

Editorial

National Pay Council (NPC)

Performance Management System (PMS)

Technical Assistance on Social Accounting Matrix (SAM)

Conference on International Outreach and
Coordination in National AccountsRegional Workshop on GDDS module on Justice and
Security

The Social Register of Mauritius

Conference on Climate Change

Visits on the Central Statistics Office (CSO) Website

Important Indicators

Documentation Centre of the CSO

Training/Meetings attended by Staff

Microsoft Office 2007: What's new?

Occupational Safety and Health

Staffing Development

CSO Staff Association

CSO Staff Welfare Association

Editorial

The most important event for the public sector in the second quarter of 2008 is undoubtedly the publication of the recommendations of the Pay Research Bureau (PRB) on 30 May. These go beyond a revision of the pay and grading structures and conditions of service. They aim at transforming the public sector into modern, professional and citizen-friendly entities, which have the confidence and trust of the public, and are driven by competent and committed personnel selected on the basis of performance.

The CSO is engaged in the reform process since several years. In 1999, for the first time, promotion was made by selection (instead of seniority) at higher grades. In 2003-04, the organisational structure, geared principally to data collection, was changed to a functional structure giving due importance to the core analytical function as well as logistics and research. In 2006, a Performance Management System (PMS) was piloted successfully and is now operational across the whole department. Also in 2006, in line with international recommendations, the office embarked on the development of a National Statistical System (NSS) through the design and implementation of a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS).

The CSO is now poised to work towards the achievement of the objectives of both the PRB recommendations and the NSDS. With the introduction of Programme Based Budgeting (PBB) as from 2008-09, a new programme-based structure is in place, and is expected to deliver on the following five programmes for around 3 years before review: (i) production of basic economic and financial statistics (including performance indicators for PBB of concerned ministries); (ii) production of basic socio-demographic statistics (including performance indicators for PBB); (iii) analysis and integration of economic and

NEWSLETTER**ISSUE 6 JUNE 2008**

social statistics; (iv) statistical support and technical services; and (v) corporate services (including institutional development, finance and provisioning, and human resource management).

The staffing structure of the CSO needs to be consolidated to ensure cost-effective delivery on the 5 programmes. It will be remembered that following the PRB 2003 recommendation for restructuring the CSO, a set of proposals were submitted to the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms in 2004. These included (i) creation of additional posts of 1 Deputy Director, 3 Principal Statisticians and 9 Senior Statisticians; (ii) creation of 12 posts in a new grade of Principal Statistical Officer; and (iii) reduction of 8 posts of Statistician, 12 posts of Senior Statistical Officer and 32 posts of Statistical Officer. The Organisation Design Committee was favourable to the proposals, but recommended a phased approach with the initial creation of one additional post in each of the grades of Deputy Director, Principal Statistician and Senior Statistician.

The PRB 2008 recommendation for the creation of the new grade of Principal Statistical Officer is considered a signal to move further with the implementation of the staffing proposals made in 2004. Furthermore, CSO's positive experience with PMS indicates that, with some fine-tuning, the system can serve as a basis for recognition, reward and promotion, as recommended by the PRB. We have already initiated action to implement the staffing proposals and fine-tune the PMS.

As regards the implementation of the NSDS, a steering committee has been set up, under the chairmanship of the Financial Secretary, to oversee the different stages in the establishment of an autonomous National Statistical Agency, which will be the hub and coordinator of the National Statistical System. The committee met for the first time on 25 June 2008. There is a commitment by Government to finalise the enabling legislation by December 2008, as indicated in the Programme-based Budget Estimates for 2008-09. The CSO is working on the draft bill with the assistance of Mr. Howard Gabriels, Chairman of the South African Statistics Council, who has wide experience on statistical legislation. He visited the CSO from 26 to 29 May 2008.

With these reforms in the pipeline, the CSO will move closer to its vision of being a key provider of world-class statistical information to improve development outcomes and governance.

Harish Bundhoo



Mr. Howard Gabriels, Chairman of the South African Statistics Council

The National Pay Council (NPC) – 2008

The NPC has been set up by Government to encourage tripartite negotiations in view of a minimum wage increase. The Council has a tripartite representation mode with a Chairman independent of three parties involved namely Government, Workers’ and Employers’ representatives. In contrast to the traditional meetings held every year to determine salary compensation, the NPC was expected to meet every quarter to discuss issues of interest to the workers, the private sector and Government based on specific Terms Of Reference (TOR)

2. After the submission of the first report, following demands of members of Council, a workplan for improvement of productivity indices has been worked out.
3. After the resignation of the first chairman of Council due to professional obligations, no council meeting was held but CSO completed the compilation of sectoral productivity indices as scheduled but would need expert advice on their use in wage determination.
4. In 2008, the Council was reconstituted with **Mr. Krish Ponnusamy** as the Chairman and the other members as follows:

Government Representatives	
Mr. S.C Seebaluck	Head of Civil Service & Secretary to the Cabinet, Prime Minister’s Office
Mr. Ali Mansoor	Financial Secretary, Ministry of Finance & Economic Development
Mr.R.P.Nowbuth	Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Small & Medium Enterprises, Commerce & Cooperatives (Industry & S.M.E Division)

Mrs. V. L. Ramsamy	Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations & Employment
Mr. P. Jhugroo	Supervising Officer, Ministry of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms
Workers' Representatives	
Mr. Bye Cassam Kureeman	Mauritius Labour Congress
Mr. Radhakrishna Sadien	State Employees Federation
Mr. Reaz Chuttoo	Federation of Trade Unions of the Chemical Sector
Mr. Lall Dewnath	Artisans and General Workers' Union
Mr. Toolsyraj Benydin	National Trade Union Confederation
Employers' Representatives	
Mr. Anwar Joonas	President, Mauritius Employers' Federation
Mr. Francois de Grivel	Vice President, Mauritius Employer's Federation
Mr. Azad Jeetun	Director, Mauritius Employer's Federation
Mr. Mookeshwarsing Gopal	Member, Mauritius Employer's Federation
Mr. Patrice Legris	Chief Executive, Association des Hoteliers et Restaurateurs de L'ile Maurice

5. The criteria that were considered for wage increase remained the same as those of the previous year and are as follows:
- (i) rise in consumer price index,
 - (ii) national ability to pay,
 - (iii) national productivity and competitiveness and
 - (iv) employment and unemployment rate.
6. The Director sits on the Council as technical advisor and the Council is technically supported by officers from the CSO, National Remuneration Board, National Productivity and Competitiveness Council and Ministry of Finance & Economic Development.
7. After three meetings, the following salary compensation 2008/2009 was proposed and approved by Cabinet:

Salary Scale	Compensation
Above Rs 3000 up to Rs 4500	Rs 300
Above Rs 4500 up to Rs 6500	Rs 300
Above Rs 6500 up to Rs 7000	Rs 350
Above Rs 7000 up to Rs 8000	Rs 350
Above Rs 8000	Rs 400

Performance Management System

The Moderating Committee

The Central Statistics Office is in its second year of full implementation of the Performance Management System (PMS).

As from this year, a few modifications have been brought to the PMS processes put in place earlier.

One important change consists of a new mechanism – *the Moderating Committee* – included in the institutional framework set up for the implementation of the PMS following relevant guidelines circulated by the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms. These guidelines aim at ensuring standardization and consistency in the implementation of the PMS across a Ministry/Department as well as across all Ministries/Departments throughout the Public Service.

The role of the Moderating Committee, as will be explained below, is different from that of the PMS Monitoring Committee, which is mainly to sustain over time the implementation of the PMS.

A credible performance appraisal depends largely on a common understanding of management expectations, employee expectations, performance standards, performance ratings etc. across the organization by all parties concerned. The Moderating Committee has the important role of undertaking leveling among the appraisal reports. It makes appropriate recommendations whenever an appraisal report needs improvement.

Compared to the individual appraiser, the Moderating Committee has the advantage of viewing performance from a wider perspective since its members can come from a variety of backgrounds. The Committee can assess effectively the quality of appraisal reports as it will have a more comprehensive grasp of the competencies required of and the relative performance by officers across the organization. It also contributes to enhancing the openness and transparency of the appraisal exercise. Finally, it addresses the issue of personal biases and can therefore improve officers' trust in the PMS.

To facilitate further the understanding of the role and functions of the Moderating Committee, relevant extract of the PMS Guidelines circulated by the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms is reproduced below.

“The Moderating Committee, consisting of at least 3 members is appointed by the Supervising Officer in consultation with senior management and employee representatives, and should be chaired by the Head of Reforms Unit of the Ministry/ Department.

The Moderating Committee has the following responsibilities:

Monitor the PM (Performance Management) process to ensure that performance standards are set and applied consistently and realistically to employees on the same level in the Ministry/Department. In cases where deviations from norms and standards are identified, they must refer these back to the relevant Appraiser for review.

Detect potential problems in the system through the Personnel Section, report on PA (Performance Agreement) development and progress reviews and make recommendations for corrective action.

Review overall assessment ratings, based on report by the HOP (Head of Personnel Section).

Ensure procedures for appraisal are consistently adhered to and are equitable.

Deal with resolution of conflicts.”

Technical assistance on the elaboration of a Social Accounting Matrix (SAM)

The CSO requested and received assistance on the elaboration of a Social Accounting Matrix for the country through a technical mission funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The purpose of the mission was to advise and help develop capacity to assemble and use a SAM for Mauritius that takes into account the main policy issues associated with the consequences of economic reforms especially their impact on the poor, in line with government priority to combat poverty.

