



JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT

The Twelfth Session of the ASEAN Community Statistical System Committee (ACSS12) 21-23 November 2022, Virtual Meeting Coordinated from Phnom Penh, Cambodia

1. The Twelfth Session of the ASEAN Community Statistical System Committee (ACSS12), hosted by National Institute of Statistics Cambodia, was held virtually on 21 to 23 November 2022. The Session was chaired by Mdm. Hang Lina, Director General of National Institute of Statistics Cambodia, with Dr. Imam Machdi, Deputy Chief Statistician for Statistical Methodology and Information, BPS Statistics Indonesia as the Co-chairperson.
2. Since its establishment in 2011, the ACSS has been continuing its efforts and commitment to provide relevant, timely and comparable ASEAN statistics in support of ASEAN integration monitoring and evidence-based policy and decision making. The ACSS has also been consistently strengthening its cooperation to enhance statistical capacities of the ASEAN Member States (AMS) and the ASEAN Secretariat.
3. With the support of the Sub-Committee on Planning and Coordination (SCPC) and the technical working groups, ACSS has been able to improve data provision in various statistical areas including economic and social statistics as well as Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicators. The ACSS disseminates around 800 statistical indicators via the ASEAN Statistics (ASEANstats) website.
4. Despite achieving significant improvements at the national and regional levels, the ACSS continues to face challenges which require strong collaborative efforts of AMS. Statistical capacity gap among AMS and limited national and regional resources are among the key challenges for the ACSS to improve data availability and quality. Improving coordination among national data producers is also crucial to respond to increasing data needs, including in furthering global initiatives such as SDGs.
5. Aligned with the overall theme of Cambodia's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2022 of "ASEAN A.C.T: Addressing Challenges Together", and as part of our continuous commitment to further enhance regional statistical cooperation and respond proactively to emerging statistical requirements, we adopted the following theme for 2022 ACSS work programme:

"Speedy Recovery from the Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic"

Key Deliverables of the ACSS Work Programme 2022

6. In meeting increasing data needs of ASEAN policy makers, we continued our statistical programmes to provide timely and comparable statistics on international merchandise trade, foreign direct investment, international trade in services, SDGs, National Accounts and other macroeconomic and social indicators.



7. In line with data dissemination and communication efforts, an interactive statistical dashboard was developed and released on the ASEANstats website to enhance accessibility, facilitate exploration of trends, and improve visibility of ASEAN statistics.
8. We endorsed the Methodological Guide for International Trade in Services to provide practical guidance on implementing conceptual requirements in the compilation of statistics on international trade in services.
9. As a follow-up of our recognition of the potential use of Big Data as new sources of data in official statistics, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia and the Philippines implemented the Pilot Project on Big Data Utilisation for Enhancing ACSS Official Statistics. The remaining five AMS will implement the Pilot Project in 2023.
10. The 2022 ASEAN SDG Snapshot Report was released, providing a timely update on the progress of AMS in meeting the SDG against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic and disruption to global supply chains. The report focused on 29 indicators which might have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

ASEAN Help ASEAN Framework for ACSS Capacity Building

11. We have continued to implement the ASEAN-Help-ASEAN Framework (AHAF) for ACSS Capacity Building to sustain our capacity building programmes as well as to facilitate greater knowledge and experience sharing among AMS to speed up the development of statistics at national and regional levels.
12. Since 2021, ACSS Working Groups have implemented more than twenty capacity building activities under AHAF, covering various topics including International Merchandise Trade Statistics, Statistics of International Trade in Services, Foreign Direct Investment Statistics, System of National Accounts, SDG Indicators, as well as Dissemination and Communication of Statistics.

Meeting the Challenges of the COVID-19 Pandemic

13. In responding to serious and crucial challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, ACSS has continued to provide reliable official statistics by enhancing methodologies and increasing the utilisation of technology. We have also leveraged online mechanism for our regional activities such as meetings, discussions, workshops, trainings and technical assistance.



