



Use of Global Assessments in Asia and the Pacific

Rikke Munk Hansen
United Nations ESCAP

Global Assessments for the development of
national statistical systems
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 1-3 October 2014



The basics

- The Asia-Pacific region
 - 2/3 of the World's population
 - Diversity on all fronts (culture, geography, standards of living, ..)
 - Diversity of national statistical systems (mandate, level of development, structure, capacity, financing, vision, ...)
- Fundamental principles are universal
- Global Assessment fully aligned with the principles
- Global Assessment flexible on implementation of principles
 - No standard recommendations
 - Adaptable to country context
- Global Assessment applied with success in Central Asia (and Mongolia)



National statistical systems in Asia and the Pacific

- Capacity screening exercise conducted in 2013
- Framework: Regional Programme on Economic Statistics
- Focus on economic statistics, yet covering a range of institutional and organizational elements
- Focus on availability rather than quality
- 49 out of 58 ESCAP member countries responded
- Analysis done at sub-regional and regional level
- National summary sheets available for each responding country



Capacity Screening – elements covered

Technical Cooperation

Involvement and interest in involvement in technical cooperation

Institutional setting

Legislation, planning, national statistical coordination and dissemination and advocacy for economic statistics

Information technology and Human Resources

Adequacy of IT systems and staff skills

Statistical infrastructure

Quality assurance, metadata, BR, data collection instruments

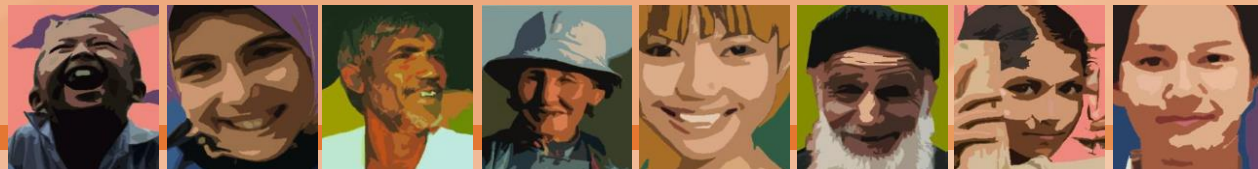
Availability of Core Set of Economic Statistics

