Rs 53,000 million.

Unemployment

The unemployment rate for the third quarter of 2009 is estimated at 7.4% compared to 8.3% at the second quarter of 2009 and 7.2% at the third quarter of 2008. Unemployment rate is expected to increase from 7.2% in 2008 to 7.7% in 2009.

Tourist arrivals

Tourist arrivals for the first nine months of 2009 attained 608,885. This represents a decrease of 9.7% over the figure of 674,164 registered in the corresponding period of 2008. Gross tourism receipts for the first nine months of 2009 were estimated by the Bank of Mauritius at Rs 25,685 million, that is, a decrease of 16.6% compared to Rs 30,801 million for the same period of 2008.

Based on data available on tourist arrivals for the first nine months of the year and information gathered from stakeholders, tourist arrivals for the year 2009 has been revised upward to 840,000 (-9.7% over 2008) and gross tourism receipts will be around Rs 36.0 billion (-12.6% over 2008).

Producer Price Index- Manufacturing

The Producer Price Index-Manufacturing, which stood at 165.7 in June 2009 increased by 1.3% to attain 167.9 in September 2009. The index went up by 1.2% in July, 0.2% in August and fell by 0.1% in September 2009. The 1.2% increase in the overall index in July was mainly due to increases in the sub-indices of “Manufacture of food products, beverages and tobacco” (+1.9%), “Manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products” (+2.7%), and “Manufacture of chemicals and chemical products” (+0.8%).

The increase in the sub-index of “Manufacture of food products, beverages and tobacco”, which accounts for nearly 50% of the overall weight, was mainly due to price increases in the “Production, processing and preservation of meat and meat products” (+6.2%), “Manufacture of sugar” (+18.6%) and “Manufacture of bakery products” (+1.1%).

New Publications received

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

Local Publications

Reports

1. Bank of Mauritius

Annual Report, year ending 30 June 2009

2. Mauritius Sugar Syndicate

Report and Statement of Account, 2008/2009

3. The Treasury

Annual Reports of the Accountant General and the Accounts of the Republic of Mauritius, year ending 30 June 2006 and 30 June 2008 respectively

4. Pay Research Bureau

Annual Report, 2007 and 2008

Foreign Publications

Periodicals

1. INSEE

- (i) Courrier des Statistiques, May - August 2009
- (ii) Economie et Statistique, No. 422, 2009
- (iii) Stateco No.103, 2009

2. International Statistical Institute (ISI)

- (i) ISI Newsletter, 2009
- (ii) International Statistical Review, December 2009

3. Institute of Developing Economies, Japan

The Developing Economies, September 2009

4. World Bank

World Bank Research Digest, Summer 2009

Reports

1. United Nations

- (i) Millenium Development Goals, 2009
- (ii) Classification Internationale Type, par industrie, de toutes les branches d'activités économiques (CITI), 2009
- (iii) Study on the Measurement of the Informal sector and Informal Employment in Africa, 2009, UNECA

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

(i) Overseas

Name	Programme	Country	Period
Mr. S. Bhonoo	Workshop on the Production of Statistics on Informal Sector Employment and Informal Employment	Dar Es Salam, Tanzania	28 Sep – 2 Oct
Mr. A. Sookun	Geodata for measuring Environmental Change in Sub Saharan Africa	Germany	30 Sep - 13 Oct
Mr. S. Mungralee	Expert Group Meeting on Census Data Processing, Analysis & Dissemination	Pretoria, South Africa	5 - 7 Oct
Mr. M. Dawoonauth	Course in Financial Programming and Policies	Tunisia	28 Sep – 9 Oct

