

SM improves its Customer Counter



In the quest for quality and excellence in delivering public services, SM renovates its Customer Counter.

The moment a member of the public walks in the reception hallway, he/she is greeted courteously by our frontline officers, be it the telephonist or the office care attendants, is invited to take a seat in the cosy waiting area equipped with a/c and reading magazines, while his/her request is being attended to. His/her first impression is what determines our organisational image.

This customer centric approach is in line with the vision and commitment of SM to provide high quality and seamless services to the public.

Measuring Progress on "Greening" the Economy

The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) in collaboration with Eurostat, the European Environment Agency (EEA), the International Labour Organisation (ILO) organised a workshop entitled "*Measuring Progress on "Greening" the Economy: Policies and Practices*" from 14 to 15 May 2014 in Geneva. The objective was to bring under one roof statisticians, analysts and policymakers from agencies and countries involved in measuring Environmental Goods and Services Sector (EGSS) to take stock of the recent experiences, and to motivate widespread application of the EGSS measurement framework.

During this workshop, some European countries together with China, Japan and South Korea shared their experiences about the EGSS application and the challenges they face, whilst developing countries, like Mauritius, seized the opportunity to share their perspectives on implementing the EGSS framework, and focusing on important policy issues such as green jobs and trade opportunities. For a sustainable development, Statistics Mauritius is well aware of the importance of measuring the progress, and hence its contribution, towards a green economy.

Census of Agriculture 2014 – Data collection is on...

Statistics Mauritius is currently conducting the Census of Agriculture 2014 (CA2014) jointly with the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security in the islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues from July to December 2014.

Around 200 census questionnaires have been mailed to agricultural businesses while some 260 officers are on the field carrying face-to-face interviews of a sample of 10,300 agricultural farms. Work in relation to the above has kicked off in the last week of July and is expected to be completed by end of September, following which some 9,000 private households will be surveyed.

Much effort is being put in the training of field staff which started with the holding of a two-day training of trainers' workshop by an FAO consultant in June. The training was trickled down to field staff later in July.

Worth noting is the invaluable financial and technical assistance obtained from the FAO in the conduct of the Census of Agriculture 2014.

SM participates in 21st SADC Statistics Committee Meeting

As is the case every year, the SADC Statistics Committee which comprises heads of National Statistical Offices of the Member States met to discuss statistical development in the region and to oversee the implementation of the SADC Statistics Programme. The 2014 meeting was held from 25 to 27 June in South Africa.

Yasmin Cassimally, Deputy Director attended the meeting on behalf of SM Director.

Main issues discussed that are of particular relevance to SM are:

- 2011 ICP: Member States should continue integrating ICP activities into their routine work and participate in future ICP rounds as well as disseminate the results of the 2011 round or their country.
- Country Stat – An Integrated System for National Food and Agriculture Statistics: Mauritius and other Member States not yet implementing CountrySTAT should adopt the system.
- Multidimensional Poverty Index: Member States should share their experiences on poverty measurement including the compilation of the Multidimensional Poverty Index.

The next meeting is scheduled be held in Zimbabwe in May 2015.