Based on the seven components and the recommended frequency



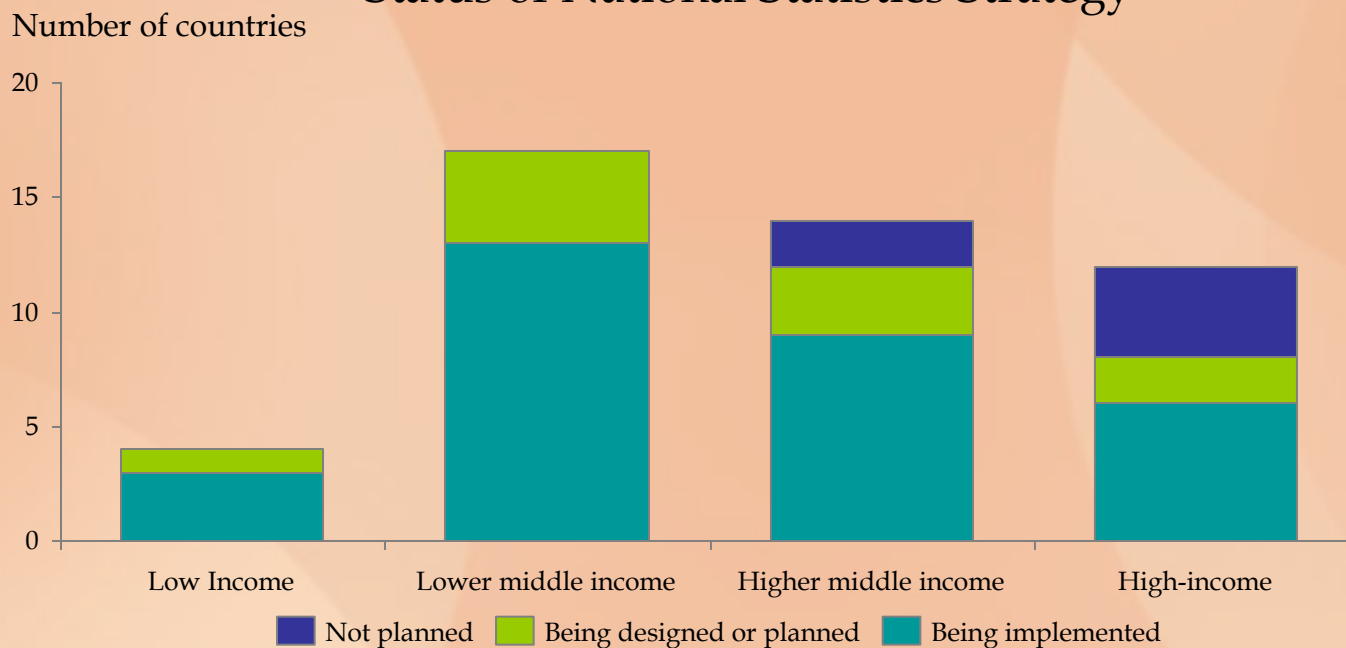
Legislation

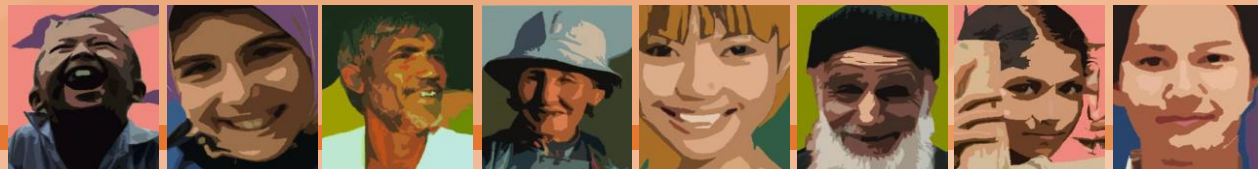
- ❑ All but one country have a statistical law indicating distribution of responsibilities for producing official statistics (FPOS 8)
- ❑ 47 countries have a law protecting confidentiality (FPOS 6)
- ❑ 42 countries have a law protecting independence of official statistics from political pressures (FPOS 1, 2, 3)
- ❑ In 42 countries statistical law requires transparency (FPOS 7)
- ❑ *24 countries have plans to modify their statistical law*