The consultancy was undertaken by Dr. Jeffery Round of the Department of Economics, University of Warwick, working as a UNDP consultant in a private capacity. Dr Round was at the CSO from 12 to 23 May 2008.

During his visit, Dr. Round made a series of presentations and had briefing sessions and discussions with the staff involved in National Accounts and Poverty statistics as well as with potential users of the SAM, including officials of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MOFED). He assessed the methodological approaches used in the compilation of the 1997 SAM, reviewed the current data and survey materials, and advised and trained staff on the design and construction of a new SAM.



Working Session with UNDP Consultant, Dr. Jeffery Round

Modelling options covering multiplier models and computable general equilibrium (CGE) models, their virtues and limitations were also discussed. Simulation of multiplier models which are transparent and simpler to understand was presented and used as the basis for the training of staff on multiplier analysis to measure the impact of policy measures on the poor. The consultant drew attention on the fact that results from any SAM based modelling (Multiplier Analysis, CGE or otherwise) should be treated with caution and users should be aware of their limitations.

As part of his recommendations, Dr Round recommended to have a SAM initially compiled for the year 2002, although 2002 represents an “atypical” year in the economic sense for Mauritius (cyclone affecting sugar production and start of a series of negative growths in EPZ following the dismantling of the Multi-Fibre Agreement), but to use the SAM to be constructed using the results of the 2007 Census of Economic Activities and the 2006/2007 Household Budget Survey as benchmark for analysis. The latter will be available by the end of 2009. He also recommended that the CSO should not embark on CGE modelling, which is best left to specialist user groups outside the CSO.

Conference on International Outreach and Coordination in National Accounts for Sustainable Growth and Development

For many years, the international community has been supporting statistical capacity building in developing countries in order to produce national accounts and improve the availability and quality of the data. However, the least developed countries are still unable to produce reliable data in a timely fashion while the scope of data compiled by developing countries requires expansion. Reasons put forward were lack of technical, financial and human resources, poor quality of basic source data, and lack of political commitment to invest in statistical capacity building at the country level. At donors’ level, there is a need to improve coordination and support national statistical systems.

The need for action was reinforced by recent developments on the recommendations for economic statistics, most notably the adoption of the updated System of National Accounts (SNA) by the UN Statistical Commission in February 2008.

In response to these challenges, Eurostat and the UN Statistics Division (UNSD) jointly organised from 6 to 8 May 2008 a high level Conference on *“International Outreach and Coordination in National Accounts for Sustainable Growth and Development”*. The conference brought together some 200 stakeholders from 70 countries and 35 international, regional and sub regional organisations.

In his opening statement Mr. Paul Cheung, Director of the UN Statistics Division stressed on the unique role of the SNA as a coordinating framework for economic statistics and urged the development partners to work together with the countries in formulating a detailed implementation strategy for national accounts and economic statistics to strengthen the statistical production processes. He stressed on the need for multi-year global programme with clear benchmarks for compliance and scope of implementation, as well as the adoption of common coordination, monitoring and reporting procedures for implementation taking into account the diverse stages of statistical development at national level.

Presentations and discussions culminated in the setting out of recommended actions. These are:

- (i) *Strategic planning framework* – Mainstreaming strategic planning for the development of national accounts and related basic statistics at the national and international level
- (ii) *Coordination, monitoring and reporting at regional level* - Regional partners to play a pivotal role in the coordination, monitoring and reporting to enhance efficiency of technical cooperation programmes
- (iii) *Global coordination, monitoring and reporting* - A global governance structure to be created to develop coordination, monitoring and reporting procedures to assess the implementation programmes and progress of countries/regions against set benchmarks.
- (iv) *National Statistical Capacity Building* - National statistical capacity building in national accounts and related economic statistics to be achieved through a unified international, regional and national implementation programme
- (v) *SNA knowledge platform* to be established on statistical standards, training programmes and best practices, information technology tools and management for national statistical systems based on an agreed framework

Based on the recommendations made, the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA) will draft a multi-year work plan for the implementation of the updated SNA and related economic statistics for submission to the UN Statistical Commission in 2009.

Regional Workshop on GDSS module on Justice and Security Statistics

A regional workshop on Justice and Security statistics was organised by the World Bank jointly with the Central Statistics Office (CSO) of Mauritius from 7 to 11 April 2008 at the Labourdonnais Hotel, Caudan Waterfront, Port Louis.



Professor Chris Lewis, World Bank Consultant, addressing the audience

The workshop forms part of a series of technical assistance being provided by the World Bank since March 2007 to five Anglophone African countries to improve the coverage and quality of Justice and Security statistics. It was attended by teams from each of the five countries namely: Tanzania, Kenya, Seychelles, Namibia and Mauritius.

The workshop was managed by Mr. Ronald Luttikhuisen, Senior Statistician from the World Bank and facilitated by three experts: Professor Chris Lewis, Mr. Jon Simmons and Mr. Etienne de Fortier.

