

**8<sup>TH</sup> NBS-OECD WORKSHOP ON NATIONAL ACCOUNTS**  
**6-10 DECEMBER 2004,**  
**PARIS**

**SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM 2: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION WITH CHINA ON  
NATIONAL ACCOUNTS**

The objectives of the discussion under this agenda item were:

- Exchange information about ongoing and future technical assistance to China in the area of national accounts
- Identify NBS's needs to make technical assistance most useful
- Avoid duplication of efforts

(a) The meeting started out with two presentations from Chinese participants. Mr. Du gave a general overview of NBS international cooperation. Mr. Xu addressed issues of national accounts more specifically. Concerning future cooperation, Mr. Xu identified the following priority areas:

- GDP by expenditure approach
- Institutional sector accounts
- Quarterly GDP
- Constant price estimates (PPIs for services, price indices for trade, chained index numbers)
- Historical GDP revisions
- Regional GDP
- Resource and environmental accounts
- Furthermore, there is interest in cyclical indicators and a general need for training as well as participation in international meetings.

A more complete description of these and other areas for development can be found in Mr. Xu's and Mr. Du's presentations, available on the OECD Website<sup>1</sup>.

(b) Ms. Carson (IMF) outlined the background to the coordination initiative and presented an IMF perspective:

- Generally, higher level of cooperation with China is important for the IMF
- The IMF put in place training on quarterly accounts (September 2004)
- The IMF will organize a workshop on the use of macro statistics for decision making
- The discrepancy between national and regional estimates of GDP remains an important issue. The IMF has offered a mission to China to deal with this topic and would welcome the idea of a joint mission with other organizations that can offer experience
- QNAs and the expenditure side of GDP need strengthening

(c) Mr. Hall (US Department of Commerce) welcomed the present meeting and underlined the demand for work on the international comparability of economic statistics. The areas that the United States deems of particular interest in this context are:

- foreign direct investment statistics,
- Balance of payment statistics,
- International trade statistics,
- Industry statistics, and
- National accounts

An upcoming meeting on input/output in June 2005 in Beijing will be another opportunity to discuss Chinese statistics and future events could follow, each focusing on particular areas

Mr. Guo (U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis) mentioned the visits of Chinese national accountants to the BEA which led to improved contacts being established between the agencies. However, further feedback on the results of visits would be useful.

Mr. Mesenbourg (U.S. Bureau of the Census) informed the meeting about a Protocol on the cooperation in statistics with China (signed in April 2004) and about the assistance of the Census Bureau to the 2004 Census in China (see background report). Concerning future cooperation, he indicated:

- Statistical training and research and technical and professional delegations as well as the exchange of information on statistics following the signature of the US-China Protocol
- Further assistance to the economic census
- Organisation of visits to the Census Bureau

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.oecd.org/document/43/0,2340,en\\_2649\\_33715\\_33968043\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/43/0,2340,en_2649_33715_33968043_1_1_1_1,00.html)

(d) Mr. Pascal (Statistics Canada) informed the meeting about the broad-based cooperation that Canada has been undertaking with China for several years. A first phase has been completed with a focus on capital stock, rents and depreciation measures, seasonal adjustment and benchmarking. A second phase is now starting with a focus on

- environmental statistics and accounting
- business surveys and national accounts
- household surveys and poverty statistics.

Proposals for other areas of cooperation concern balance of payment data, use of administrative data on government, data on capital formation by businesses, household expenditure data, price data for deflation, sub-annual data with focus on data quality and the integration of sub-annual and annual estimates. Discussions are under way to formalize agreements for the realization of the above projects.

(e) Mr. Schreyer (OECD) briefly outlined the written communication by the Germany Federal Statistical Office on its projects of cooperation with China. The projects concern, in particular, the issue of regional/national GDP. A study tour has already been undertaken to Germany and the German Statistical Office is prepared to continue work in this area.

(f) Specific reference was made to the Statistical Master Plan whose development is sponsored by the World Bank. It was noted that national accounts can usefully serve as a framework to organize statistical improvements throughout a statistical system. The IMF representative hoped that this would also be the case for the China's Statistical Master Plan and the meeting confirmed that this message should be conveyed to the World Bank.

(g) The meeting concluded that:

- The information provided by China had been very helpful in identifying future projects;
- Some co-ordination may be needed in the area of regional/national GDP (activity launched by Germany, interest by the IMF);
- The OECD-NBS workshop would continue in 2005, and again devote one half day to discussing initiatives in national accounts with China;
- It was also found that the participation of country experts in the more technical discussion was a useful addition and should be continued in 2005.