14. We commended AMS' efforts and achievements to respond to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic:
- i) Brunei Darussalam's (1) continuous implementation of its regular socio-economic statistical production processes through effective leverage on digital technology resulting in better data quality and timely dissemination; (2) release of Population and Housing Census 2021 results post its first e-Census implementation; (3) release new International Merchandise Trade Index; and (4) strengthening SDG data availability through the national SDG Technical Working Group.
 - ii) Cambodia's (1) Economic Census 2022; (2) dissemination of final results of Establishment Listing 2021; (3) Household Socio-Economic Survey 2021 and dissemination of preliminary results; (4) Agriculture Survey 2022 using CAPI; (5) dissemination of final results of Demographic and Health Survey 2021/2022; (6) GDP rebasing from 2000 to 2014; and (7) modernization of National Indicators Reporting Platform (CAMSTAT), including development of Open SDG using SDMX Standard.
 - iii) Indonesia's (1) initiation of National Statistical System (NSS) transformation; (2) member of national data steering council to set Data Governance Policy; (3) transformation strategies including: (a) Statistics Law revision; (b) statistical capacity building for government institutions; (c) National Statistical Infrastructure modernisation that supports government institutions in producing better statistics.
 - iv) Lao PDR's (1) third Lao labour force survey, (2) preparation of the third Lao Social Indicators Survey planned in 2023 and the preparation of the Fifth Lao Population and Housing Census in 2025, (3) establishment of its five-year work program to ensuring the availability and quality of economic, social, and environmental statistics, and (4) enhancement of the use of statistics through data integration, dissemination and development of ICT infrastructure.
 - v) Malaysia's (1) leading a 5-year plan to strengthen the National Statistical System towards data stewardship and data governance; (2) publishing fine-grained data from the 2020 Population Census; (3) introducing dashboards, interactive digital dissemination platforms for specific statistics; (4) promoting statistical literacy through social media and engagement activities, including National Statistics Day; and (5) optimising the data revolution through big data and data science.
 - vi) Myanmar's (1) provision of trainings to the line ministries as a statistical cooperation to develop statistical capacity; (2) preparation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) progress report; (3) effort to data compilation using statistical techniques for the Statistical Business Register (SBR); and (4) provision of policy inputs from the conduct of disaster surveys and child labour surveys after the COVID-19 pandemic.



- vii) The Philippines's (1) rollout of the Community-Based Monitoring System for the generation of sub-national data for more targeted programs and projects; (2) digital transformation through the use of online tools for survey operations and use of artificial intelligence models and geospatial data; (3) release of estimates on digital economy; (4) dissemination of the updated Philippine Statistical Development Program (PSDP) 2018-2023; and (5) improvement of survey design for economic statistics.
- viii) Singapore's (1) provision of more timely indicators with the use of high frequency data; (2) efforts to leverage artificial intelligence and machine learning techniques across the data value chain; (3) launch of innovative and user-centric data services, including curated data products for businesses to facilitate data-driven decisions; and (4) outreach to users via social media platforms with more engaging posts and informative content.
- ix) Thailand's (1) provision of statistics to identify an increase in COVID-19 vaccination sites to prevent community transmission, alternative vaccines, and guidelines to extend necessary measures; (2) support on 175 governmental agencies to operate their own agency data catalogues, emphasizing on metadata training and refining unstructured data for seamless data value sharing; and (3) dissemination of digital media via the social platform to promote the use of statistics for people of all ages.
- x) Viet Nam's (1) dissemination of official data of the 2021 Economic Census; (2) issuance of the Decree to revise the national statistical indicator system in attachment with the Statistics Law, with disaggregation for 33 SDG indicators and 52 VSDG indicators; (3) strong application of IT in all phases of the statistical production process, enhancement of using administrative data for statistical work, and complete application of the e-office ecosystem in the whole system.

Appreciation for Development Partners and International Organisations

- 15. We appreciated the contribution of the ASEAN Regional Integration Support by the EU (ARISE) Plus Programme in providing technical assistance to support the ACSS in strengthening institutional framework and coordination, improving the availability and comparability of key statistics for ASEAN regional integration monitoring, and narrowing the gaps in statistical capacity among AMS.
- 16. We thanked the International Organisations, namely United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), International Labour Organization (ILO), and Asian Development Bank (ADB). We acknowledged with appreciation their support towards the goal of a more responsive ACSS providing high quality statistics in support of the ASEAN integration.



Handover of the ACSS Chairmanship in 2022

17. We expressed our sincere gratitude to the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia, through its National Institute of Statistics, for its excellent chairmanship, good preparation and impeccable arrangements for the Twelfth Session of the ACSS Committee.
18. We welcomed the ACSS Chairmanship of Indonesia in 2023.

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ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS) Committee

- 1. BRUNEI DARUSSALAM: Ms. Heidi Farah Sia Abdul Rahman**
- 2. KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA: Mdm. Hang Lina**
- 3. REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA: Dr. Imam Machdi**
- 4. LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC: Mrs. Phonesaly Souksavath**
- 5. MALAYSIA: Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin**
- 6. THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR: Mr. Htun Zaw**
- 7. REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES: Dr. Claire Dennis Mapa**
- 8. REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE: Dr. Koh Eng Chuan**
- 9. KINGDOM OF THAILAND: Dr. Piyanuch Wuttisorn**
- 10. THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM: Dr. Nguyen Thi Huong**
- 11. ASEAN SECRETARIAT: Dr. Ahmad Zafarullah Abdul Jalil**

23 November 2022