

Joint Media Statement

The ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS) Committee
Third Session

10-12 September 2013, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam

Introduction

1. The ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS) Committee, consisting of Chief Statisticians or Heads of National Statistical Offices of all ASEAN Member States (AMSs), convened its third session in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam on 10-12 September 2013 towards meeting the statistical requirements of the ASEAN Community through improved data availability, quality, and effective dissemination and communication of statistics, and addressing new challenges and demands beyond 2015.

2. Mr. Haji Abd Amin bin Hj Hashim, Acting Director General of the Department of Economic Planning and Development of the Prime Minister's Office, Brunei Darussalam, presided over the Meeting. Ms. Marlar Aung, Deputy Director General of Central Statistical Organisation of Myanmar, Co-Chaired the Meeting.

Enhancing Dissemination and Communication of Statistics

3. The ACSS Committee is pleased to pre-announce the release of the second issue of the ASEAN Community Progress Monitoring System (ACPMS) 2012 on 17 September 2013. The ACPMS is the statistical report to track the progress in various aspects of ASEAN integration. The ACSS Committee is also encouraged by the successful implementation of the pilot model of Community Mission-Based Dissemination, in which four AMSs: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Viet Nam, as well as the ASEAN Secretariat will simultaneously issue press releases on this publication on the same day to highlight the importance of ACPMS.

4. The ACSS Committee remains resolute in promoting ASEAN statistics dissemination and communication with close collaboration among AMSs and the media. To facilitate statistical dissemination and sharing of data, the ACSS Committee has adopted the Policies and Guidelines on Data Sharing, Confidentiality, Dissemination and Communication of Statistics. This set of policies and guidelines will help the AMSs and the ASEAN Secretariat to promote wider accessibility to ASEAN statistics, enhance ASEAN statistics' credibility and gain public trust in ASEAN statistics.

5. Works are also underway to improve quality, timeliness, availability, accountability and transparency of statistics by embarking on the development of measures to assess the implementation of the ACSS Code of Practice (CoP).

Responding to Greater Demand for Comparable and Timely Statistics

6. The ACSS Committee continues to improve data availability, comparability and timeliness of statistics in the key integration areas of international merchandise

trade, trade in services, and foreign direct investment. More trade in services data items have been made available to the public; trade and foreign direct investment data are updated in a more regular and timely manner. An advance release calendar will be issued to inform the public on the release dates of these ASEAN statistics. The ACSS Committee has adopted the Terms of References for the Working Group on International Merchandise Trade Statistics and the Working Group on Statistics of International Trade in Services to strengthen the mandate of these working groups.

7. The ACSS Committee has adopted its revised Annual Work Plan (AWP) 2013, Revised AWP 2014 and Revised Indicative AWP 2015 to include additional activities aimed at further strengthening the production, dissemination, and quality of ASEAN statistics. The ACSS Committee has also expanded the list of ASEAN Statistical Indicators (ASI) to better respond to the ASEAN Community statistical requirements, and is working on its implementation roadmap.

8. The ACSS Committee is in the middle of a major undertaking to identify and better respond to the future demand for statistics and address the outstanding challenges. It has assessed and adopted the outcomes of the Mid-Term Review of the ACSS Multi-Year Action Plan 2011-2015, and provided guidance to the draft ACSS Strategic Plan 2016-2020. The ACSS Committee is resolved to enhance the relevance and effectiveness of its Strategic Plan by ensuring greater users inputs through the conduct of a user need and satisfaction survey and organising a High-Level Seminar on ACSS Strategic Planning in mid 2014.

Strengthening Partnership and Capacity Building

9. The ACSS Committee is encouraged by the continued support from its development partners, including international organisations, dialogue partners and donor agencies. At the same time, it is also keen to initiate dialogue among the AMSs to contribute to the relevant statistical development at the global and regional arena.

Hosting of the Meeting

10. The ACSS Committee expresses its deep appreciation to the Government of Brunei Darussalam, through the Department of Economic Planning and Development, for the excellent leadership, meeting arrangements and facilitation, as well as for the warm hospitality accorded during the Third Session of the ACSS Committee.

11. The ACSS Committee appreciates the confirmation by the Central Statistical Organization of Myanmar to host and chair the Fourth Session of the ACSS Committee in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar in September 2014.

Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, 12 September 2013