

2001 ASEAN FRAMEWORK OF COOPERATION IN STATISTICS

Signed in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 30 December 2001

We, the Heads of Statistical Offices/Administrations of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN);

NOTING the emerging developments and trends regionally and globally, particularly globalisation and the increasing interdependence of countries in the world economy;

MINDFUL of the challenges these trends would pose for ASEAN Statistical Offices/Administrations in the production of high quality official statistics;

RECOGNISING the importance of timely and accurate information for decision-making processes of businesses and governments at the national and regional levels;

FURTHER RECOGNISING the importance of effective dissemination, accessibility and transparency of ASEAN statistical information;

REALIZING the urgent need for the support and commitment of the respective governments of the ASEAN Statistical Offices/Administrations in the implementation and sustainability of their statistical programmes, projects and activities;

COMMITTING to deepen and broaden ASEAN statistical cooperation to augment the capabilities of statistical collection and dissemination and to conform to the highest statistical standards, as well as to promote uniformity and greater provision of statistical information at the regional level;

MINDFUL of the ASEAN Statistical Offices/Administrations' different stages and priorities of statistical developments and varying national practices;

RECOGNISING the need to create a framework of cooperation in statistics, which will chart future directions, and set new heights, for ASEAN statistical cooperation;

NOW THEREFORE we have agreed on a Framework of Cooperation in Statistics, as follows:

I. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the ASEAN Framework of Cooperation in Statistics (the Framework) are the following:

- a) to enhance and intensify statistical cooperation among ASEAN Statistical Offices/Administrations;
- b) to harmonise the definition, classification and measurement of statistics in ASEAN to promote the production of comparable statistics and the development of regional statistical indicators;
- c) to support ASEAN bodies' regional planning and policy-making through the provision of comparable and timely statistics;

- d) to enhance the technical and management capabilities of ASEAN Statistical Offices/Administrations;
- e) to establish and promote the highest professional standards;
- f) to coordinate and promote ASEAN positions on statistical issues in relevant international fora;
- g) to advocate greater governmental support and commitment to the priority statistical programs, projects and activities of the member ASEAN countries;
- h) to promote improvements in the official statistics generated by the member countries; and
- i) to promote adherence to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission.

II. AREAS OF COOPERATION

That the Member Countries shall work towards achieving greater cooperation in the area of statistics through programmes and activities which shall include, though not necessarily be limited to, the following:

- a) *Exchange of Views* Holding regular exchange of views among ASEAN Statistical Offices/Administrations and, as and when necessary, with other international statistical institutions as well as statistical users on issues ranging from national, regional and international concerns.
- b) *Collaboration on Region-Wide Projects and Activities* Collaborating on region-wide statistical projects and activities with a view to producing statistics with harmonised/common concepts, definitions and classification.
- c) *Capacity Building and Human Resource Development* Developing mechanisms and training programmes to focus on all aspects of statistical administration and operations.
- d) *Other Areas of Cooperation* Exploring other areas of cooperation in the area of statistics which fall within the objectives and principles of this Framework.

RESOLVED to ensure that appropriate activities and projects are developed for an effective implementation of the Framework. The progress of implementation of the Framework shall be reviewed by the ASEAN Heads of Statistical Offices Meeting (AHSOM) once a year.

FURTHER RESOLVED that a unit within the ASEAN Secretariat shall provide technical and secretariat support needed in the implementation, monitoring and review of the Framework.

DONE, on this 30th day, in the month of December, in the year of 2001.