The workshop was officially opened by the Attorney General, Honourable Rama Valayden. Discussions during the workshop were centred on statistical problems of classification, timeliness of data collection and dissemination, the development of IT system and the use of statistics for policy making.



Address by Honourable Rama Valayden, Attorney General

At the end of the workshop, each country came up with a list of priorities and a work plan for the next twelve months.

The Social Register of Mauritius

The Ministry of Social Security is setting up a Social Register with technical assistance from a UNDP consultant and support from the Central Statistics Office.

The Social Register will be a large database of different social programme beneficiaries being implemented by Government. It will be used for cost-effective implementation of Government's policy of assistance to different categories of beneficiaries. To that effect, a national poverty line and other income thresholds are needed in order to identify households deserving social assistance.

In this context, the CSO will conduct a Living Conditions Survey in the islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues to obtain information necessary to calculate a national poverty line and other income thresholds anchored on basic needs.

The survey will be carried out in September/October 2008 and will cover a sample of around 2,200 households in the Islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues interviewed at the last Household Budget Survey in 2006/07. Data collection will necessitate a field force of some 340 officers.

Preparatory work for the survey has already started. Professor Muller, the UNDP consultant for the Social Register Project, was on mission in the country in February and advised the CSO on the questionnaire design. A pilot survey was carried out in February to field test the questionnaire. The questionnaire has been finalized.

Data collection will be carried out in September/October 2008. Analysis will be done by CSO jointly with the consultant and first results that will be used as inputs for the determination of a national poverty line will be available at the beginning of 2009.

Conference on Climate Change and Official Statistics

The UNSD in collaboration with Eurostat, the World Bank and Statistics Norway organised a conference on Climate Change and Official Statistics in Oslo, Norway from 14 to 16 April 2008. The conference was designed as a forum for the exploration of ideas and to establish an agenda for future work. It was attended by 116 participants representing 55 countries (National Statistics Offices and Environmental Ministries) and 15 organizations.

Mr. S. Mooloo, Deputy Director at the Ministry of Environment and National Development Unit and Mr. Anand Sookun, Statistician responsible for Environment and Energy Statistics of the CSO attended the conference and gave a presentation on the experiences acquired in Mauritius.

The Conference comprised seven sessions as follows.

Session I: Setting the scope: Understanding the demand for statistics created by the scientific and policy framework of climate change and the role of official statistics in satisfying this demand.

Session II: Greenhouse gas emission calculations as part of official statistics. What should be the role of NSO-s in the estimation of greenhouse gas emissions and in informing adaptation and mitigation strategies? Are our statistics adequate?

Session III: What is the role of official statistics in the measurement of the impacts of vulnerability and adaptation to climate change?

Session IV: Carbon emission trading and other mitigation strategies.

Session V: How can official statistics support climate change scenario development and modeling and better inform the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC's) Fifth Assessment Report?

Session VI: Bringing it all together: Classifications, standards and frameworks for climate change statistics. Do indicator systems play a role? Are existing frameworks adequate? Do they need to be amended or extended? What needs to be done to ensure these frameworks can be applied by NSO?

Session VII: Conclusions and recommendations: Agenda for action.

The output of the conference will be a roadmap for the development of official climate change statistics both at the national and the international level, to be submitted to the 40th session of the UN Statistical Commission in March 2009.

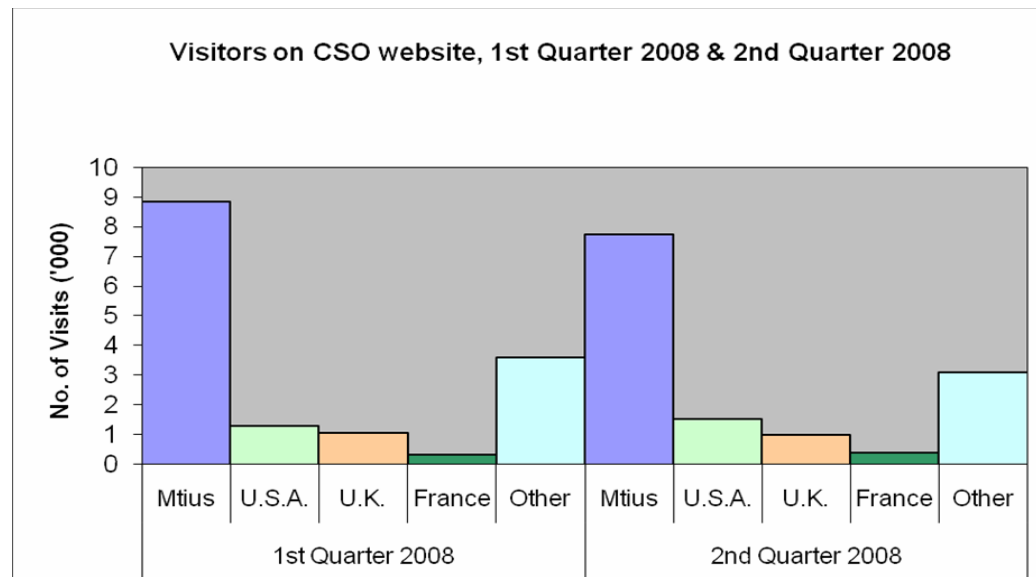
It is to be noted that the CSO is already engaged in the compilation of climate change statistics. It is contributing in the project *Second National Communication on Climate Change* spearheaded by the Meteorological Services and is also the focal point in relation to GHG emissions inventory revision and compilation. As a result, it can easily adopt the recommendations made at the conference.

