Regional Programme on Economic Statistics
Asia and the Pacific

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Regional Programme for Economic Statistics</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Definition</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mandate</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Value-added</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Goal: Better policies through better economic statistics

Outcome 2020

NSSs in Asia-Pacific have capacity to produce & disseminate the Core Set
## RPES Governance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CST and Bureau</th>
<th>Heads of NSOs in Asia and the Pacific</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SGRPES and CC</strong></td>
<td>Heads of macroeconomics statistics, senior staff working on economic statistics (NSOs), Central Bank and Ministry of Finance representatives and development partners</td>
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<td><strong>ESCAP secretariat</strong></td>
<td>Economic statistics team</td>
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<td>Partnership and NSS stakeholders</td>
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</tbody>
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Core Set: Emphasis on basic economic statistics

- **Prices and costs**
  - Consumer, producer, product price indices, labour cost, wages, exchange rates, PPPs, terms of trade
  - GDP (p/e), external trade, industrial structure statistics; short-term indicators (industry output/demand) and productivity

- **Demand & output**
  - National accounts for the economy and by sector to measure income, savings, investment, wealth, balance of payments to measure international income and capital flows, IIP and external debt

- **Income & wealth**
  - Assets and liabilities of banking sector, monetary measures and interest rates

- **Money & banking**
  - Public revenue, expenditure, borrowing and lending, government accounts

- **Government**
  - Labour supply and demand, characteristics of labour force, employment/unemployment, underemployment, hours worked, employment in informal/formal sector, job creation and vacancies

- **Labour market**
  - Measures of sustainable economic growth, discovery/depletion and degradation of natural assets

- **Natural resources & the environment**
Capacity Screening

- First activity of RPES implementation:
  - to attract and coordinate regional support activities
- Developed by the Steering Group as a rapid assessment tool based on RPES and Core Set
- Provides a baseline for the implementation of the Core Set of Economic Statistics
- 49 out of 58 ESCAP member countries responded (March-May 2013)
- Of the countries that are participating in this workshop Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Turkey responded
Structure of Capacity Screening

- **RPES Technical Cooperation**
  - Existing capacity building agreements and interest in participating in RPES

- **Institutional setting**
  - Legislation, planning, national statistical coordination and dissemination and advocacy for economic statistics

- **Information technology and Human Resources**
  - Adequacy of IT systems and staff skills

- **Statistical infrastructure**
  - Quality assurance, metadata, BR, data collection instruments

- **Availability of Core Set of Economic Statistics**
  - Based on the seven components and the recommended frequency
## Results for participating countries

### Core Set availability and quality gaps (1/2)

#### Prices and Costs

- **Consumer price index (CPI)**
- **Producer price index (PPI)**
- **Commodity price index**
- **External merchandise trade price indices**
- **Wages / Earnings data**
- **Labour costs index**

#### Demand & Output

- **GDP - Production**
- **GDP - Expenditure**
- **External Trade Merchandise**
- **External Trade Services**
- **STI - Industry Output**
- **STI - Services Output**
- **STI - Consumer Demand**
- **STI - Fixed Investment**
- **STI - Inventories**
- **Economy structure statistics**
- **Productivity**

The graph illustrates the number of countries meeting and not meeting recommended frequencies for various economic indicators.
Results for participating countries
Core Set availability and quality gaps (2/2)

**Income & wealth**
- Integrated National Accounts
- Institutional Sector Accounts
- Balance of Payments (BOP)
- International Investment Position (IIP)
- External debt
- Income distribution

**Money, labour, government & natural resources**
- Assets/liabilities of depository corporations
- Broad money and credit aggregates
- Interest rate statistics
- General government operations
- General government debt
- Labour supply and demand
- Hours worked
- Natural resources

Number of countries
- Meeting recommended frequency
- Not meeting recommended frequency
What are the next steps of RPES implementation?

- Consultations among economic statistics providers and stakeholders at the national level (supported by (sub)regional activities)
- Development/enhancement of national economic statistics development plans in line with NSDS/equivalent
- Work on priority areas regarding infrastructure and skills development based on Capacity Screening results (e.g. business registers, labour and natural resources at the regional level):
  - For the Russian speaking countries: RF-funded project supporting the implementation of the Regional Programme with a focus on 2008 SNA
  - Other resources: UN DA on national accounts and SEEA, possible funding from WB and DfID
For more information:

http://www.unescap.org/stat/econ/

Thank you