



***INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON STATISTICS
SYSTEMS FOR SMALL ECONOMIES***

5-7 September, 2007, ECCB ST. KITTS

Major Objectives of the CSME

- full employment
- improved standards of living
- economic development convergence
- enhanced international competitiveness
- increased production and productivity
- trade and economic expansion
- increased economic leverage and effectiveness in the international arena
- Coordination of foreign economic policies and relations with third states or group of states
- enhancement of functional co-operation

ECONOMIC STATISTICS

I. The National Accounts Statistics

- a) Serious constraints for several countries
 - Requires considerable data from productive sectors on a continuous basis;
 - Challenges due to available capacities;
 - Challenges due to respondent fatigue and reluctance;
- b) Need to harmonize with SNA 1993;
- c) Need to produce Quarterly estimates of GDP and other aggregate meas

II. The Balance of Payments (BOP) Statistics

- Produced by the Central Banks;
 - Visible Trade adequately accounted for;
 - Invisible Trade or Trade in Services very lacking;

ECONOMIC STATISTICS (cont'd)

III. Monetary Statistics

- Excellent coverage by all countries;
- Produced by the Central Banks of the sub-region;

IV. Government Finance Statistics (GFS)

- Produced by Ministry of Finance;
- Very Good and Timely coverage especially for countries with automated system of accounts;

ECONOMIC STATISTICS (cont'd)

V. External Trade Statistics

- Key inputs into other areas of statistics;
- All countries produce comprehensive trade in goods statistics but timeliness still a problem for a few;
- Secondary statistics not readily available;
- Need for more 'User Friendliness' and ease of access;
- Trade in Services statistics lacking;

VI. Agriculture Statistics

- Resurgence of importance of Agriculture both as "food basket" and source of Ethanol;
- This will increase demands for more statistics on Agriculture on a more timely basis;
- Hence, the conduct of Agriculture censuses and surveys will again be in demand;

ECONOMIC STATISTICS (cont'd)

VII. Labour Force Statistics

- Demands for these will increase under the CSME;
- Many countries have been implementing continuous Labour force surveys, but there are a few who again lag behind in this respect;
- 'Labour Costs' and Labour Market Information are new areas that will be in demand;

VIII. Other Related Statistics

- Statistics on Debt;
- ICT statistics;

OTHER STATISTICS

IX. Social and Demographic Statistics

- CARICOM's core set of INDICATORS;
- Includes Population, the Economy, Poverty, Crime, Education, Health, the Labour Force, Decision Making etc.
- Includes most MDG indicators;
- Member States requested to update a five year series 1999-2003 at the beginning and then update on a regular basis;

Continued

- National coordinating committees established because of the wide range of agencies involved in the production of social statistics;
- High interest at outset declined to 'lukewarm' interest – 4 countries have active committees;
- Results: most countries have produced and reported a good number of these indicators but there remains several gaps;
- Several issues remain with respect to QUALITY;

OTHER STATISTICS Cont'd

X. Environmental Statistics

- Response here has been even more lacking;
- Only 3 countries have responded positively to the indicators here;
- Urgent need for capacity enhancement in this area;

OTHER STATISTICS Cont'd

XI. Other Social and Demographic Statistics

- Statistics on Crime;
- Gender Statistics – Domestic Violence and Time Use Statistics;

CONCLUSION

- Political Commitment;
- Incentives to recruit and retain dedicated professionals;
- Collaboration – regional and international agencies



Thank You!