ASEAN-US
Technical Assistance & Training Facility

Statistics in International Trade in Services Workshop
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (September 4-6, 2006)

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SUBMITTED BY
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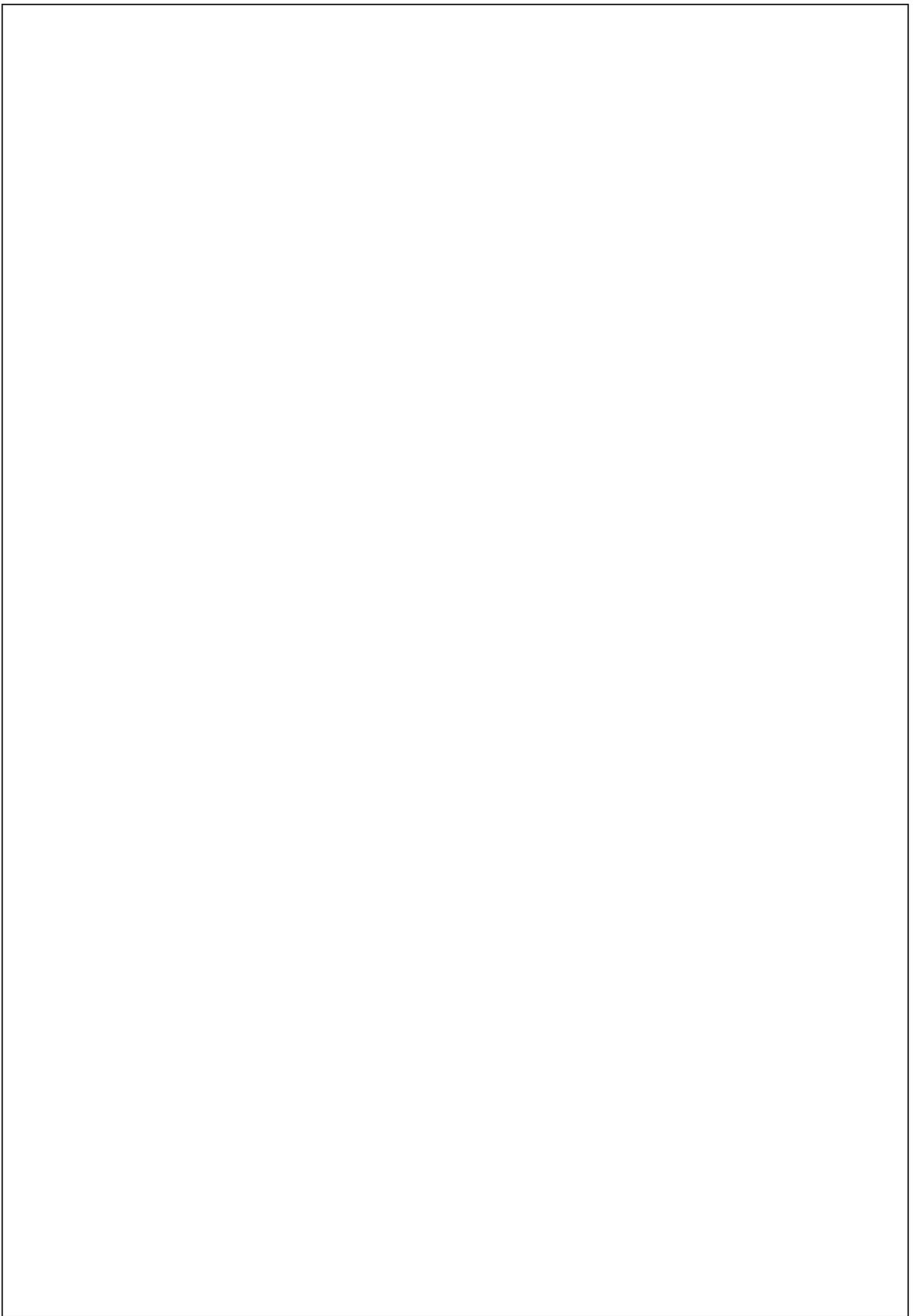
On September 4-6, the Facility, with the assistance of the Malaysian Statistical Agency in Kuala Lumpur, sponsored a workshop on statistics in international trade in services (SITS). The training proceeded a workshop sponsored by AusAid aimed at developing national work plans to improve the collection of services trade statistics. The training served as a foundation for the workshop providing an in-depth discussion of the collection and measurement of trade in services statistics.

