

## **The network of Government Statistical Service in Hong Kong**

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In Hong Kong, the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) together with statistical units established in various government departments and bureaux form the Government Statistical Service (GSS), representing a network for the provision of government statistical services. The principles governing the management of statistical staff in the latter statistical units by C&SD embrace both the need to provide support and guidance to the staff concerned and that to monitor and maintain standard in the work performed by them. Through this network, co-ordination on areas of statistical work across different departments can be achieved.

The Commissioner for Census and Statistics, as the government's principal adviser on all statistical matters and the head of GSS, is responsible for drawing up a balanced statistical programme that best suits the interest of various sectors of the community while fulfilling international requirements. In the process, views and advices are sought through established consultation mechanisms. A Statistics Advisory Board, consisting of established professionals in different fields, has been set up to advise the Commissioner for Census and Statistics on all statistical matters pertaining to GSS. Besides, various user groups are in place and extensive communication network is maintained with other government bureaux and departments so as to tap the views of both public and private sectors for development and implementation of statistical plans.

This paper outlines the network of GSS in Hong Kong, and introduces the various advisory and consultation channels of C&SD.

**Key words:** government statistical service, co-ordination of statistical work, advisory board, consultation mechanism