

**Technical Cooperation for the  
EU-ASEAN Capacity Building Project for  
Monitoring Integration Progress and  
Statistics**



**EU-ASEAN COMPASS**

**Half-yearly Report No. 4**

**January-June 2016**

**Disclaimer:**

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## COMPASS Fact Sheet

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>EU-ASEAN Capacity Building Project for Monitoring Integration Progress and Statistics</b>	
Project reference	EuropeAid/134071/C/SER/Multi	
Service Contract	2014/343-947	
Service Contractor	Expertise France	
Start date of implementation	8 June 2014	
End date of implementation	7 June 2018	
Project duration	48 months	
Contract value	€ 5,870,760.00	
Project Location	Jakarta - Indonesia	
Executing Agency	ASEAN Secretariat	
The Overall Objective	The overall objective is to support ASEAN integration through the availability and utilization of more timely, comparable and relevant information to facilitate monitoring and decision-making, notably by ASEAN Member States governments acting individually and at ASEAN level.	
Project Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The first purpose is to support the development of the ASEAN Community Statistical System, in line with the ASEAN Community Statistical System Committee Action Plan 2011-2015 and its succeeding Action Plan</li> <li>• The second purpose is to build the capacity of the ASEAN Integration Monitoring Office, responsible for the monitoring, through the development of an ASEAN institutional framework for integration monitoring and enhanced capacity to collect, analyse statistical data and report on the regional integration policy implementation process and its impacts.</li> </ul>	
Expected results	<p>A ACSS Committee work plan implemented</p> <p>A1. Strengthened and more sustainable ASEAN Community Statistical System institutional framework and a roadmap for future areas of cooperation in statistics and advocacy, leading to a better recognition of statistics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. In each ASEAN Member State, national strategies for the development of statistics, legislation, coordination and working arrangements between administrations, including in data provision and harmonisation, data confidentiality rules and budgeting practices are in place to support the ACSS Committee's objectives for statistics;</li> <li>b. The harmonization objectives for ASEAN regional statistics in the key areas are regularly monitored by ASEANstats and implemented by the ASEAN Member States;</li> <li>c. A regional dissemination and confidentiality policy for ASEAN statistics is agreed and in place; ASEAN Member States have appropriate statistics dissemination and advocacy strategies and tools in place;</li> </ol>	

- d. There is an increased use, understanding and appreciation of statistics in ASEAN Member States' and ASEAN bodies' reports and policy discussion papers; decision-makers invest in statistics;
- e. A coherent regional statistics training strategy is developed;
- f. Countries have an improved ability to disseminate MDG indicators that are potentially comparable within the ASEAN region, notably gender disaggregated indicators;
- g. A path is mapped by ACSS Committee for future areas of ASEAN cooperation in statistics (such as migration statistics, environment statistics, disaster statistics) and for further development of the national accounts forum;
- h. The ACSS Committee is able to dialogue effectively with users to set statistical priorities and build statistical indicators;

A2. Improved statistics in terms of availability, quality and comparability, in key areas related to ASEAN regional integration:

- a. Improved capacity of the national statistics systems of ASEAN Member States to compile timely and comparable statistics in key areas related to regional integration, respecting confidentiality agreements based on the UN Official Principles:
  - For international merchandise trade statistics, the goal will be to disseminate quarterly comparable statistics within the agreed timeliness;
  - For statistics on international trade in services, the goal is to disseminate comparable statistics for selected Balance of Payment categories with breakdown by major partner countries, covering inward Foreign affiliates statistics (FATS) and selected Extended Balance of Payments Services (EBOPS) categories; and
  - For foreign direct investment statistics, the goal is to disseminate comparable annual FDI statistics covering flows and stocks, and other international investment statistics.
- b. Improved capacity to compile, harmonize, consolidate and disseminate timely statistics at ASEANstats;
- c. ASEANstats is equipped with information technology and trained in its use;
- d. Improved information exchange on statistics among ACSS;
- e. ASEAN statistics in the key areas are shared with the EU, subject to ASEAN guidelines on data dissemination.