Visits on the CSO Website

The number of visits on the CSO website was 13,805 during the second quarter of 2008, representing a decline of 9 % from 15,182 in the first quarter of 2008.

Visitors	1 st Quarter 2008		2 nd Quarter 2008	
	No. of visits	%	No. of visits	%
Local	8,872	58	7,774	56
Foreign	6,310	42	6,031	44
Total	15,182	100	13,805	100

During the second quarter of 2008, visits from Mauritians accounted for around 56% of all visits. Foreign visitors who made up the remaining 44%, came mostly from the United States of America, the United Kingdom and France.



For the 2nd Quarter 2008, the Economic and Social Indicator (ESI) on *National Accounts*, was the most accessed ESI with 2,768 visits. Next came the ESI on *Consumer Price Index* with 2,487 visits.

Important indicators released during the 2nd Quarter of 2008

GDP Growth Rate

Based on the latest information gathered on the various sectors of the economy, it is estimated that GDP growth rate for 2007 was 5.4%. On the basis of information gathered on the key sectors of the economy and recent past trends, GDP growth for 2008 is forecasted at 5.7% lower than the forecast of 6% made in March 2008, mainly due to a lower than expected sugar production.

Consumer Price Index and Inflation

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) registered an increase of 2.4% during the period December 2007 to March 2008. The rate of inflation for financial year 2007/08 works out to 8.8% compared to 10.7% in 2006/07. It is to be recalled that the inflation rate for calendar year 2007 was 8.8%.

External Trade

Total exports proceeds for the first quarter of 2008 stood at Rs 14,311 million and imports reached Rs 30,776 million, resulting in a trade deficit of Rs 16,465 million. Based on past trends, total exports for the year 2008 are expected to be of the order of Rs 73,000 million, against imports of Rs 130,000 million. The trade deficit would therefore be around Rs 57,000 million.

Tourist arrivals

Tourist arrivals in the first quarter of 2008 attained 261,494, showing an increase of 7.2% over the figure of the corresponding quarter of 2007. The Gross tourism receipts for the quarter under review amounted to Rs 11,951 million. Based on information gathered from the main stakeholders of this sector and the growth of 7.2% observed during for the first quarter of 2008, the forecast of 975,000 tourist arrivals and Rs 48,000 million tourism receipts for 2008, estimated in March, are maintained.

Unemployment

The unemployment rate for the first quarter of 2008 is estimated at 8.2%, higher than the rate of 7.2% at the fourth quarter 2007 but lower than the rate of 9.6% at the first quarter of 2007. Unemployment rate for the year 2008 is forecasted at 8.0% against 8.5% in 2007.

Documentation Centre of the CSO – Current Awareness Services

The following publications have been acquired during the first quarter of 2008:

Local Publications

Periodicals

- 1. European Commission in Mauritius**
Newsletter – March 2008

Reports

- 1. National Economic and Social Council.**
The employment of foreign workers in Mauritius – January 2008.
- 2. Ministry of Tourism, Leisure and External Communications**
Survey of Outgoing Tourists – 2006.
- 3. PluriConseil**
Enquête sur la Consommation – Juillet 2007.

Foreign Publications

Periodicals

- 1. International Labour Office – Geneva**
World of Work – April 2008.
- 2. INSEE, France**
Economie ET Statistique, No 407 ,2007.
- 3. The Guttmacher Institute, New York**
International Family Planning Perspectives, March 2008

Reports

- 1. Programme des Nations Unies pour L'Environnement (PNUE)**
L'Avenir de L'Environnement en Afrique – 2006.
- 2. United Nations Industrial Development Organisation**
International Yearbook of Industrial Statistics – 2008.
- 3. World Health Organisation (WHO)**
 - (i) Maternal Mortality in 2005
 - (ii) Neonatal and Perinatal Mortality – 2007
- 4. United Nations**
World Population - 2006

