

Stats News & Views

Facts, Figures and Updates from the Statistics Section of the Caribbean Community Secretariat

December, 2012

Volume 12, Issue 2

Main Events

Thirty-Seventh (37th) Meeting Of The Standing Committee Of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS) - 2012.

The Thirty-Seventh Meeting of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS) was held at the Flamboyant Hotel, Grand Anse, Grenada, from 29-31 October, 2012. This annual meeting concentrated on the progress of the various areas of work in the Statistical Offices in countries. The CARICOM Secretariat statistics section, also reported on the data collection for various areas, as well as the challenges involved in collecting the same and on statistical capacity building efforts. Some of the main issues discussed at this meeting are provided in this issue of the newsletter.

Environment Statistics

A report was presented on the work undertaken in the area of Environment Statistics by the CARICOM Secretariat. This was followed by an update from countries on the work undertaken. The report provided information on the progress made relative to the production of the CARICOM Environment in Figures 2009/2010 forthcoming publication, the compilation of metadata in this area, the challenges facing countries, the support to be received from International Development Partners and the Work Plan for 2013-2014.

It was reported that most countries had responded to queries from the Secretariat based on data submitted for the CARICOM Environment in Figures 2009/2010 publication which will be the third Regional publication in this area of statistics. It was noted that data for indicators under the theme "Waste and Water" were provided by United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD) and indicators under *Tourism and Environmental Health* were supplied by Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO), Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI) and Caribbean Epidemiology Centre (CAREC). Indicators under the themes Land Use and Air continued to be challenging for most countries. A document on the metadata was reviewed by countries at the

(Continued on page 2 column 1)

Main Events

Twenty Second (22nd) Meeting of the Regional Census Coordinating Committee (RCCC) - 2012.

The Twenty-Second Meeting of the Regional Census Coordinating Committee (RCCC) was held at the Flamboyant Hotel, Grand Anse, Grenada on 1 November 2012. The objective of the Meeting was to obtain feedback on the experiences and challenges of countries that had conducted their enumeration of the 2010 Round of Censuses in 2012, as well as to allow for exchange of ideas and best practices. It also provided information on the next steps being undertaken as it related to the cleaning, compilation, dissemination and the analysis of the Census data. Details on the reports received from countries as well as the "next steps" are provided on page three (3) of this newsletter.

Fifth (5th) Regional Research Statistical Seminar, Grenada - 2nd November 2012

The Fifth Regional Statistical Research Seminar which was held in Grenada on November 2nd 2012, provided a forum for the production and presentation of research and analysis on statistical issues. Following the format of the previous seminars, this seminar served as a mechanism to encourage the use of statistics; to promote research into statistical methods and applications; and to provide a forum for statisticians and other stakeholders to present their findings on issues that can aid the development of Statistics and statisticians in the Region.

Some of the topics presented in this workshop were as follows:

- *Leading Change—Practices and Principles* by Mr. Richard James a Registered Architect and Senior Civil Servant.
- *Setting Standards: Managing Data Quality Documentation of Administrative Data's Metadata in Anguilla* by Ms. Lori-Rae Alleyne Franklin, Chief Statistician of the Central Statistical Office of

(Continued on page 2 column 2)

Contents

Main Events— The 37th Meeting of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians; The 22nd meeting of the Regional Census Coordinating Committee; The 5th Research Seminar

Current Events – Work done in the Area of ICT; An In-Dept Report of Work Done on the 2010 Round of Census

Past Events and Outcomes: The ERETES Workshop

Publications - Forthcoming publications

1

3

4

4

Main Events

(Continued from page 2 column 1)

St. Kitts and Nevis workshop held in September 2011. This information was subsequently published on the Regional Statistics website <http://www.caricomstats.org>. Work continues in this area as various countries attempt to publish their data.

Countries of the Region were also included in the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD) working group that was engaged in the Framework for Development of Environmental Statistics (FDES).

Formation of a Professional Association of Statisticians in the Region.

In July 2009 a High Level Forum on statistics was held in Trinidad and Tobago. At this forum, it was recognised that there is the need for an Association of Professional Statisticians in CARICOM to further develop the discipline of statistics. A small committee consisting of Suriname, Bermuda, Barbados, The Bahamas and The CARICOM Secretariat worked on the development of the Draft Constitution and By-Laws of the Association. The name Caribbean Association of Professional Statisticians with the acronym (CAPS) was agreed to at the Thirty-Fifth Meeting of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (35th SCCS) which was held in Belize in October, 2011.

It was also decided that a competition to determine the motto and logo should be conducted for this professional body. As a result, it was recommended that Caribbean Statistics Day 2012 be used as a forum to launch the motto and the logo competition. There will be a national level competition followed by a regional level one, from which the overall winners will be selected.