A3. Narrowed gaps between ASEAN Member States in their capacities to compile statistics through additional specific technical cooperation, access to statistical higher education for Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Vietnam staff, and support to the ASEAN-helps-ASEAN scheme:

- a. The capacity to compile statistics in the key areas related to regional integration within Cambodia, Lao, Myanmar and Vietnam (CLMV) is improved to narrow the gap with other ASEAN countries;
- b. CLMV countries are better equipped with and able to use the information technology needed to improve their ability to collect, compile, transmit, analyze and disseminate statistics as part of the ASEAN Community Statistical System;

	<p>c. CLMV national statistical systems have improved their capacity as a consequence of increased access to higher formal education in statistics for staff members already working in the key statistical areas.</p> <p>Specific attention will be paid to Myanmar’s needs in the statistical cooperation component of the EU capacity building programme, which is currently being prepared.</p> <p>B Strengthened capacity of the ASEAN Integration Monitoring Directorate to monitor the process and results of regional integration on behalf of the ASEAN Member States</p> <p>B1. ASEAN institutional framework for integration monitoring developed;</p> <p>B2. Enhanced capacity to collect and analyze available statistical data and report on the regional integration policy implementation process and its impact;</p> <p>B3. ASEAN Integration Monitoring Directorate is equipped with information technology.</p>		
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## List of Acronyms

<b>AADPC</b>	ASEAN Australia Development Cooperation Programme
<b>AANZFTA</b>	ASEAN-Australian-New Zealand Free Trade Area
<b>ACPMS</b>	ASEAN Community Progress Monitoring System
<b>ACSS</b>	ASEAN Community Statistical System
<b>ADB</b>	Asian Development Bank
<b>AEC</b>	ASEAN Economic Community
<b>AIMO</b>	ASEAN Integration Monitoring Office
<b>AIMD</b>	ASEAN Integration Monitoring Directorate
<b>AIR</b>	ASEAN Integration Report
<b>AMS</b>	ASEAN Member State
<b>ARISE</b>	ASEAN Regional Integration Support from the EU
<b>ASEANstats</b>	ASEAN Secretariat Statistical Division
<b>ASEC</b>	ASEAN Secretariat
<b>AUSAID</b>	Australian Agency for International Development
<b>AWP</b>	Annual Work Plan
<b>BOP</b>	Balance of Payments
<b>BPM</b>	Balance of Payments Manual
<b>BPS</b>	Badan Pusat Statistik – Statistics Indonesia
<b>CHED</b>	Commission on High Education
<b>CLMV</b>	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam
<b>COP</b>	Code of Practice
<b>EASCAB</b>	EU-ASEAN Statistical Capacity Building Programme
<b>EBOPS</b>	Extended Balance of Payments Services
<b>EC</b>	European Commission
<b>ECD</b>	European Commission Delegation
<b>ECWP</b>	Economic Cooperation Workshop Program (ECWP)
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FATS</b>	Foreign Affiliates Trade in Services
<b>FDIS</b>	Foreign Direct Investment Statistics
<b>FISIM</b>	Financial Intermediation Services Indirectly Measured
<b>GSO</b>	General Statistics Office Of Vietnam
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organisation
<b>IM</b>	Integration Monitoring
<b>IMF</b>	International Monetary Fund
<b>IMT</b>	International Merchandise Trade
<b>IMTS</b>	International Merchandise Trade Statistics
<b>IRD</b>	Institut de Recherche pour le Développement
<b>ISI</b>	Indian Statistical Institute
<b>ITE</b>	IT Expert
<b>ITRS</b>	International Transaction Reporting System
<b>ITS</b>	International Trade in Services
<b>JICA</b>	Japan International Cooperation Agency
<b>KE</b>	Key Expert(s)
<b>KOICA</b>	Korea International Cooperation Agency
<b>MDGs</b>	Millennium Development Goals
<b>MICS</b>	Multiple Index Cluster Survey
<b>MStat</b>	Master of Statistics
<b>MS</b>	Master of Science
<b>MSITS</b>	Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services
<b>NA</b>	National Accounts
<b>NIS</b>	National Institute of Statistics
<b>NKE</b>	Non-Key Expert(s)
<b>NSS</b>	National Statistical System
<b>NSO</b>	National Statistical Office
<b>OWP</b>	Overall Work Plan
<b>PIS</b>	Priority Integration Sectors
<b>PM</b>	Project Management



