

43rd session of the UN Statistical Commission

The UN Statistical Commission held its 43rd session at United Nations Headquarters, New York from 28 February to 2 March 2012. Heads of national statistical offices of 135 countries including Stats M director were present.

The Commission's objective is to decide on international statistical activities especially the setting up of statistical standards, development of concepts and methods and their implementation at the national and international level.

This year's session included 32 papers and 60 side events. Of particular interest was a High-Level Forum on Official Statistics entitled *Measuring the Unmeasurable: Challenging the measures of Official Statistics* which dealt with new concepts resulting from globalisation such as Sustainable Development, Happiness and Well-Being.

Launching of the National Schedule of Rates

March 1 2012 saw the launching of the first edition of the National Schedule of Rates for the construction industry by the Ministry of Public Infrastructure (MPI).

The National Schedule of Rates is a long-awaited document stemming from a joint collaboration which started in 2009 between Stats M, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, the Ministry of Public Infrastructure and the Construction Industry Development Board. The project which covers civil works, mechanical and electrical services as well as concrete works has the potential to improve the cost efficiency and output in the construction industry, and will be beneficial to both the public and private sectors. Stats M will use the rates to extend the current Construction Price Index which is limited to the construction of a house, to cover other types of buildings.



**Ms Cheung Tung Shing, Principal Statistician
at the launching ceremony**

Celebrating women

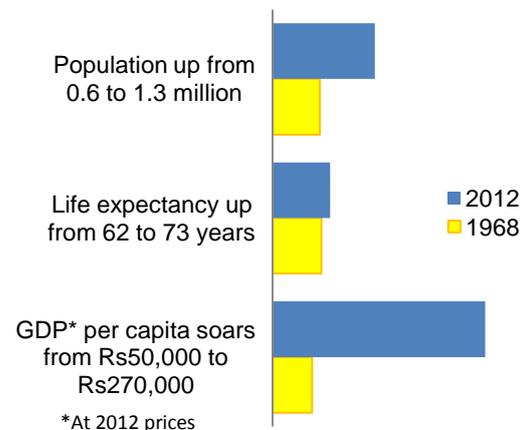
Mauritius celebrated the International Women's Day on 8 March 2012 on the theme 'Making Gender Equality a Reality'.

Though Gender Equality is not yet a reality in the country, significant progress is being made as indicated by the UN Gender Inequality Index which improved from 0.48 in 1995 to 0.35 in 2011. The index ranges between 0 and 1 with value 0 indicating that men and women fare equally with respect to reproductive health, empowerment and labour market

Considering only the senior positions in government services; the share of women occupying such positions jumped from 23% in 2000 to 39% currently. It is worth noting that Stats M is an 'outlier' with a predominantly female workforce where women make up 6 out of every 10 staff; this is also true at senior management level.

Mauritius celebrates Independence

Mauritius gained independence from the British on 12 March 1968. How has the situation of the country evolved since then? Let the statistics speak for themselves.



Sub committees of the Statistics Board

Three sub-committees have been set up by the Statistics Board on:

- **Harmonization of business surveys** to reduce response burden, avoid duplication and coordinate data collection. The sub-committee is chaired by Dr. S.P. Narrainen from MOFED. Its report is due in July 2012
- **Dissemination and advocacy of statistics** to improve the dissemination of Stats M statistics, promote the use of statistics and enhance the statistical literacy. The sub-committee is chaired by Mr. Kalasopatan from the University of Mauritius. Its report is due in June 2012
- **Quality of Life Statistics** to look into the production of more relevant indicators of economic performance, social progress, and quality of life. The sub-committee is chaired by Mr. Baichoo from MOFED. Its report is due in August 2012.