JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT

The Thirteenth Session of
the ASEAN Community Statistical System Committee (ACSS13)
22-24 November 2023, Jakarta, Indonesia

1. The Thirteenth Session of the ASEAN Community Statistical System Committee (ACSS13), hosted by BPS Statistics Indonesia, was held on 22 to 24 November 2023. The Session was chaired by Ms. Amalia Adininggar Widyasanti, Acting Chief Statistician of BPS Statistics Indonesia, with Mrs. Phonesaly Souksavath, Head of Lao Statistics Bureau as the Co-chairperson.

2. The ACSS has always been committed to continue its efforts in providing relevant, timely and comparable ASEAN statistics in support of ASEAN integration monitoring and evidence-based policy and decision making. The ACSS has also been consistently strengthening its cooperation to enhance statistical capacities of ASEAN Member States (AMS) and the ASEAN Secretariat.

3. With the support of the Sub-Committee on Planning and Coordination (SCPC) and the technical working groups, ACSS has been able to improve data provision in various statistical areas including economic and social statistics as well as Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicators. The availability and quality of statistical indicators disseminated via the ASEAN Statistics (ASEANstats) website have been continuously enhanced.

4. Despite achieving significant improvements at the national and regional levels, the ACSS continues to face challenges which require stronger collaborative efforts of AMS. Statistical capacity gap among AMS and resource constraints are among the key challenges for the ACSS. Improving coordination among inter-agencies is also crucial to respond to increasing data needs, including in exploring the use of alternative data sources such as administrative data and Big Data for official statistics.

5. Aligned with the overall theme of Indonesia's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2023 of "*ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth*", and as part of our continuous commitment to further enhance regional statistical cooperation and respond proactively to emerging statistical requirements, we adopted the following theme for 2023 ACSS work programme:

    "Navigating Official Statistics towards ASEAN as Epicentrum of Growth"

Key Deliverables of the ACSS Work Programme 2023

6. To meet increasing data requirements for supporting the monitoring of ASEAN integration, we continued our statistical programmes to provide timely and comparable statistics on international merchandise trade, foreign direct investment, international trade in services, SDGs, National Accounts and other macroeconomic and social indicators.

7. In line with our efforts to provide users with more disaggregated data to enrich their analysis, data on GDP by industry, including ASEAN aggregate figures, have been disseminated on the ASEANstats website. GDP with breakdown by expenditure components is planned to be released next year.

8. We conducted two rounds of workshops on Mirror Analysis of Trade Statistics as part of our efforts in enhancing AMS capacity to reduce data asymmetries for better accuracy and comparability of ASEAN trade statistics.

9. As a follow-up of our recognition of the potential use of Big Data as a new data source in official statistics, Brunei Darussalam, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam and ASEANstats implemented the Pilot Project on Big Data Utilisation for Enhancing ACSS Official Statistics, following five other AMS who had implemented the Pilot Project last year.

10. We noted the progress of the pilot implementation of Application Programming Interface (API) utilisation for ASI-CT data submission to ASEANstats by Singapore DOS. Upon successful implementation of the pilot to automate data submission, the Meeting suggested the exploration of API utilisation by AMS to enhance efficiency and asked ASEANstats to assess the availability and readiness of relevant IT systems and databases in the AMS.

End-Term Review of ACSS Strategic Plan

11. We conducted the end-term review (ETR) of the ACSS Strategic Plan to evaluate its implementation both at national and regional level post-2019, recognised the achievements and relevant outcomes as well as identified and addressed issues and challenges. In addition, it provides the opportunity for the ACSS to be updated and take into consideration new and emerging global and regional developments affecting the statistical ecosystem in the development of the ACSS post-2025 plan.

12. We endorsed the Final Report of the ETR which concluded that while there were successful outcomes and stories, identified through desk studies and national assessments, challenges remain to achieving some of the key outputs and deliverables at the regional and national levels.

13. We welcomed the recommendations provided by the ETR for improving and enhancing activities in ACSS Broad Strategies to support continuous and sustainable development of ASEAN statistics. The recommendations will be taken as one of main references for developing the ACSS post-2025 plan which will be drafted starting next year.

Navigating Official Statistics towards ASEAN as Epicentrum of Growth

14. In responding to increasing demand on statistics to support the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies towards ASEAN as epicentrum of growth, we commended AMS' strategies and responses to the dynamic change of economy and AMS' efforts in enhancing public communication capabilities for better policy:

    i) Brunei Darussalam's commitment to innovation, improving timeliness and data quality by (1) leveraging technology on data visualisation of the Population and Housing Census results; (2) adoption of CAWI in the Household Expenditure Survey 2023/24; (3) providing up-to-date Business Statistics from the results of the Annual Census of Enterprises 2023; (4) supporting data to SDGs tracker to enable effective monitoring of SDGs indicators; (5) embarking on Integrated Statistical Data System (ISDS) of common statistical processes.

    ii) Cambodia's (1) release of Economic Census general report 2022; (2) conduct of Household Socio-Economic Survey 2023; (3) conduct of Provincial Innovation Survey 2023; (4) conduct of Annual Agriculture Survey 2023 using CAPI; (5) preparation in-depth analysis reports on maternal mortality, total fertility and domestic violence using Demographic and Health Survey data 2021/2022; (6) continuous development of National Indicators Reporting Platform (CAMSTAT), including Open SDG and Health Open Data.

