

TEN YEAR PACIFIC STATISTICS STRATEGY (TYPSS) Phase II
11TH PACIFIC STATISTICS STEERING COMMITTEE (PSSC) MEETING

Tanoa Plaza Hotel, Suva, Fiji Islands
24th – 27th November, 2015

PSSC-11 Agenda Item 5.2

Meeting Paper Title: Report on Session 4: Regional Statistics Initiatives, Forum Economic Ministers Meeting and Forum Economic Officials Meeting, Cook Islands 27 & 29 October 2015

1. Purpose of Paper

To inform PSSC-11 of the following:

- Updates submitted by SPC SDD and PFTAC to the FEMM Meeting, on regional initiatives for strengthening statistics in the Pacific Islands Countries through the implementation of the Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (TYPSS) 2011 – 2020; and
- Recommendations made to the FEMM Meeting

2. Key Progress

2.1. SPC SDD reported on:

- Progress of completed and planned technical assistance in its primary areas of support to NSOs, such as: NSDS, Pacific/Regional and National industrial activity Classifications, HIES, Prices, business register, trade release, tourism satellite account review, and facilitating south-south collaboration to support business register set-up and business statistics compilation. Attachments at SPC Headquarters assisted NSOs complete national industry classification, draft COMtrade database and IMTS Dissemination tables.
- The challenges faced by SPC include NSOs' weak human resource base, limited operating budgets, poor administrative data, lack of responses to data requests, and reluctance of some NSOs to commit to using the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Census.

2.2. PFTAC and IMF Update included:

- Completed technical assistance on alternative measures of GDP, improving national accounts data sources and methodologies, rebasing constant price, producing quarterly estimates of GDP, building capabilities for the compilation of national accounts statistics, assisting the authorities with capacity supplementation. Through Japanese funding, IMF Headquarters provided technical assistance to its member countries for external sector statistics, Government Finance Statistics, and the General Data Dissemination System.

- Similar challenges are reported including under-resourced NSOs, giving rise to the need to maximize the use of administrative data e.g. annual income tax and value added tax data.

3. Key Recommendations

3.1. PSSC-11 to note the Recommendations to FEMM:

- support** greater use of regional and international statistical standards by National Statistical Offices (NSOs) across the region; and
- consider** addressing resources requirements of their NSOs for improved statistical compilation, especially in light of demands placed on NSOs for reporting against the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

4. Annexes

Annex I: Session 4: Regional Statistics Initiative, Forum Economic Ministers Meeting and Forum Economic Officials meeting, Rarotonga, Cook Islands 27 & 29 October 2015