

CCSA Session on International Statistics
Supplying International Statistics for Decision Making
Abstract of ADB paper

Reviving statistical yearbooks to meet changing needs of users

Artur Andrysiak*
Statistician
Economics and Research Department
Asian Development Bank
Manila, Philippines
E-mail: aandrysiak@adb.org

Abstract

This paper presents findings of an in-depth analysis of selected national and international statistical yearbooks, other publications as well as related on-line databases. The presented analysis was conducted as part of Asian Development Bank's (ADB) work on reviving the content and structure of its flagship annual statistical publication: Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific.

The paper presents analysis of indicators currently covered by these publications as well as identifies good practices and new trends related to presentation of statistical data and metadata. Among some of the finding, three broad sets of indicators covered in these various publications are identified: the more traditional/common indicators; country/organization specific sets of indicators; and relatively new indicators or indicators related to new and/or emerging areas of statistics.

The paper also looks at the current practices of international organizations related to classification and presentation of countries' statistics and aggregation and imputation methods related to compilation of geographical (such as those for world, region, subregion, etc) and by some economic or other dimensions (income, development, etc) aggregates. One of the key findings is the fact that the practices related to both classification of countries and production of aggregates vary across the different organizations. Interestingly, in some presented instances the aggregation methods used for identical indicators (such as choice of denominator for same indicators which required weighting) vary across the different international organizations.

The finding presented in this paper might be relevant to statisticians involved in the production of national or international yearbooks or other related publications.

Key words: indicators, classification of countries, aggregation methods, imputation.