<b>PSC</b>	Project Steering Committee
<b>READI</b>	Régional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument
<b>SIAP</b>	Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
<b>SIDA</b>	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
<b>SITS</b>	Statistics of International Trade in Services
<b>STATCAP</b>	World Bank trust fund for statistical capacity building
<b>TA</b>	Technical Assistance
<b>TAPs</b>	Technical Assistance Provisions
<b>TCT</b>	Technical Cooperation Team
<b>TDSP</b>	Trade Development Support Programme
<b>TL</b>	Team Leader
<b>ToR</b>	Terms of reference
<b>UNCTAD</b>	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
<b>UNESCAP</b>	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
<b>UNIDO</b>	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
<b>UNSD</b>	United Nations Statistics Division
<b>USAID</b>	United States Agency for International Development
<b>WGDSA</b>	Working Group on Data Sharing, Analysis and Dissemination
<b>WTO</b>	World Trade Organisation
<b>SCPC</b>	Sub-Committee on Planning and Coordination
<b>WGIMTS</b>	Working Group on International Merchandise Trade Statistics
<b>WGIIS</b>	Working Group on International Investment Statistics
<b>WGSITS</b>	Working Group on Statistics of International Trade in Services

## Executive Summary

This document constitutes the fourth Half Yearly Progress Report for the project "EU-ASEAN Capacity Building Project for Monitoring Integration Progress and Statistics ". The report describes the progress made during the fourth half-year (January – June 2016) of the Project, i.e. the first half of 2016 and the main issues identified by the Technical Assistance (TA) Team as well as the activities planned up to the end of 2016.

During this reporting a significant number of activities were carried out by the COMPASS Project in the ASEAN Member States (AMS), with a specific focus on Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam (CLMV) in line to support the initiative to narrow the development gap. Technical Assistance missions along with national workshops and training courses were facilitated in the CLMV countries on the statistical fields identified by the project, such as IMTS, FDIS and SITS. The project also continued supporting eight CLMV scholars to access higher formal education in statistics at the University of Philippines.

At the regional level, the ASEAN Secretariat received several missions in the fields of Institutional Building (IB), International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS), Statistics of International Trade in Service (SITS), Information Technology and Dissemination (ITD) and Foreign Direct Investment Statistics (FDIS). The project also organised regional workshops, including other fields requesting further development within the framework of the ASEAN cooperation in statistics, such as System of National Accounts (SNA) and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)/Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

All the activities performed were defined in the 2nd Annual Work Plan (AWP2) of the COMPASS project.

Under Institutional Building, the COMPASS IB Expert assisted the ASEANstats in facilitating a workshop on the Broad Framework for the Sustainable Development of ASEAN Statistics (BFDAS), in the preparation of a concept paper on the ACSS contribution to the 50th year Celebration of the ASEAN and to review the existing monitoring system for the ACSS annual work plan and the regional statistical development.

Particular attention was also given on echoing the outcomes of meetings of the ACSS bodies meetings with the implementation of a Cascading Pilot in Philippines and Myanmar by COMPASS Institutional Building (IB) experts, together with ASEANstats Senior Officers.

A study visit to Central Bureau Statistics of Netherlands and Statistics Norway was organised and facilitated by the COMPASS team for 10 experts from ASEAN member states statistical offices and a senior officer from the ASEAN Secretariat.