Approximately 35 experts from ASEAN Member Countries and the Secretariat attended the sessions. Patricia Abaroa from the US Bureau of Economic Analysis and Michael Dipplesman of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) made the presentations. The first day covered the importance of services statistics, examined global trends in services trade with a focus on ASEAN Member Countries, and introduced the basic framework of services statistics and data collection systems. Main concepts for services statistics were introduced, including the IMF Balance of Payments Manual, the Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services, and the GATS modes of supply. The presenters facilitated an animated discussion about remittances and compensation of employees. The first day ended with a presentation on the concepts and principles underlying transportation statistics and compilation issues.

Other sessions covered concepts and principles underlying statistics and compilation issues for travel, communication, construction, insurance, financial, and computer & information services, royalties & license fees, other business services, personal, cultural, and recreation services, and government services. The speakers also addressed the use of surveys to collect services data, including survey design issues, problems with the International Trade in Services Reporting System and issues regarding reconciliation of data between two trading partners. Participants asked questions about medical services and education, about data on number of travelers, and the ITA In-Flight Survey. With respect to the survey, they were interested in the length and frequency, and how the survey is conducted.

Participants were most engaged in discussions regarding possible changes to the IMF BOP manual and the design and use of surveys. Services trade is growing and the ability of statisticians to measure this growth needs to be developed. The BOP manual recognizes how trade has changed through the provision of services by creating new line items for transactions. Surveys are often the best way for trying to gather data on trade in services which means relying on the good faith of firms to supply the data. Participants were very interested in survey data collection, asking questions about the entire process from setting exemption levels to compliance to estimation. Securing responses to the questionnaires is difficult and labor intensive in the US, according to Abaroa. Thus, participants took away a realistic impression of the difficulty in using surveys and an appreciation of how these data necessarily have to be based on estimates.

At the workshop following the training ASEAN Member Countries agreed to develop a work plan over the next three years to improve international trade in services statistics. Viet Nam volunteered to chair this effort. The leader of the Viet Nam delegation asked the Facility for additional assistance, particularly on survey methods.

Participants ranked all presentations a 5 out of a possible 6. The most popular segments of the training were on travel and transportation statistics and survey techniques to collect data. Participants would like to have more discussion on foreign affiliate trade statistics, an area that was new for some. For follow up activities, participants would like more training on statistics measurement and more exchanges of experiences among countries. The Facility's Fifth Semiannual Work Plan includes projects to address several of these suggestions.

Agenda

ASEAN-US Technical Assistance & Training Facility

Statistics of International Trade in Services Training

September 4-6, 2006
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Corus Hotel

DAY 1

| | 9:00 – 9:30 | **Welcome and Administrative Arrangements** |

| Session 1 | 9:30 – 10:30 | **Overview of trade in services statistics** |

— This session will highlight the importance of services statistics, look at global trends in services trade with a focus on ASEAN countries, and introduce the basic framework of services statistics and data collection systems.

| | 10:30 – 10:45 | Coffee Break |

| Session 2 | 10:45 – 12:15 | **International Standards** |

— This session will cover the main concepts for services statistics of the IMF Balance of Payments Manual, the Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services, and the GATS modes of supply.

| | 12:15 – 1:45 | Lunch |

| Session 3 | 1:45 – 3:45 | **Transportation Services** |

— This session will cover the concepts and principles underlying transportation statistics and compilation issues.

| Session 4 | 4:00 – 5:00 | **Discussion and practical approaches** |

— In this session, ASEAN members will discuss their current compilation methods and issues they are facing concerning the topics covered during the first 3 sessions of the day.