Training/Meetings attended by staff during the second quarter of 2008

(i) Overseas

Name	Programme	Country	Period
Mr. M. Dawoonauth	Regional Workshop on the compilation of improved GDP series	Zambia	7 to 11 April
Mr. A. Sookun	Conference on Climate change and official statistics	Norway	14 to 16 April
Mr. A.S. Mungralee	Workshop on Household Surveys and Measurement of Labour Force with focus on Informal Economy	Lesotho	14 to 18 April
Ms. M. Ganoo	Workshop on MDG Monitoring	Uganda	5 to 8 May
Ms. L. F. Cheung Kai Suet and Mr. M. Dawoonauth	Conference on National Accounts for sustainable Growth and Development	Luxembourg	6 to 8 May
Ms. G. Appadu	Implementation of International Recommendations on Distributive Trade Statistics, 2008	Ethiopia	27 to 30 May

Ms. S. Geemul	Seminar on Government Finance Statistics (GFS)	Tunisia	19 May to 6 June
Ms. K.D. Pothegadoo	i. Measuring Progress Statistics for MDG Indicators with focus on Poverty and Gender ii. Statistics for Global Concern	Uganda	2 to 14 June
Ms. N.D. Gujadhur	UN Regional Workshop on Census Data Processing: Contemporary Technologies for Census Data Captured and Data Editing	Tanzania	9 to 13 June
Ms. B.F. Koussa	Consultative Workshop on SADC Agricultural Information Management System (AIMS)	South Africa	25 to 27 June

(ii) Local

In- House Training

The following officers attended a 3-hour course on 'IT Skills' by Mr. A. Hoolash

Mr. H. Bundhoo	Ms. C. Bandinah	Ms. A. Owadally	Ms. N. Joomun
Ms. L. F. Cheung Kai Suet	Ms. R.Soborun	Mr. P. Seenauth	Ms. H. Ramlukon
Ms. Y. Cassimally	Ms. C. Rughoobur	Mr. M. Lan Pin Wing	Mr. A. Bundhoo
Mr. D. Juleemun	Ms. S.B. Nunhuck	Mr. D. Venkatasawmy	Mr. R. Fanor
Ms. M. Ganoo	Mr.K. Nardeosingh	Mr. S. Mungur	Mr. E. Luksmudu
Ms. G. Appadu	Mr. A.S. Mungralee	Ms. S. Samy	Ms. F.Mohamud
Ms. S.F. Cheung Tung Shing	Ms. N. Gujadhur	Ms. P. Iyavoo	Ms. P. Koonjul
Mr. C. Ramnath	Mr. S. Haulcooree	Ms. S. Geemul	Ms. F. Moserdee
Mr. K. Wong Ping Lun	Mr. A. Ramasamy	Mr. L.K. Dindoyal	Ms. N. Ramjan
Ms. R. Moraby	Ms. D. Balgobin	Mr. A. Poreema	Ms. J. Rambojun
Mr. C. Arianack	Ms. F. Koussa	Ms. F. Victor	Mr. D. Jagai
Mr. M.S. Boodoo	Mr. A. Sookun	Ms. S. Maudarbocus	Ms. R. Dulloo
Mr. D. Pothegadoo	Mr. G. Chandydial	Mr. K. Bheecarry	Mr. C. Lacloche
Mr. Y. Thorabally	Ms. N. Guillaume	Mr. M. R. Rujub	Mr. A. Bahadoor
Mr. M. Dawoonauth	Mr. S. Chaumoo	Ms. S. Venkatasami	Mr. D. Pillay
Mr. L. Persand	Ms. L.C. Tse Ve Koon	Mr. K. Nassurally	
Mr. S. Bhonoo	Ms. N. Meenowa	Mr. R. Mungur	



Training on 'IT Skills' by Mr. Ali Hoolash

Other Local Training

1. Courses organized by the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms.

- (i) 2 ½ - Day course on 'Programme Based Budgeting (PBB) and Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) – Mr. L. Persand
- (ii) 2 – Day course on 'Training in Negotiating Skills' – Mr. K. Kowlessur

2. Course organized by the CSO under the 'SADC Training Pack' and conducted by the University of Mauritius

10 - Half- Day course on 'Economic Concepts and Principles for Statisticians'






Ms.R. Moraby	Ms. F. Koussa	Ms. R. Fanor
Mr. M.S. Boodoo	Ms. N. Guillaume	Mr. E. Lukshmudu
Mr. D. Pothegadoo	Mr. S. Mungur	Ms. F. Moserdee
Mr. Y. Thorabally	Mr. K. Nassurally	Mr. G. Chandydial
Mr. L. Persand	Mr. R. Mungur	Ms. K. Pothegadoo
Ms. C. Bandinah	Ms. F. Victor	
Ms. R. Soborun	Mr. K. Bheecarry	
Ms. S.B. Nunhuck	Ms. S. Venkatasami	
Mr. A. Bundhoo	Ms. N. Joomun	
Mr. A. Ramasamy	Mr. K. Nardeosingh	

Microsoft Office 2007: What's new?