In the statistical fields of IMTS, SITS and FDIS, technical assistance missions were provided to ASEANstats on data compilation, harmonisation and the transmission tool. Regional and sub-regional (CLMV) training sessions and workshops on concepts and definitions; completeness and coverage; quality assurance and confidentiality; analysis and dissemination were conducted.

More specifically, the project facilitated one sub-regional workshop and one regional workshop on Foreign Direct Investment Statistics (FDIS) in Jakarta during the reporting period. The sub-regional workshop objectives are to provide guidance on conducting FDIS surveys on the basis of the experience gained by Cambodia and Vietnam during 2015 and to prepare national work plans for each CLMV country on FDIS to be supported by the EU-ASEAN COMPASS project in 2016.

In addition, technical assistance missions in IMTS, SITS and FDIS to Cambodia, Vietnam and Myanmar were conducted by COMPASS experts. The COMPASS project organised national training courses and workshops on IMTS, SITS and FDIS in Cambodia, Myanmar and Vietnam.

In the field of Information Technology and Dissemination (ITD), support was provided to ASEANstats in revising and correcting the Data Transmission Tool (DTT), updating of SITS and FDIS templates. Technical assistance

missions to Myanmar and ASEANstats in the use of data processing tools such as the Eurotrace and COMEXT standalone were carried out. Training and support to ASEANstats were provided in the loading, updating and dissemination of the IMTS ASEAN database.

Moreover, the COMPASS Team provided support to the EU Delegation in Jakarta to launch and publish the regional tender. Support was provided to the EU delegation in revising and updating the tender dossier on the procurement of IT equipment. A revised list of equipment in accordance with the requests submitted by the beneficiaries was prepared by the ITD expert and submitted to the EU Delegation. The IT procurement list has been topped up by the EU Delegation and sent to the contractor CTCL in order that the equipment could be delivered to the beneficiaries during the third quarter 2016.

Under the facility “access to higher formal education in statistics for CLMV statisticians”, the project was pleased to announce that all eight scholars from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam successfully completed the first year of their Master in Statistics course at the UP Diliman and will begin their second year on 1st August 2016. Nevertheless, the project has still some concerns about students struggling with the English language and theoretical courses on statistics. In this regard, the Team Leader visited the CLMV scholars and UP Dilliman staff members in Manila in order to assess their progress and discuss any difficulties faced. It will be important to monitor the results on a regular basis.

Under the ASEAN-help-ASEAN initiative, Malaysia and Philippines’ experts provided training to the CLMV countries during the sub-regional workshop on FDIS in May.

In the light of the above, the project would like to thank all its ASEAN partners for their good cooperation and support in the development of ASEAN Community Statistical System. During the reporting period, the COMPASS project implemented many activities in coordination with ASEC and AMS, and this in spite of the difficulties linked to the replacement of the Team Leader. Nevertheless, an important part of the planned activities keep being postponed or cancelled, especially in IMTS, FDIS and SITS where the project implementation is impacted by the unavailability of human resources in the beneficiary institutions and because of existing support from other donors on SITS and FDIS. Due to several implementation issues, the implementation rate remains below what was planned under the AWP2.

Thus, though good achievements have been made since the project was first launched in 2014, it is important that all project stakeholders continue their efforts to facilitate effective and timely implementation of the project.

## 1. Introduction

This document constitutes the fourth progress report for the project "Technical Assistance for the EU-ASEAN Capacity Building project for monitoring integration progress and statistics" (hereafter "the Project"). It concludes the past six months of implementation of the second Annual Work Plan (AWP2) of the Project from January to June 2016. It takes into account the discussions and recommendations of the regular meetings between the Technical Assistance Team and the Project stakeholders.

