

Topic IV: Progress in the implementation of SDC methods and techniques in central and eastern Europe

CONFIDENTIALITY IN THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICE OF MONGOLIA

Contributed paper

Submitted by the National Statistical Office of Mongolia¹

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The current Mongolian statistics system consists of the National Statistical Office (NSO) and local statistical divisions, established at each "aimag" (local administrative unit as province) and the capital city under the direct management of the NSO, and also statistics sections under the Government ministries and agencies.
2. A revised law on Statistics was passed in July 1997, under which the NSO became a fully independent body reporting to Parliament. The NSO carries out activities for statistical classifications, standards, indicators, methodology, procedures and the preparation of statistical programmes. The Data Processing and Software Department (DPD) of the NSO is responsible for data collection, checking, updating, processing and should take care of Information Technology (IT) development.
3. Mongolian Statistical activities automation began in 1974 when we used mainframes. The computerization started in the 1990s.
4. Nowadays, the NSO employs 61 persons, 14 of whom are IT specialists. The NSO is headed by a Chairman and Vice-Chairman and consists by the following departments and divisions:
 - Administration and Information Department;
 - Economic Statistics Department;
 - Population Census and Research Bureau;
 - Data Processing and Software Department;
 - Business Register and Monitoring Division;
 - National Accounting Division;
 - Social Statistics Division.

II. LEGAL BASIS

5. In order to create the legal base for statistical activities in the country, the Law on Statistics was passed by the Parliament of Mongolia in 1994. According to this Law the statistical system in Mongolia is under the direct management of the Government, and the Government appointed Chairman of the National Statistical Office. The local offices function as a part of the local administrative authorities, with professional management by the SSO.

¹ Prepared by Bajikhhuu Khorol, National Statistical Office, Government Building 3, Baga toiruu-44, Ulaanbaatar-11, MONGOLIA. Tel: 320 262; 322 424; Fax: (976-1) 324 518; e-mail: sso@magicnet.mn; Internet URL: <http://statis.pmis.gov.mn>

6. In 1997 the Law on Statistics was revised. In accordance with the ongoing social, political and economic transition in Mongolia, the law provides sufficient support for official statistics to allow the NSO to produce objective and reliable information, respect data confidentiality and give all users access to information. The main objectives of the existing Law are:

- to establish the independent status of the statistical organization;
- to conform to international standard methodology and indicators in data collection, processing and dissemination;
- to increase administrative sanctions in cases of a breach of the Law;
- to determine the rights of statistical bodies at each particular level.

Illegal use of statistical information, confidentiality of information

7. The provisions ensuring data confidentiality are the following:

- The use of statistical information for illegal profit making purposes by statistical respondents, users and any other relevant bodies is prohibited;
- The alteration or adjustment of the results of official statistical information and surveys by users is prohibited;
- The publication or dissemination of information which is still being processed as well as information which has been identified by the appropriate lawful authorities as information concerning national interests or confidential information about individuals, business entities or other organizations is prohibited;
- The sale and transmission of results of official statistical information by users without permission of statistical organizations are prohibited;
- Transmission, sale and deletion of raw data from censuses and surveys kept in computer-readable media before the permitted date of release of information are prohibited.

III. PRESENT STATUS OF DATA PROCESSING SYSTEM OF NSO

8. At the head office, the computer hardware and software consist of the following:

a) Hardware

Server Computer	4pcs
PC-AT	22 pcs
Pentium, Pentium Pro, Pentium I,II,III Computer	36pcs
Line Printers: Epson type	12 pcs
Laser Printers	10 pcs
Computers connected to LAN	50 pcs
Modem 33600-56000 baud	4 pcs

b) Software

MS WINDOWS-NT Server V4.0, MailServer, SQL Server

MS WINDOWS 95/98

MS Office Pro 43/97/2000

Application Development software:

ClipperV5.0, MS VB 5.0/6.0 Enterprise Edition

Database Management Software:

DBASE

MS ACCESS 2.0/7/97

MS SQL Server

Statistical Data Analysing software:

STATA for DOS/WINDOWS

SAS 6.12

SPSS 10.0

Population Data Analysing Software:

IMPS 3.1/4.1

ISSA V5 for Demographic and Health Survey Processing package
MortPak for Mortality Indicators estimation package

Publishing Software:

Adobe PageMaker V6.0
Adobe PhotoShop V5.5

Internet Software

Internet Information Software
MS Proxy Server
MS Front Page

9. Recently, we have been paying attention to the following problems within the framework of information technologies:

- Data Base Management System
- Data Base Management of Knowledge (either as Digital archive, Digital Library, WEB site) "Useful data anytime, anywhere "
- Improvement a condition working place of statisticians on the part of full ensuring an access of statistical information.

IV. SECURITY OF COMPUTER DATA AT THE NSO

10. We lack sufficient experience in data security. But we are working on the following to ensure safety:

- (i) Collection of statistical data in network systems (INTERNET, INTRANET, LOCAL AREA NETWORK): For this we use a simple passport system, used in standard of control programmes either as WINDOWS-NT or Mail-Server. We have the following types of passports for data security of computers:
 - a. For the network system WINDOWS-NT, Mail Server, SQL Server, SHARED Files;
 - b. For users SYSTEM, SETUP, NETWORK, SHARED Files.
- (ii) Provision without danger to programmes and data from viruses: For this we use anti-virus programmes which have temporary renovation possibilities using LIVE UPDATE mode.
- (iii) Protection from removing files from the database and archive: For this we copy files onto other carriers of data either as BACKUP Stories or CD.

11. The problems we have encountered are:

- Our Local Network of Area uses a Leased Line cable and it is connected with the Local Network of another Ministry but we have no FireWall-protection.
- We have no experience in the use of an encryption programme.
- We do not use a special programme for archiving and thus are not able to reach a systematization of data archiving.