Strategic planning

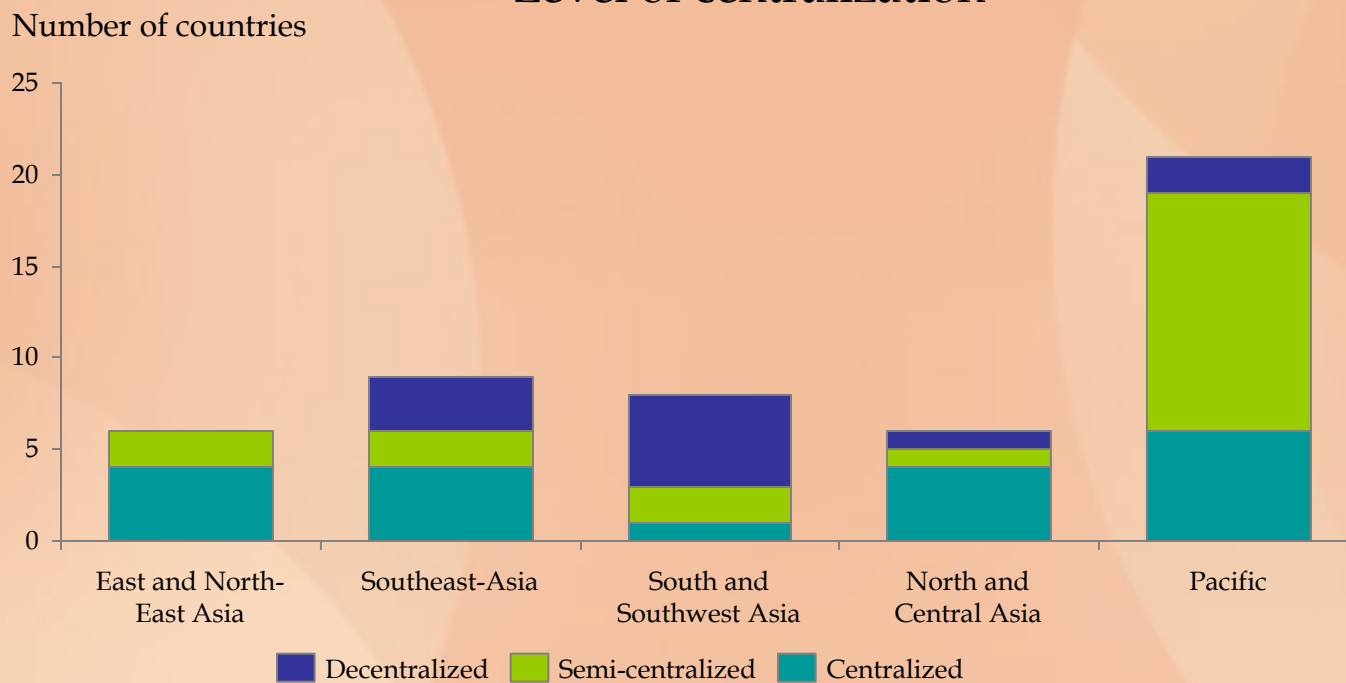
Status of National Statistics Strategy





National statistical coordination

Level of centralization





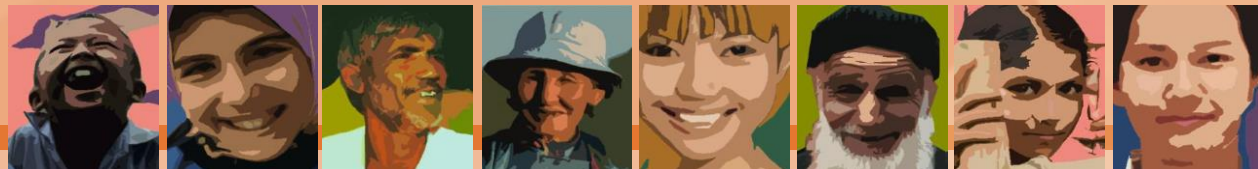
Dissemination

In 41 countries

- Publication policies available to staff and users
- Contacts for each subject area publicized
- Catalogue of products/services and fees public
- Information on assistance for interpreting data public

Users

- 36 countries have ongoing capacity building for users
- In 34 countries regular opportunities for communication with users



Human resources

- 33 countries say human resources are inadequate
- 36 have conducted a recent skills assessment
- 32 have manuals/guidelines available to staff on their statistical processes
- 33 have internal processes (data editing, metadata documentation) documented for reference



Infrastructure

Quality assurance framework

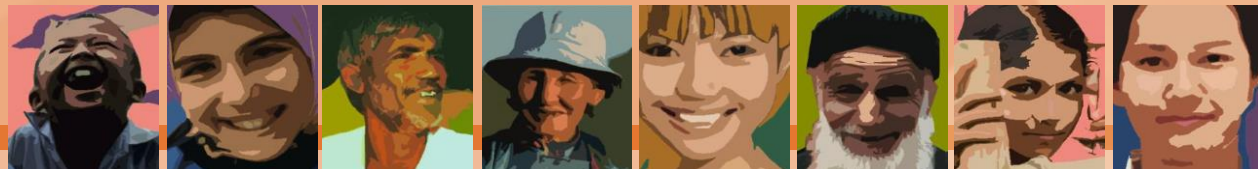
- 26 countries use a QAF in line with international guidelines