A Strategic Approach to Implementation of the Updated Regional Statistical Work Programme (RSWP)

Work continued in the area of updating of the Regional Statistical Work Programme (RSWP) with two presentations—one by Jamaica and the other by Bermuda at the Thirty-Seventh Meeting of the SCCS aimed at enabling the implementation of the RSWP in countries. These presentations were also on the Agenda of the Eleventh Meeting of the CARICOM AGS that preceded the SCCS. The presentation by Jamaica dealt with the background and recommendations emanating from the EU and IDB-funded consultancies that supported the updating of the RSWP. It was highlighted in this presentation that the RSWP was focused on the entire National Statistical System (NSS) and that the process of implementation was to be led by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

Main Events

(Continued from page 1 Column 2)

Anguilla.

- *The Evolving Role of Caribbean Statisticians and National Statistics Offices in the Emerging Open Data Ecosystem* presented by Dr. Maurice McNaughton - Director of the Centre of Excellence at the Mona School of Business & Management in Jamaica.
- *Measuring Cohesion in the CSME*, presented jointly by Ms. Andrea Symmonds, cohesion Specialist—CARICOM Development Fund along with Dr. LLOYD Waller and Dr. Kevon Rhiney; and
- *Cayman Islands' Gender Gaps: Selected Indicators* by Ms. Elizabeth Talbert —Deputy Director/Chief Statistician, Economics and Statistics Office of the Cayman Islands.

Each presenter came with years of experience in their respective field. The presentations were very informative and are published on our website.

(Continued from page 2 Column 1)

A Strategic Approach to Implementation of the Updated Regional Statistical Work Programme (RSWP).

The presentation also focused on the design of the strategy for RSWP Implementation which it stated must take into consideration the statistical producing units in the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs). The findings of the Consultants that were highlighted included: the novelty of strategic planning in NSOs and its absence in NSSs; the positioning of the Head of the NSO; and capacity, ICT infrastructure and funding challenges that may impede implementation of the RSWP among other issues. The presentation also had points for considerations and recommendations for implementation.

The second presentation by Bermuda focused on the “Next Steps” relative to implementing the RSWP. It provided a backdrop of the role of statistics in the Community relative to the goals and desired outcomes of CARICOM. The presentation called on statisticians of the region to become familiar with the structure of the RSWP relative to the Domains and Themes, the Goals and Objectives, the Outputs and Activities relative to the indicators to be produced. It also called on countries to acquire an understanding of the long-term goals and challenges of the NSO and of statistical agencies in the NSS; to gain executive buy-in of the RSWP and to be a professional sales person when communicating the RSWP. Both presentations contended that Communication was vital in the process of advancing the RSWP implementation.

Current Events

The CARICOM /MEXICO Workshop on The Design of Sample Surveys, Aguascalientes Mexico, 12–16 November 2012.

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat facilitated the conduct of training workshop on The Design of Sample Surveys from 5-16 November 2012 in Aguascalientes, Mexico. The Workshop was funded by the Government of Mexico, arising out of the Sixth Meeting of the Mexico-CARICOM Joint Commission. And was executed by “INEGI”.

The overall objective of the Workshop was to enable the strengthening of capacity in the area of Sample Design - an area which is critical to the collection of a wide range of statistics through the use of primarily household and establishment surveys.

The expected outputs of the Workshop were

- Improved theoretical knowledge in the developing of samples surveys;
- Practical skills and knowledge in the selection of simple and complex samples and in the calculation of measures of reliability of estimates; and
- General capacity-building in Member States in the area of Sample Design.

The workshop also provided introductory training in RE-DATAM.

Work Done in the Area of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) .

Focus continued in the area of ICT Statistics. It included efforts to compile and disseminate ICT statistics and indicators by the Regional Statistics Programme as well as the development of the Caribbean Specific Information and Communication Technologies Indicators (CSICT).

During 2012, the Regional Statistics Programme continued its compilation of statistics on ICT for its first publication to be disseminated. Data were compiled from nineteen (19) countries for the period 2000-2011 and was sourced mainly from the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) ICT Indicator database, the 2000 and 2010 Round of Censuses, Metadata received from National Statistical Offices and data presented at the ICT workshop in 2011. An initial attempt was made in the publication to measure the economic contribution of ICT with respect to Trade in ICT Goods, Trade in ICT Services to GDP.

In an effort to consolidate the outputs and achievements of the participants in the last workshop held in September 2011 in St. Kitts and Nevis, the Secretariat collected the work plans of the three groups into a combined implementation plan. A template was created to review the

Current Events

proposed list of CSICT Indicators and an ICT discussion forum was launched to facilitate the continued review and refinement of these indicators and the compiling of a core list of priority indicators from amongst the indicators that have been reviewed.