DAY 2

| Session 1 | 9:00 – 10:30 | **Travel services** |

— This session will cover both the concepts and principles underlying travel statistics and compilation issues.

| | 10:30 – 10:45 | Coffee Break |

| Session 2 | 10:45 – 12:15 | **Other Services I** |

— This session will cover concepts, principles, and compilation issues for communication, construction, insurance, financial, and computer & information services, royalties & license fees, other business services, personal, cultural, and recreation services, and government service

| | 12:15 – 1:45 | Lunch |

| Session 3 | 1:45 – 3:45 | **Other Services II** |

— Continuation of the previous session.

| Session 4 | 4:00 – 5:00 | **Discussion and practical approaches** |
| | | — In this session, ASEAN members will discuss their current compilation methods and issues they are facing concerning the topics covered during the first 3 sessions of the day. |

DAY 3

Session 1	9:00 – 9:45	**International Transactions Reporting System**
		— This session will cover the benefits and problems with the ITRS.
Session 2	9:45 – 11:15	**Survey-based data collection**
		— This session will cover the use of surveys to collect services data, including issues to consider when designing a survey and examples of surveys currently in use.
	11:15 – 11:30	Coffee Break
Session 3	11:30 – 12:45	**Other Topics**
		— This session will cover other topics related to services statistics, including FATS data and bilateral reconciliations.
Session 4	12:45 – 1:00	**Closing Session**

Contents

ASEAN-US Technical Assistance & Training Facility

Statistics of International Trade in Services Training

September 4-6, 2006
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Corus Hotel

- [BE-29](#)—Foreign Ocean Carriers' Expenses in the United States (To be Reported by Foreign Carriers' U.S. Agents)
- [BE-30](#)—Ocean Freight Revenues and Foreign Expenses of United States Carriers
- [BE-37](#)—U.S. Airline Operators' Foreign Revenues and Expenses
- [BE-45](#)—Quarterly Survey of Insurance Transactions by U.S. Insurance Companies with Foreign Persons
- [BE-25](#)—Quarterly Survey of Transactions between U.S. and Unaffiliated Foreign Persons in Selected Services and in Intangible Assets
- [BE-85](#)—Quarterly Survey of Financial Services Transactions Between U.S. Financial Services Providers and Unaffiliated Foreign Persons

Evaluation

ASEAN-US Technical Assistance & Training Facility

Statistics of International Trade in Services Training

September 4-6, 2006

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Corus Hotel

Your answers to this questionnaire will help us to improve our training programs. Thank you for taking the time to fill it out.

Personal data

Country of Representation	Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam

Presentations:

On a scale of 1 to 6, please rate each session on its quality of information. A 6 indicates that, in your opinion, the presentation was highly informative, while a 1 indicates that, in your opinion, the presentation was not informative.

Presentation and Presenter	Average
Overview of trade in services statistics *Patricia Abaroa & Robert Dippelsman*	5
International Standards *Robert Dippelsman*	5
Transportation Services *Patricia Abaroa*	5
Travel Services *Patricia Abaroa*	5
Other Services *Robert Dippelsman*	5
International Transactions Reporting System *Robert Dippelsman*	5
Survey-Based Data Collection *Patricia Abaroa*	5
Other Topics *Patricia Abaroa & Robert Dippelsman*	5

Subject Matter

Would you like to see more, the same, or less time devoted to the following services topics:

Topic	More	Same	Less
Overview of trade in services statistics	9	**13**	2
International Standards	**13**	11	1
Transportation Services	**15**	10	0
Travel services	**16**	9	0
Other Services	**18**	6	1
International Transactions Reporting System	**15**	9	1
Survey-based data collection	**16**	9	0
Other Topics	11	**14**	0

