

Bilateral Statistical Cooperation with Seychelles

Following the recent graduation of Mauritius to the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) meeting in Tokyo, the Fund indicated that Mauritius could assist countries in the region to move to the higher tier of their data dissemination initiatives.

In this context, Seychelles authorities through its Minister of Finance invited the Director of Statistics, Chair of the SDDS Monitoring Committee of Mauritius in December 2012 to share her experience on the matter. Mauritius and Seychelles having a number of inherent similarities and development needs, it is expected that the experience of Mauritius would be beneficial to Seychelles to avoid common pitfalls for a smooth and timelier transition to the SDDS initiatives.

During the visit, the Director met representatives of Ministry of Finance, National Bureau of Statistics, Central Bank and Seychelles International Business Authority. A series of workshops were organized to discuss the main aspects of SDDS and to outline the Mauritian experience including challenges met in the accession process.

Mauritius was requested to submit to the Seychelles authorities a strategy note on key enablers for its graduation to the SDDS. The collaboration between the two island nations will continue with regards to statistical matters through peer learning, with particular emphasis on the graduation process to the SDDS.

Global Strategy for the improvement of Agricultural Statistics - Country Assessment in the Framework of the Action Plan for Africa (2011-2015)

The Global Strategy for the improvement of Agricultural Statistics was developed by the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) in collaboration with the World Bank, Regional Development Banks, and Regional Commissions of the UN. The pressing needs for such a strategy were strongly felt due to the decline in the quantity and quality of agricultural statistics.

Africa is the first region to implement the Global Strategy and an Action Plan for Africa was designed by African Development Bank (AfDB), UN Economic Commission for Africa and the FAO in collaboration with the African Union Commission for the period 2011 to 2015.

Following the two workshops on the Action Plan for Africa held in Kigali and Addis-Ababa in June and August 2012 respectively, Mr. Enock F. Ching'anda, AfDB consultant, fielded a one-week mission in Mauritius from 3 to 7 December 2012. The main objectives of the mission were to ensure that operational structures are in place and that the country assessment data are effectively compiled. The mission also identified the challenges and constraints faced in implementing the project.

During the mission, the different stakeholders involved in providing agricultural statistics were sensitised on this project and the questionnaire on Country Assessment of the Agricultural Statistics System together with the minimum set of core data

and their quality assessment were discussed.

Sustainable Development Indicators

Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs has been coined as Sustainable Development (SD). Therefore the environment has to be considered for any development to be sustainable. To measure achievements in SD, statistics and indicators are crucial where complex data and trends are simplified for policy making.

Statistics Mauritius participated in a workshop on SD organized by UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) in Ethiopia from 11 to 13 December 2012.

Mauritius is one of the 15 pilot countries from where data are being collected for the SD Report for Africa (SDRA). Statistics and indicators from economic, social as well as environmental subject areas were collected to build up the database for the SDRA at UNECA.

There are currently consultations worldwide to come up with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the same line as MDGs.

Staffing Development

1. Recruitment

Mr. Y. Dev DIAPERMAL and Mrs. K. Kumaree JOKHOO have been appointed as Statistical Officers in a temporary capacity with effect from 17 December 2012.

2. Assumption of Duty

Ms. Shameenabee TENGUR, Senior Officer, and Ms. Soobhadra BAMMA, Officer, have assumed duty at this office on 14 and 24 December 2012 respectively.

3. Internship

Mr. L. P. V. Shiung KOWLESSUR and Ms. I. Fatemah AYOOB CASSIM, both students of the University of Mauritius, have joined Stats M as interns in December 2012 till 20 January 2013. They have been posted at the Statistics Unit of the Ministry of Tourism and Leisure.

End of Year Get-together

The Central Statistical Office Staff Welfare Association organized a "briani party" for its end of year get-together on Thursday 27 December 2012 from 12.00 hours to 13.00 hours at the office.

This event was an opportunity for members to meet and interact in a friendly environment. The President welcomed all members present. Mrs. Y. Cassimally, Deputy Director, thanked all staff for their collaboration in meeting the objectives of the office. She extended her best wishes to the staff and their family for the New Year.

The draw for the "Tombola" organized among the staff was held on that day. The prize, a voucher for two persons for one night at Le Voila Hotel in Bagatelle, went to the son of Mr. and Mrs. Sanjev Bhonoo, Rishabh.