    iii) Indonesia's (1) development of Regional Hub on Big Data and Data Science for Asia and the Pacific; (2) using MPD to produce tourism statistics; (3) implementation of Ocean Accounts (Maritime GDP) in blue economy initiative; (4) initiating regulation to access e-commerce platform data; (5) collaboration with agencies, universities, and villages to enhance the NSS; (6) Agriculture Census and registered-based census for MSME and Social-economic Registration.

    iv) Lao PDR's (1) accelerated implementation of Strategies for the Development of National Statistics System (SDNSS) 2016-2025 for enhancing official statistics and public trust; (2) capacity development towards the modernisation of NSS; (3) utilisation of new technology for improving data production, dissemination and data literacy to better support the monitoring of national plans and sustainable development agenda; and (4) formulation of the inclusive SDNSS 2026-2035 led by Lao Statistics Bureau.

    v) Malaysia's (1) OpenDOSM NextGen interactive platform for efficient data analysis and visualisation; (2) Agriculture Census 2024 being given top priority to ensure comprehensive data collection; (3) Enriched knowledge from Household Income and Expenditure Surveys (HIES) 2022; (4) Impressive public engagement during MyStats Day 2023; (5) PADU system development (Central Database Hub) to enable targeted subsidies and policy development through data-driven governance.

vi) Myanmar's (1) Publication of Sustainable Development Goals Progress Report 2022; (2) calculation of Consumer Price Index (CPI) by changing new base year 2017 from 2012 base year; (3) participation of big data pilot project on price statistics in 2023; (4) conducting Users' Perceptions Survey of Data and Statistical Publications produced by the Central Statistical Organization through online; (5) conducting of Enhancing User-Provider Relationship Workshop to foster inclusive and interconnected activities.

vii) The Philippines' (1) engagement with the local government units for the implementation of the Community-Based Monitoring System; (2) conduct of consultation for the Provincial Product Accounts estimates; (3) press launch for the 2022 Census of Agriculture and Fisheries; (4) launching of the enhanced PSA website, data archive, data enclave at the regional offices, and digital library; (5) development of the online SDG reporting platform; and (6) finalization of the Philippine Statistical Development Program 2023 – 2029.

viii) Singapore's key initiatives to position DOS as the first stop for data and data services include (1) expanding data stewardship and governance role; (2) providing data required and conducting the household expenditure survey 2022/23; (3) leveraging technology to enhance the SingStat Mobile App for access to commonly referenced data; (4) expanding social media outreach with the Instagram channel; (5) scaling up data capabilities of government statisticians; and (6) profiling statistical expertise via best practice sharing.

ix) Thailand's (1) provision of statistics on digital competitiveness for IMD World Digital Competitiveness Ranking (WDCR) through the implementation of evidence-based policy communication and interactive visualizations; (2) adoption of the SDMX standard on the TNSO Statistics Sharing Hub fostering data sharing with international bodies; and (3) enhancement of national and provincial Official Statistics production to support the Bio-Circular-Green Economy: BCG model.

x) Viet Nam's (1) measurement of the share of digital economic activities in the economy and further dissemination of SNA data; (2) cooperation and exchange of information with line ministries to enhance data integration from administrative data sources and statistical surveys; improvement of data collection method on new kind of services to increase the data availability on SDG, IIS, IMTS, SITS; (3) implementation of digital transformation to improve the quality of data.

Appreciation for Development Partners and International Organisations

15. We appreciated the contribution of the ASEAN Regional Integration Support by the EU (ARISE) Plus Programme, Eurostat and ARTEMIS, as well as Office for National Statistics UK for providing support for ACSS capacity building in strengthening institutional framework and coordination, improving the availability and comparability of key statistics for ASEAN regional integration monitoring, and narrowing the gaps in statistical capacity among AMS.

16. We thanked the International Organisations, namely United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), Asian Development Bank (ADB), ARTEMIS, Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF), ASEAN-USAID Inclusive Growth in ASEAN through Innovation, Trade, and E-Commerce (IGNITE), and International Labour Organization (ILO). We acknowledged with appreciation their support towards the goal of a more responsive ACSS providing high quality statistics in support of the ASEAN integration.

Handover of the ACSS Chairmanship

17. We expressed our sincere gratitude to the Government of Republic of Indonesia, through BPS Statistics Indonesia, for its excellent chairmanship, good preparation and impeccable arrangements for the Thirteenth Session of the ACSS Committee.

18. We welcomed the ACSS Chairmanship of Lao PDR in 2024.

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ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS) Committee

1. BRUNEI DARUSSALAM: **Mr. Hairol Nizam Bin Hj Abd Hamid**

2. KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA: **Mr. Lay Chhan**

3. REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA: **Ms. Amalia Adininggar Widyasanti**

4. LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC: **Mrs. Phonesaly Souksavath**

5. MALAYSIA: **Ms. Rozita Talha**

6. THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR: **Mr. Than Zaw**

7. REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES: **Dr. Claire Dennis S. Mapa**

8. REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE: **Ms. Priyadharshini Navaratnam**

9. KINGDOM OF THAILAND: **Dr. Piyanuch Wuttisorn**

10. THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM: **Dr. Nguyen Thi Huong**

11. ASEAN SECRETARIAT: **Dr. Ahmad Zafarullah Abdul Jalil**

24 November 2023