(by Ali Hoolash)

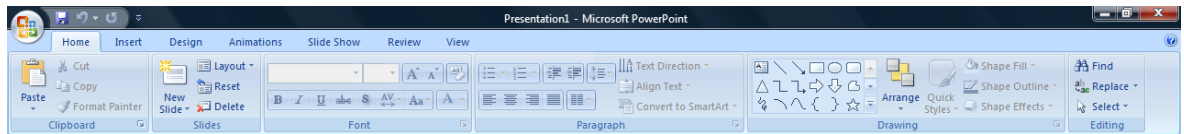
The latest upgrade of the Office Suite from Microsoft is Office 2007. While this upgrade has received rave reviews from IT savvy professionals, it has also left many users in the 'frustration lane'! An upgrade, particularly when it affects the interface, always entails a new learning curve for the user. How steep the learning curve is depends on how fast the user adapts to the new interface. Let's have a closer look at what Microsoft Office 2007 has to offer. In this article, we'll look at the components and the new features of the Office 2007 suite.

The Office 2007 system is distributed in eight editions and each specific edition is catered for a particular type of user. A feature comparison of the eight editions is given in the table below.

Components of each edition								
Component	Basic	Home and Student	Standard	Small Business	Professional	Ultimate	Professional Plus	Enterprise
	No box shot available						No box shot available	No box shot available
Word Processor	Word	Word	Word	Word	Word	Word	Word	Word
Spreadsheet	Excel	Excel	Excel	Excel	Excel	Excel	Excel	Excel
Presentations		PowerPoint	PowerPoint	PowerPoint	PowerPoint	PowerPoint	PowerPoint	PowerPoint
Calendar and E-mail	Outlook		Outlook	Outlook	Outlook	Outlook	Outlook	Outlook
Accountancy				Accounting Express	Accounting Express	Accounting Express		
Desktop Publishing				Publisher	Publisher	Publisher	Publisher	Publisher
Database					Access	Access	Access	Access
Form creation						InfoPath	InfoPath	InfoPath
Collaboration						Groove		Groove
Note-taking		OneNote				OneNote		OneNote
IM / VoIP / Videoconferencing							Communicator	Communicator

What's new? Well, there are lots of new features in Office 2007 and here are the main ones:

- (1) **The User Interface (UI).** The core Office applications (i.e. Word, Excel, Powerpoint and Access) have been given a facelift. A new user interface (UI) now greets the user when these applications are opened.
- (2) **The Office Button.** The Office 2007 button, located on the top-left of the window, replaces the File menu and provides access to functionality common across all Office applications, including opening, saving, printing, and sharing a file. It can also close the application. Users can also choose colour schemes for the interface.
- (3) **The Ribbon.** Each core Office application now has a panel that houses commands grouped in tabs. This panel is called 'The Ribbon' and has been designed so that the user can access common tools with fewer mouse clicks compared to prior Office versions. For example, Excel has a tab for its graphing capabilities and word has a tab for the formatting of text documents.



- (4) **Live Preview.** A feature called 'Live Preview' has been introduced and the latter allows the user to temporarily preview a formatting effect when the mouse is simply moved on the formatting tool. For example, highlighting a selection of text in Word 2007 and then moving the mouse over the different types of fonts available changes the font accordingly on the highlighted text.
- (5) **The Mini Toolbar.** The new "Mini Toolbar" is a type of context menu that is automatically shown when text is selected. The purpose of this feature is to provide easy access to the most-used formatting commands. It remains semi-transparent until the mouse pointer is placed on the mini toolbar.
- (6) **Office Open XML.** Microsoft Office uses a new file format, called Office Open XML, as the default file format. Word documents are now saved using a .docx extension rather than the traditional .doc extension. According to Microsoft, documents created in this format are up to 75% smaller than the same documents saved with previous Microsoft Office file formats. Word 2007 can also save documents in the old format which is compatible with previous versions of Word. The same applies for Excel 2007. *In addition, Microsoft has made available a free add-on known as the "Microsoft Office Compatibility Pack" that lets Office 2000-2003 editions open, edit, and save documents created under the new 2007 format. This add-on can be downloaded from Microsoft's website.*

I hope this article has helped you to get a better picture of the new Office 2007 suite. In future articles, we'll take a deeper look at the changes brought to the core Office 2007 applications, i.e. Excel, Word and Powerpoint. Until then, keep experimenting with your Office 2007 Suite! You might end up discovering an undocumented feature! See you in the next issue!

Occupational Safety and Health

With the enactment of the Occupational Safety and Health Act 2005, it is now mandatory upon employers to establish an Occupational Safety and Health Committee at their respective workplace.