Name	Programme	Country	Period
Messrs. A. Hoolash & E. Romjon	Atelier Regional de Formation en Traitement des données sur le Logiciel CSPRO	Cote d'Ivoire	5 - 23 Oct
Ms. G. Appadu	Joint COMESA/SADC induction Workshop on AfDB Statistical Capacity Building, Phase II	South Africa	26 - 28 Oct
Mr. D. Bahadoor	(i) Regional Workshop on Data Management in Africa and (ii) Regional Meeting on the African Statistical Year Book	Uganda	26 – 30 Oct
Mr. E. Lukshmudu	3rd Consultative Meeting on Harmonisation of International Merchandise Trade Statistics in SADC	Johannesburg South Africa	9 - 11 Nov
Mr. C. Ramnath	Expert Group Meeting on the Framework for Environment Statistics	U.S.A	10 - 12 Nov
Mr. D. Juleemun	Conference on needs assessment for Census Analysis	Dakar, Senegal	11 - 13 Nov
Ms. S. F. Cheung Tung Shing	(i) 5th Steering Committee meeting of SADC Development Account and (ii) Meeting on 'Statistics for development - Renewing the Partnership'	Senegal	15 Nov; 16 - 18 Nov
Ms. L. F. Cheung Kai Suet & Ms. S. F. Cheung Tung Shing	5th African Symposium on Statistical Development in Africa (ASSD)	Senegal	19 - 21 Nov
Ms. G. Appadu	16th SADC Statistics Committee	Swaziland	1- 4 Dec
Mr. Y. Thorabally	Seminar on Macroeconomic Development	Republic of China	17 Nov - 7 Dec
Ms. N. Gujadhur	Workshop on Strengthening the analytical capacity in Census Analysis in developing countries	Beirut, Lebanon	7 - 11 Dec
Mr. D. Juleemun	Workshop on Harmonisation of Labour Market Statistics in South Africa	Addis Ababa Ethiopia	14 - 15 Dec
Mr. R. Krishan	(i) ICP Data Validation Working Group Meeting and (ii) 2nd Working Group Meeting on the Harmonised Consumer Price Index (HCPI)	South Africa	9 - 16 Dec

(ii) Local*Seminar/Workshop*

Name	Programme	Organising Institution (s)	Period
Mr. F. Dowlut	Training in Public Relations & Customer Care for Office Care Attendant	Min. of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms (MCSAR)	30 Sep - 1 Oct
Ms. H. Maistry, Ms. M. Nauzeer & Ms. M. Joysury	Advanced Training on Excel and Powerpoint for Word Processing Operators	MCSAR	6 - 8 Oct; 17 - 19 Nov; 24 - 26 Nov
Mr. G. Khaytoo & Mr. S. Ramrucha	Training Course for public officers	MCSAR	5 - 6 Oct; 16 - 17 Nov
Mr. C. Ramnath	Workshop on Food and Agricultural Market Information System (FAMIS)	Min. of Agro Industry, Food Production & Security and COMESA	16 Oct
Ms. S. Varsally	Training for Office Superintendent and other officers having the responsibility of safety and health in their organisation	MCSAR	21 Oct
Ms. C. Rughoobur & Mr. K. Nassurally	Workshop in the context of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	ICAC and EU	23 Oct
Ms. S. Varsally & Mr. D. Pillay	Training Programme on Team Building and Motivation for Public Officers	MCSAR	26 - 27 Oct; 9 - 10 Nov

Name	Programme	Organising Institution (s)	Period
Ms. M. Ganoo	International Day against Violence against Women	Min. of Women's Right, Child Dev. & Family Welfare	25 Nov
Ms. L. F. Cheung Kai Suet, Ms. Y. Cassimally, Mr. D. Bahadoor, Ms. M. Ganoo, Mr. D. Juleemun, Ms. G. Appadu, Ms. S. F. Cheung Tung Shing, Mr. C. Ramnath, Mr. C. Arianiack, Ms. R. Soborun, Ms. S. Nunhuck, Mr. S. Chaumoo, Mr. A. Hoolash, Mr. D. Venkiah, Ms. R. Boolakey, Ms. A. Pyeneandee Pakeeroo	Workshop on Strengthening Civil Registration & Vital Statistics Systems in support of National Development and MDGs in Africa to mark the African Statistics Day	Central Statistics Office	26 Nov
Ms. L. C. Tse Ve Koon	International Volunteer Day 2009	MACOSS	4 Dec
Ms. W. Abdouramane	Launching of the Code of Conduct for Public Officials involved in Procurement	ICAC and Procurement Office	8 Dec
Ms. C. Rughoobur	Workshop on size estimation for injecting drug users	AIDS Unit, Min. of Health & Quality of Life	18 Dec

Award of Certificates

Following the training Course on Basic Statistics from 31 August to 5 October 2009, trainees (15 under the Empowerment Programme and 13 Statistical Officers) were assessed through three different assignments, which they completed successfully and were each awarded an Attendance Certificate.



Award of certificates to trainees i.c.w. "Training Course on Basic Statistics"

Staffing Development

- (i) Mr. Chitranjan RAMNATH, temporary Principal Statistician, has been appointed in a substantive capacity in the grade with effect from 16 March 2009.
- (ii) Ms. Li Fa CHEUNG KAI SUET, Deputy Director, has been appointed Director of Statistics in an acting capacity with effect from 31 October 2009.

CSOSWA Retirement Farewell Party

A retirement farewell party was organised by the CSO Staff Welfare Association in honour of Mr. H. Bundhoo, Director of Statistics, on 30 October 2009. He served the CSO during the past 40 years and is on pre-retirement leave as from 31 October 2009.