Metadata repository

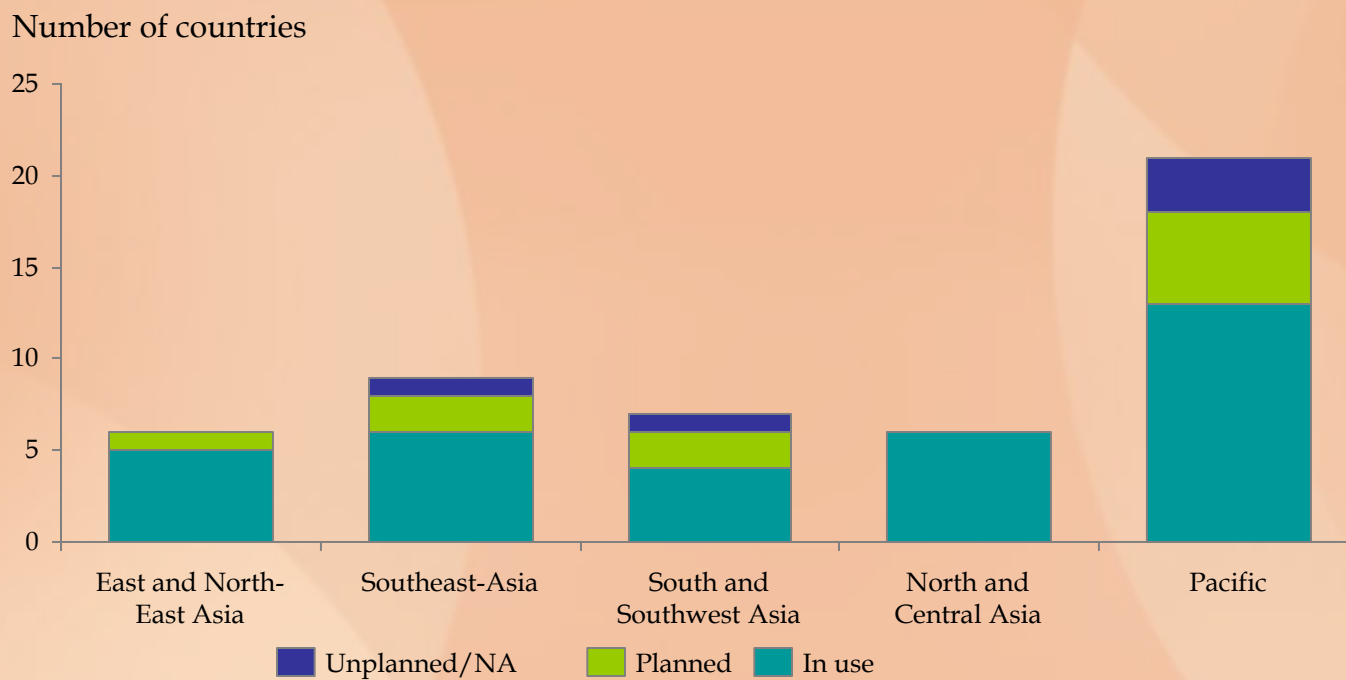
- 38 countries release data with metadata
- 27 have no centralized national metadata repository
- 24 do not implement a metadata format standard
- 26 do not have a metadata quality standard

Information technology

- 39 assess their IT systems as adequate



Business registers





International technical cooperation

[FPOS 10]

- 42 countries involved in international TC
- 45 countries want to provide or receive TA
 - ✓ 29 countries as provider of assistance
 - ✓ 40 countries as receiver of assistance
 - ✓ 24 countries as receiver/provider of assistance



To generalize ...

- Institutional basics in place in most countries
- Greatest perceived gaps relate to staff skills
- For statistical infrastructure, the issue is quality rather than availability



Global Assessments

...

*Reflections on strengths, opportunities and criteria
for success*



Global Assessments: Strengths

- Clarity of purpose
- Addressing institutional weaknesses
 - Sustained outcome
 - Responding to repeated calls by NSSs in Asia-Pacific
- Close involvement by the NSS being assessed
 - Ownership
- Consulted recommendations
 - Discussion on draft recommendations prior to finalization
- Solid basis for long-term planning
 - Forces focus on strategically important issues
- Legitimacy
 - A powerful reference for communicating funding needs



Global Assessments: Opportunities

- System-wide assessment
 - Opportunity to advocate, increase visibility and understanding (role, constraints, capacity) of NSS
 - Opportunity to strengthen the role of the NSO as the coordinator of the NSS
 - Identification of inconsistencies in operations, overlaps in collection of data, etc. Can identify new data sources
- External stakeholders
 - Opportunity to engage and inform parliamentarians, media, international organizations, ...
- Good timing: The emerging post-2015 development agenda
 - Statistical capacity development (Means of implementation)
 - Monitoring and accountability: Peer reviews
 - Data revolution



Global Assessment: Success criteria

- Has to be institutional
 - Requires full engagement from senior management team
- Has to be system-wide
 - Requires NSO authority to call on other institutions in the NSS (producers) and on external stakeholders (users)
 - May generate requirement for “permission” from higher authority
 - High degree of decentralization (challenge but makes potential benefit larger)
- Dialogue at the centre of the exercise
 - Language: Resource implications; risk of not involving the right people; international department
 - Honesty and transparency: Requires confidence! And staff preparedness