1. The Occupational Safety and Health Committee at the CSO

1.1 The Committee comprises:-

Chairman

Mr. H. Bundhoo - Director of Statistics

Vice Chairman

Mr. K. Bheecarry - Senior Statistical Officer

Members Representing Management

Miss L. F. Cheung Kai Suet - Deputy Director

Mrs. S. F. Cheung Tung Shing	-	Senior Statistician
Mr. K. Kowlessur	-	Office Superintendent
Mr. C. Lacroche	-	Personnel Officer

Representatives of the CSO Staff Association

Mr. Z. Kausmaully	-	Statistical Officer
Mr. D. Dosoontee	-	Statistical Officer

Representatives of the CSO Staff Welfare Association

Mrs. S. Bhikajee	-	Statistical Officer
Mr. A. Pentiah	-	Statistical Officer

Secretary

Mr. D. Pillay	-	Higher Executive Officer
---------------	---	--------------------------

The first committee of the Occupational Safety and Health Act met on 18 June 2008 under the chairmanship of the Director of Statistics.

Mrs. A. Bhujun-Ramjattan and Mrs. C. Doorga, Occupational Safety and Health Officers from the Occupational Safety and Health Unit of the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms attended the meeting to provide advice on technical aspects of the Act.

1.2 Following representations made by the staff side, the Occupational Safety and Health Officers agreed to effect a site visit in July 2008 to assess the prevailing situation as well as to make recommendations on various improvements that may be undertaken for the advancement of a safe workplace.

2. Inspection of Lifts

A technical team comprising the Principal Mechanical Engineer of the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping, Technicians from the Energy Services Division and a Safety and Health Officer of the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms in the presence of the Lessor inspected the lifts on 5 June 2008.

The following shortcomings have been noted:

- Absence of lift operators or attendants to cater for emergency call and release of passengers.
- There was no power pack to provide emergency light in case of power failure.

The Lessor has agreed to take remedial actions on the above and keep us informed accordingly.

Staffing Development

Recruitment

The technical staff of the CSO has recently been reinforced by the recruitment of the following eleven additional Statistical Officers.

Mr. BISSESSUR Heman	Miss MOHEEPUTH Roshnee
Mrs. BOOLAKY Bibi Saminah Shaheen	Mrs. PEMSING Rohinee Devi
Mrs. KISSOON Vidya	Mr. PILLAY Sanassy Devadassen
Mrs. JOGEE Deeya Devi	Mrs. RAMYED Sakuntala Devi
Miss LOWTUN Bibi Farzina	Mrs. SEEBARUTH-RAMJUG Shamwantee
Mrs. MAYWAH Hema Devi	

Retirement

Mrs. Premila RAMCHURN, Senior Statistical Officer, will retire from the Service on 20 July, 2008, on grounds of age limit after having served at the CSO for nearly 35 years. We seize this opportunity to thank Mrs. Ramchurn for her long and loyal service to the Government and wish her a happy retirement.

Special General Meeting of Central Statistics Office Staff Association (CSOSA)

The union held a meeting on the 25th June to apprise members of the PRB and also on the proposed National Statistical Agency. Regarding the PRB, main points raised were about new conditions of leave, attendance/flexitime, performance monitoring, pension reforms and some specific issues like long service increment, etc... Members whilst welcoming the creation of the grade of Principal Statistical Officer expressed concern about the mode of appointment to the grade, namely, the selection process and the bare two years qualifying period at Senior Statistical Officer level to be eligible for appointment. It was observed that the PRB itself has recommended that in a structure with many levels there need not be selection for appointment at all levels. This could be done at alternate levels only. The office, however, seems to bypass this recommendation.

Other point of concern was the establishment of two categories of Statisticians depending upon whether they are holders of the Graduate Diploma of Royal Statistical Society (RSS) or of degree with Statistics as the main subject. The positive element, however, is the latent recognition of the grade of statistician as a professional grade. The recommendation for Statistical Officer to be appointed in a substantive capacity after succeeding the examination of the Ordinary Certificate of the RSS (instead of the present requirement of exemption from this level) looks like an anomaly.

The President gave a feedback on the first meeting of the Steering Committee on the proposed Statistical Agency. Members unanimously favoured the Agency to remain a governmental entity and expressed strong doubts on the independent functioning of the Board. Members were dead against any selection exercise envisaged in the new agency. All staff should de facto be absorbed by the agency which should build upon and strengthen existing resources. Members were requested to stay mobilised and will be kept informed of developments.

Annual General Meeting of the Central Statistics Office Staff Welfare Association (CSOSWA)

The CSOSWA held its Annual General Meeting on 25th June 2008. An appeal was made by the President of the day to members of the Association to give a helping hand in all the activities of the Association.

The President mentioned that the CSOSWA has an important role to play in promoting the well being of its members. He also pointed out that many activities have been organised in the past years for the benefits of the members but there was minimum participation and appealed to members to take more interest in the forthcoming activities. The collaboration and support of each and everyone will enable us to move ahead with activities that will benefit everybody.

The Executive Committee has been reconstituted for the period 2008-2010.