All CSO staff would like to express their gratitude to Mr. H. Bundhoo for his professionalism and support while he was in office.



Mr. H. Bundhoo receiving a souvenir gift from his Confidential Secretary, Ms. D. Seepargauth on behalf of all CSO staff

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 who visited CSO during the first four quarters of 2009. Among various areas of interest of the visitors, the most popular ones are National Accounts, Tourism, Labour, Demography and Price Indices.

Visitors by Area of Interest, 1st Quarter 2009 - 4th Quarter 2009								
Area of interest	1st Quarter 2009		2nd Quarter 2009		3rd Quarter 2009		4th Quarter 2009	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
<i>Economic Statistics:</i>								
National Accounts	148	37.9	29	11.9	27	17.6	35	13.5
International Travel & Tourism	19	4.9	43	17.7	9	5.9	17	6.6
Education	19	4.9	8	3.3	15	9.8	14	5.4
External Trade	20	5.1	14	5.8	3	2.0	15	5.8
Other	24	6.1	29	11.9	13	8.5	36	13.9
<i>Social & Demographic Statistics:</i>								
Labour Force, Employment and Unemployment	51	13.0	40	16.5	20	13.1	26	10.0
Population & Vital Statistics	45	11.5	41	16.9	43	28.1	30	11.6
Other	9	2.3	12	4.9	5	3.3	29	11.2
<i>Price Indices:</i>								
Price Indices	40	10.2	4	1.6	3	2.0	13	5.0
<i>Other Statistics:</i>								
Other Statistics	16	4.1	23	9.5	15	9.8	44	17.0
TOTAL	391	100.0	243	100.0	153	100.0	259	100.0

Tips on IT

(by Ali Hoolash)

Oh, my Word!

The nearly 3 year old Microsoft Office 2007 suite has been well digested by the IT community at large – a brand new interface and some nifty additions in its programs have given those working with Office some exciting new opportunities that were missing in the previous versions. However, it has been observed that for the casual (and in some cases, for the regular) users, the interface of Office 2007 is still causing a few head scratching here and there! It is so difficult to change habits, which is understandable!

In this article, I will take a deeper look at Microsoft Word 2007 and provide you with a few tips that will hopefully make your “Word” experience a little more exciting and enjoyable along the way. The aim of this article is also to show you how to perform certain recurrent tasks in Word that were not so obvious to you (until now, that is!).

1. How do I rotate a SINGLE page into Landscape format in a WORD document containing several pages that are in Portrait format?

You might ask yourself as to why you might need a single page rotated into landscape format... the answer is simple (and I'm sure you may have encountered this situation quite often): for example you may have to insert a large table which is in the landscape format into your Word document. Try inserting one and you will see that part of the table overflows outside the page. So, here's the solution:

Step 1 – Open your Word document.

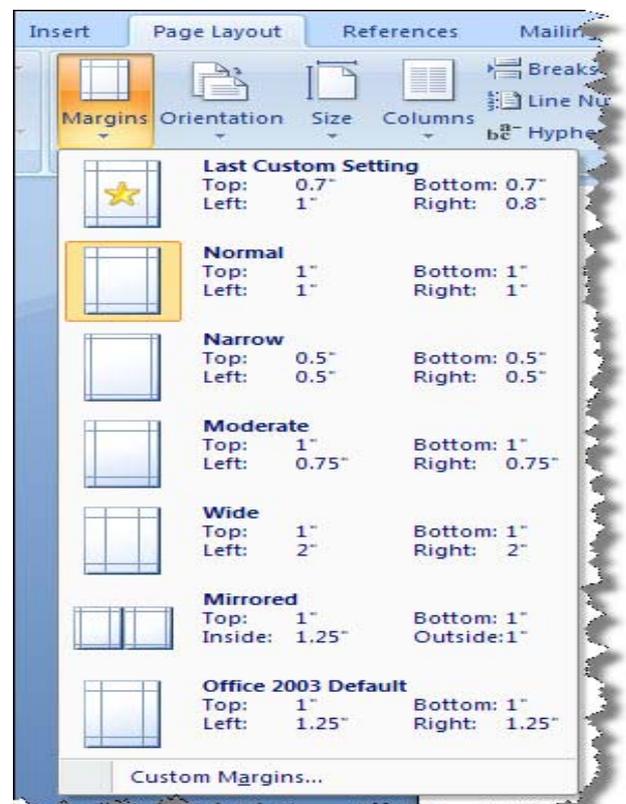
Step 2 – Go to the page that needs to be rotated into Landscape format.

