

SM receives technical assistance from IMF for the computation of the Residential Property Price Indices (RPPI)

Residential property is both a source of wealth and an important determining factor in the cost of living of the owners. Thus, monitoring the development of house prices is considered important, especially in times of economic turbulence. It is no coincidence that computation of RPPI is one of the requirements of the Special Data Dissemination Standard Plus (SDDS Plus) to which Mauritius aims to adhere by 2019.

SM receives technical assistance from IMF from 11 to 22 August to assist in the development of RPPI. The IMF expert recommended that SM uses the Sale Price Appraisal Ratio (SPAR) method along with declared values of properties available at the Registrar General (RG) and assessed values from the Valuation Department (VD) to compile the indices.

As a preliminary, RG and VD will be feeding SM with the relevant data to enable the latter to perform some exploratory work before compiling the experimental indices. A second technical assistance mission is expected around mid-2015 to review the work completed and ultimately advise on the publication of the indices.

SM winds up its first round of in-house training

Choosing the appropriate training for SM staff to make the biggest splash is no gainsaid. However, SM rises up to the challenge and winds up its first round of training for its 92 Statistical Officers (SOs).

For maximum benefit, the training topics were closely aligned with the functions of all SM units. In a first instance, a selection of six topics were covered, namely CPI and Inflation, Census, CMPHS, Trade Statistics, Productivity and National Accounts. This knowledge transfer exercise was met with a surprisingly good reception so much so that the overall attendance reaches at its peak 84%. The majority of the SOs highlighted that their knowledge were enhanced to a large extent after attending those training sessions.

Reflecting on those positive feedbacks, SM is currently working on the organisation of its next round of training.

SM gives refresher training to its senior staff



Mr. S. Kalasopatan, Consultant on Statistics, dispensed training to SM's Senior and Principal Statistical Officers, and Statisticians in July 2014. The training comprised two

half-day sessions on:

- Statistical Reasoning and Statistical Literacy; and
- Data Collection, tabulation and presentation.

In the course of these sessions, participants were refreshed on core principles of Statistics and updated on latest developments. They were particularly excited to learn new methods of disseminating data, such as storytelling, use of colour scale and spark lines. Many of them now feel that they are more equipped to carry out their everyday work and generate better outputs.

Statistics Mauritius participates in the Mauritius 2050 Pathways Calculator Project (PCP)

On 26 August 2014 the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development signed a grant contract with the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office in view to implementing the Mauritius 2050 PCP. This project saw the day following a Change Conference of Parties held in Warsaw in 2013, where all parties were subsequently invited to prepare their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) on Green House Gas (GHG) emissions reduction.

The aim of setting up the Mauritius 2050 Pathways Calculator is to quantify the GHG emissions reduction at national level and model multiple scenarios in relation to its mitigation actions to tackle climate change, improving air quality, or reducing dependence on fuel imports. This tool will help formulating energy and emission strategies over the next decades, and prepare and submit to the Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) our INDCs prior to the 2015 Agreement.

SM will form part of the team working on the project and will be mostly involved in identifying the data needed for the project.