

The role of official statisticians in measuring progress in societies

Busan, Oktober 2009
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- Some recent trends in demand and use of official statistics
- Global statistical programs, 2009 – 2015
- The role of the project ‘Measuring progress etc.. ‘ in the Global Statistical System

General trends (1)

- Increasing global demands for Evidence
- Changing emphasis in statistics needed (overview current state of users demand in Stiglitz report and EC communication GDP and Beyond
- Based on Decision Making (climate change, economic crisis, fight against poverty, etc.).
- Economic / financial crisis (budgetary situation in many statistical offices, lacking cooperation budget and available expertise)

General trends (2)

- Specific situations (dilution of expertise, e.g. agricultural statistics)
- Roles of countries and international and regional organisations in providing official statistics: the issue of an enormous flow of data and quality

Global Statistical Programmes

Population Census, round 2010 – 2011

- Specific expertise,
- Enormous operation with heavy field work
- Well established methodology (UN recommendations)
- Well recognised value and base for statistical systems
- Preparations ongoing

Global Statistical Programmes

Agricultural Census, round 2010 – 2011

- Very specific expertise, international support (FAO) needed
- Enormous operation with heavy field work
- Well established methodology (UN recommendations)
- Recognised value and necessary basis for statistical systems
- Preparations ongoing
- Food crisis underlined need

Global Statistical Programmes

Indicators for MDGs

- General program, wide variety of issues
- Complex set of data collections, use of best sources
- Heavy burden on expertise and coordination
- Diverse methodologies, based on Household surveys
- Highly rated and visible project, policy relevant, scepticism on feasibility+ quality issues

Global Statistical Programmes

International Comparison Programme ICP, Round 2011

- Very specific expertise, ad hoc approach
- Relatively complex (global+ regional levels)
- Methodology established in 2005 round
- Serves primary international goals
- Missed opportunity for capacity building in 2005 round
- Preparation starting

Global Statistical Programmes

Implementation of SNA 2008

- Very specific expertise, development of many basic statistics and classifications
- Relatively complex (global+ regional levels)
- Methodology established, compilation tools available
- Strong policy demand (economic crisis, financial crisis, globalisation)
- Support needed from GSS (role of regional org.)
- Preparation starting

Global Statistical Programmes

Enhancement of agricultural statistics

- Dilution of expertise last 10 years, advocacy needed
- Structural approach needed, wide range of statistics
- Introduction of new technologies possible
- Important role for developed countries and IOs
- Policy relevant, basic information, relates to many other fields
- Preparation starting

Global Statistical Programmes

Environmental stats / stats for Climate Change

- Very specific expertise, ad hoc approach
- Relatively complex (global+ regional levels), link to globalisation, food crisis etc.
- Methodology not well established, Accounting methods ask for high level expertise
- New basic statistics needed, relates to many fields
- In starting phase

The role of 'Measuring progress etc..'

- Movement, focuses on wide range of statistics
- Brings advocacy to all levels of society
- Builds mainly on existing statistics –opportunity for GSS
- Strong outreach of value of evidence based decision making

Challenges for the 'Global Project' in the Global Statistical Projects

- How to generate support and commitment for the Global Project in the Official Global Statistical project
- Make improved cooperation IT tools + methodologies easy accessible
- Show how grass root statistics can contribute to official statistics

Challenges Official Statistics from the point of view of the Global Project and the 'new' needs

- How to use the movement triggered by the project
- How to rebalance the statistics to the 'new' needs in a period of very serious budget cuts
- To include the new IT tools + methodologies accessible
- A better outreach to the general public

Thank you