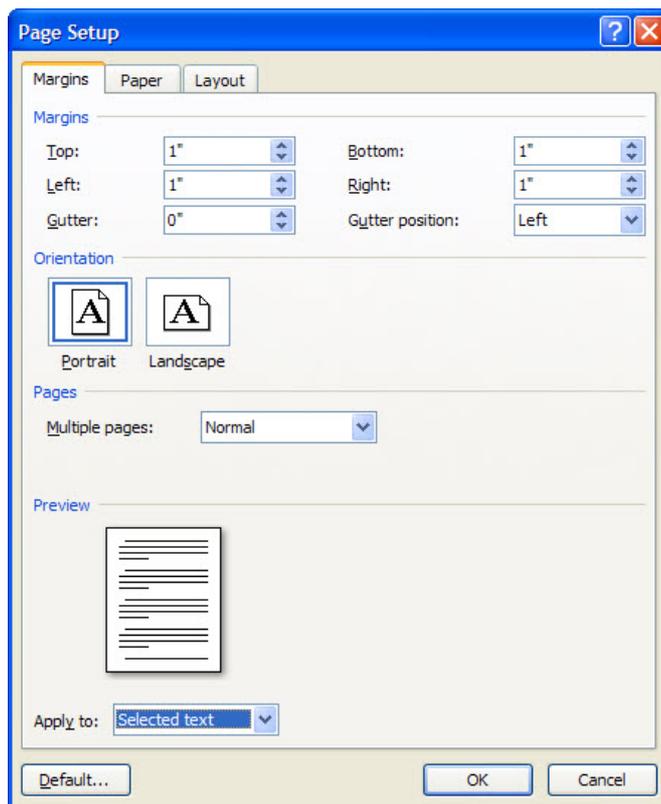
Step 3 – Select ALL the texts on that page by clicking on the opening text and dragging your cursor till the whole text (or table) is selected. Now comes the tricky part...

Step 4 – Click on the Page Layout tab; Click “Margins” in the “Page Setup” ribbon and click on “custom margins...” at the end of drop down list. The “Page Setup” dialog box now gives you its most radiant smile. Do not return the smile yet as we still have a few more steps to go.

Step 5 – Look for the “Apply to:” drop down list on the dialog box. Click the arrow and choose “selected text”. Click the OK button.

Step 6 – Sit down and enjoy the rotation... and smile!





2. How do I add a Watermark in the pages of my Word document?

You surely have noticed it several times in James Bond movies when OSS 117 pulls out a leather folder from the drawer and a faint “CONFIDENTIAL” watermark appears on the background of the pages of the document. You may not work with leather folders but you do work with documents, don’t you? And in many cases, the documents you have prepared are in DRAFT mode and you need to send them to someone for review before they are finalised. Wouldn’t it be nice to be able to watermark the pages with the word “DRAFT” in the background? Now, imagine your boss going through the document and being impressed with the professional output you’ve produced! Enough for you to learn how to do the trick in Word! So here how it is done in Word 2007...

Step 1 – Open your Word document.

Step 2 – Go to the Page Layout tab; Click on “Watermark”. You are now in the presence of several presets. If none of them suits your purpose, you can customize one for your needs by clicking on “custom watermarks” at the end of the drop down list. The “Printed Watermark” dialog box now appears. Click in the “Text” field, type in your words and Click the “OK” button. Nifty, isn’t it?



3. How do I insert a Special Character or Symbol in the pages of my Word document?

Why is it so difficult for some to find out how to insert special characters or symbols in a word document? Answer: because they are not on the keyboard! So where are they? Luckily for you, they are not buried deep in menus or sub menus!

Step 1 – Open your Word document (huh, you already know this step by heart now, don't you?)

Step 2 – Place your cursor where you want to insert the special character or symbol.

Step 3 – Go to the Insert tab and Click on the “Symbol” icon. If the *Egyptian hieroglyph** (phew! Where did I get that one?) you are looking for does not appear in the preset list, click on “More symbols”. The “Symbol” window now appears - choose the one you need and click the “Insert” button. If you need special characters, they are located in the “special characters” tab on that same “Symbol” window.



**Egyptian hieroglyph was a formal writing system used by the ancient Egyptians that contained a combination of logographic and alphabetic elements.*

4. How do I accept all Track Changes of a Word document?

Suppose that you are in the presence of a Word document as colourful as it gets given that it has landed in the hands of several collaborators who have changed the document to their hearts' content! In Word, changes made by each collaborator are marked with a different colour so that the end user knows the who's who of the document editing.