General Questions/Comments

1. What part of this course did you like the most?
   - Other services (4 participants)
   - Travel services (4 participants)
   - Overview of trade in services satistics (2 participants)
   - Transport and travel and ITRS
   - The resource persons are a combination of someone comes from theoritical background (IMF persons) and practical background (from BEA)
   - Transportation Services & ITRS
   - All the parts are very important for myself and institution even though the central bank compiles the BOP and ITS. We from Stat Office also support some particular data.
   - Presenter from US BEA shared her country experience in compilling and collecting data on ITS.
   - Survey based-data collection (3 participants)
   - Everything was very informative
   - The lectures, different topics covered and other contries experiences from discussion.
   - International standards
   - Transportation services and BEA's surveys
   - Transportation services
   - Very informative survey based data collection and overview of trade in services & ITRS
   - I would say that most parts of the course were well presented. It gives me more understanding of concepts, definition and methodology used in compiling the statistics

2. What part of this course did you like the least?
   - None (6 participants)
   - International Transactions Reporting System (3 participants)
   - Survey based Data Collection (2 participants)
   - International Standard.
   - Some participants keep silence during the course. Sharing knowledge and experiences is important in a course like this.
   - Other business services
   - Nothing to say.

– N/A

–

3. **What other topics would you like to see included?**
   – The strategy of collecting data & the analysis of BOP
   – More discussion on BOPs, last topic
   – More detail on GATS and FATS and BOPs
   – Statistics on FATS
   – More deeply in FATS, because this is a new issue for us.
   – Survey-based data collection from ASEAN Countries
   – Specific case/issue pertaining to ASEAN
   – Presentation of other country's experiences in compiling services statistics
   – Case study on problems encountered and the solution
   – "Travel Services" classification broken down by types of travelers - means of transports
   – Trade in services statistics, broken down by sectors or by residence or non-residence
   – Estimation methods for services data
   – How to adjust data when we share source, such as from ITRS to survey-based data collection
   – TSA but I think we have a short time to cover
   – Questionnaire design; processing data include estimating method for correspondent and under survey coverage; services classifications applied in ITS Statistics and dissemination.
   – More details in financial services
   – The topics covered are sufficient to provide me better understanding in trade in services statistics

4. **Did this course use a good mix of lecture and interactive discussion?**
   – Yes (20 participants)
   – Yes. The lecture and interactive discussion were very informative, stimulating and excellent
   – Yes it did, but maybe I need more in discussion
   – Very good
   – Good enough
   – These should be more examples + more participant or lecturer interactive discussion

5. **What sorts of follow-up activities for this course would you find useful?**
   – I would like to see that this type of course with a follow-up in order for us to improve our statistics, particularly in trade in services which we think it would become more useful.
   – Follow up training and workshop
   – More advance course, further sharing of experiences in data collection and compilation
   – Communication among the ASEAN Member to share experience to each others
   – More regional/international forum to discuss ITS issues, so, finally everybody especially the high level will be agree that ITS is important. Please pass to the Host (DOS M)
   – Some regional forum for partner country data exchange (mirror data). It is useful as a tool in improving the data accuracy
   – Experience tell us that having a link with colleagues from other countries who do the same job is important
   – The host should be better prepared to facilitate the communication between participants from different countries i.e. setting arrangement in informational dinner is important to mix-up all the participants
   – Two way communication between participants
   – Experience from the other countries (2 participants)
   – The strategy of gathering partner country's data
   – Technical assistance in how to compile particular services data, which is quite hard

- The data collection survey (questionnaire building)
- The linking of existing manual to be new and lates manual
- FDI in Services Sectors (2 participants)
- How to allocation data into 4 modes of supply
- Real useful. Please more time for exercise and more time of training in ITS Statistic course
- The new knowledge of ITS because NSO in Thailand not correct data to ITS
- Methodology training and how to apply in practice to collect ITS information
- All the concept of the statistics in the service
- Practical/otimal problems and proposed solutions Re. ITRS & Survey Operations/
- Training again when BPMI activates
- With the training, I was able to understand more SITS
- Better hotel is very welcome. I am really annoyed with the dusty and smelly room and a very low standard of service from the hotel's staff
- Comments on the accommodation and class room; it's not so convenience
- Email contact of presenters

Thank you for filling out this questionnaire. Additional comments on any aspect of this course are welcome.