

Plan of Action on Statistics

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The third Meeting of the ASEAN Heads of Statistical Offices (AHSOM 3) held in Kuala Lumpur on 24-25 September 2001 adopted the ASEAN Framework of Cooperation in Statistics (the Framework). In view of the Framework, regional cooperation in statistics should be intensified and guided by principles of practical utility, quality, transparency, and accessibility, in conformance with international standards, while still ensuring confidentiality.

Among the most important objectives of regional cooperation in statistics are to support ASEAN bodies' regional initiatives, planning and policy-making through the provision of comparable and timely statistics; to harmonize classifications, concepts, definitions and measurements; to adopt international good practices; and to promote improvements in the official statistics.

In order to achieve the objectives set forth under the Framework, the ASEAN Heads of Statistical Offices agreed to intensify their cooperation activities according to the following strategic thrusts.

1. Support for ASEAN Initiatives, Planning and Policy-making

To ensure the production and improvement of statistics that are needed for the ASEAN bodies' regional planning and cooperation activities.

- 1.1. Assist relevant ASEAN bodies in identifying data/indicators that are needed to support the implementation of the ASEAN initiatives such as the ASEAN Surveillance Process (ASP), ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA), ASEAN Investment Area (AIA), ASEAN Scheme of Industrial Cooperation (AICO), etc. These indicators shall be called the ASEAN Statistical Indicators (ASI);
- 1.2. Assist in identifying gaps in the provision of ASI and develop measures to facilitate the National Statistical Offices/Administrations (NSOs) concerned in the production of missing indicators;
- 1.3. Establish a mechanism for regular updating of ASI by Member Countries;
- 1.4. Assist in developing and maintaining a selected set of ASI on an ASEAN Statistics Web at the ASEAN Secretariat;
- 1.5. Assist in the periodical publications of statistical indicators that represent the region's characteristics, current issues, and progresses of cooperation activities;
- 1.6. Establish and maintain linkages with NSO's individual websites; and

- 1.7. Promote the development of websites in members where websites are not available.

2. Harmonization of Classification, Concept, Definition, and Measurement

To ensure that international standards of classification, concept, definition, measurement and methodology be adopted or harmonized so that comparable ASI can be produced.

- 2.1. Review classifications, concepts, definitions, measurements and methodologies of the ASI, currently adopted by Member Countries against relevant international standards, survey existing international harmonization efforts/programs and develop measures to harmonize them according to the international standards;
- 2.2. Set up a Working Group on Harmonization of Statistics to coordinate and monitor the harmonization activities, including the above activities.

3. Adoption of International Good Practices

To adopt international good practices that promote transparency and create greater public awareness and appreciation of statistics.

- 3.1. Conduct self assessment on good practices and performances based on the UNSD's questionnaires;
- 3.2. Promote the dissemination of country's good practices, including on the UNSD's website.

4. Capacity Building and Human Resources Development

To facilitate the development of technical expertise and skills of NSOs required in the implementation of the Plan of Action.

- 4.1. Assess the training needs of each NSO and develop training programs;
- 4.2. Review existing national, regional and international training facilities that could address the training needs identified above;
- 4.3. Seek technical and/or financial support from relevant training facilities and/or international agencies/donors in the conduct of the training programs; and
- 4.4. Promote cooperation of technical expertise within the region.