An invitation to join the forum was sent to all participants along with the relevant documentation. To date, twenty-five (25) persons are registered on the forum and every effort is being made to ensure the continued participation. Country profiles on selected ICT data were also prepared and disseminated and formed part of a Statistical Profile that was prepared for Caribbean Statistics Day. An ICT database was also created and selected data have also been disseminated on the Statistics website for the period 2000-2011.

Report on the Issues Related to the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses—2012.

The Twenty-Second RCCC Meeting received status reports from the countries which had conducted census enumeration for the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses on work which they had completed after the Twenty first Meeting of the Regional Census Coordinating Committee (RCCC) in November 2011. These country reports focused primarily on:

- Census data processing activities, assistance needed or received, experiences and best practices;
- Exploring alternative approaches to census taking in the Region to mitigate the challenges under the current method;
- The benefits of Post Enumeration Survey (PES);

The various stages in the completion of census activities as expressed by countries included the following;

- How census enumerators and supervisors were remunerated; and
- Release of preliminary and detailed census results.

The Bahamas, Saint Lucia, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Jamaica and Montserrat released detailed results up to the point of the RCCC. The remaining countries were at various stages of cleaning their Census Data with the exception of Haiti, which is expected to conduct its Census in 2013.

Most countries requested assistance in the compilation and dissemination of their census data. An Advanced Data Editing Training Workshop was convened in November 2011 in Suriname and was beneficial to all participants. The attendance of participants were funded by the EU under the Ninth European Development (9th EDF) and facilitated by Consultants. Technical Assistance from The Department for International Development (DFID) consultancy, continued to be provided to a number of countries during the period November 2011 to July 2012. Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, St. Kitts and

(Continued on page 4 column 1)

Past Events and Outcomes

Nevis and Anguilla required further assistance in data editing. The Bahamas also requested assistance to upload the census data to their website. As a best practice measure, most countries favoured the idea of reducing the census questionnaires in the next Round of Censuses as a means of mitigating the challenges associated with the lengthy questionnaires.

Development partners were committed to closer collaboration with the CARICOM Secretariat and Member States given the limited resources available to support statistics. Information on the Census would be made available on the CARICOM Census e-portal. Users would be able to create their own queries using the ad hoc report feature.

ERETES Workshop, 12–16 November 2012, Kingston, Jamaica.

In October 2010, at the Thirty Fifth Meeting of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (35th SCCS), a representative of the Statistical Office of the European Union, EUROSTAT, made a presentation on a number of tools which were produced by EUROSTAT to support the compilation of various statistical data. Among these was the ERETES tool developed and used for the compilation of national accounts statistics. The SCCS at that time noted the Secretariat's commitment to further explore the availability of these tools for use in the Member States and Associate Members.

In light of the foregoing, a workshop was held from 12–16 November 2012 in Kingston, Jamaica on the ERETES tool. This workshop was organised by the CARICOM Secretariat in collaboration with EUROSTAT with funding support from the Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre (CARTAC). It was facilitated by a consultant from EUROSTAT. The target group comprised of statisticians throughout the Region, engaged in compiling National Accounts as well as information technology (IT) personnel in Member Countries. The objective was to provide a demonstration of the ERETES system and to allow countries to determine whether it would be useful for improving their processes for compiling national accounts of a high quality in a timely manner.

The workshop was facilitated by a Consultant who provided a general overview of the ERETES application. The presentation addressed questions such as what was ERETES, what data were required, what were the outputs, where was it installed, and what was the cost of installation. Following the introductory session, the rest of the workshop comprised mainly of instructions by the consultant who guided the participants through the functionality and various processes and modules of the application.

(Continued on page 4 column 2)

Past Events and Outcomes

(Continued from page 4 column 1)

Participants were also trained to use the ERETES software in a number of ways, including:

- Working with ERETES in an accounting year;
- How to include / load source data;
- Creating local databases;
Using work tables and repatriating local data back to the central database; and
- Generating the Supply and Use table and other tables.

The workshop achieved its objectives.



Publications and Forthcoming Publications

- ***The Balance of Payments of CARICOM Member States: 2006–2011***
- ***CARICOM's Foreign Direct Investment : - 2006–2011***
- ***External Debt of CARICOM Member States:: 2002–2011***
- ***CARICOM'S Trade In Services: 2006–2011***
- ***CARICOM's Selected Economic Indicators: 2002, 2006–2010***
- ***National Accounts Digest: 2006–2011***
- ***CARICOM Environment in Figures: 2009***
- ***ICT Statistics and Indicators in CARICOM Member States: 2000–2011.***

Published By: Statistics Sub-programme
Caribbean Community Secretariat
P.O. BOX 10827,
Georgetown,
Guyana
Email: stats1@caricom.org