### 1.1. Objectives of the Progress Report

This document reports on the progress made in the past six months of the Project, i.e. from 1 January 2016 until 30 June 2016, and according to the fields defined in the Inception Report:

- Four statistical fields: International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS), Statistics of International Trade in Services (SITS), Foreign Direct Investment Statistics (FDIS), Other Fields of Statistics (OF), and
- Four other fields comprising Integration Monitoring (IM), Information Technology and Dissemination (ITD), Institutional Building (IB) and Programme Management (PM).

The progress is presented according to the fields and activities defined in AWP2.

The number of days reported in the tables provided are the inputs of the experts per field as specified in AWP2. The number of days is related to the first six months of 2016.

The period covered by this report marks the middle of the EU-ASEAN COMPASS project when the project should reach a steady speed of implementation. The first six months of the AWP2 focused on the implementation of technical assistance activities in the CLMV countries as activities often need more time to be organised in these countries mostly due to lack of human resources and cohabitation of many cooperation programmes within the sub-region. The project also provided continuous support to the other ASEAN Member States (AMS) in the harmonisation of statistics and implemented activities at the regional level to enhance ASEAN statistics cooperation in key areas (see list of TA missions and COMPASS events from January to June 2016 in Annex 1 for more detailed information).

In the second half of 2016, the Project will mainly focus on supporting the AMS' national work plans in AMSs requiring such support while strengthening the capacities of the ASEAN Secretariat to process the data provided by the AMS and to compile and disseminate ASEAN figures. The Project will also continue to help the ACSS Committee and the ASEAN Secretariat to build a relevant institutional environment for regional statistics, and provide continuous technical assistance to CLMV countries in narrowing the gaps with more advanced AMS.

### 1.2. Structure of the report

As a result of the activities implemented during the last six months of AWP2, this report contains the following main information:

- Description of the activities by project fields implemented during the first half of AWP2;
- Activities to be implemented during the next six months;
- An update on implementation of the COMPASS Communication & Visibility Plan;
- An update on the use of project's resources (staff working days and incidental budget)

## 2. Implementation progress of programme activities

This section presents the progresses in the implementation of the activities proposed in the second annual work plan (AWP 2) by field, during the period from January to June 2016.

### 2.1 Progress of IB

The work programme in Institutional Building (IB) was approved by the COMPASS Project Steering Committee taking into consideration the proposal made by the Lead IB Expert, which was further refined based on the AMS' needs at the national level for technical assistance and regional cooperation. In the field of IB, COMPASS has supported the ASEANstats and the AMS at regional level in facilitating the development of the work programmes of the ACSS. In the next semester, COMPASS will continue to support the ASEANstats and the AMS under the IB field.

Under IB, the COMPASS IB Experts assisted Philippines and Myanmar in organizing echoing and cascading forums of ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS) decision forums/outcomes in Manila on 22 February 2016 and Nay Pyi Taw on 13 May 2016, respectively. The lead IB expert provided support to ASEANstats in the preparation of a concept paper on the ACSS contribution to the 50th year Celebration of the ASEAN, to review the existing monitoring system for the ACSS annual work plan and the regional statistical development. This support shall continue during the second half of 2016.

COMPASS supported the organisation of a workshop on the Broad Framework for the Sustainable Development of ASEAN Statistics (BFDAS) and was held on the 29 January 2016. The objectives of this workshop were to revise the existing Broad Framework for the Sustainable Development of ASEAN Statistics; update the ASEAN Statistical Indicators Framework and to brainstorm on the Statistical Framework for the ASEAN Post 2015 Vision (ASEAN Community Vision 2025). At the workshop, it was agreed that the EU-ASEAN COMPASS Project will provide support towards the finalization of the Statistical Framework during 2016. The implementation of the new Statistical Framework by the ASEAN Member States and ASEANstats will start in 2017.

A study visit to Central Bureau Statistics of Netherlands and Statistics Norway was organised and facilitated by the COMPASS team for 10 experts from ASEAN member states statistical offices and a senior officer from the ASEAN Secretariat during 23 – 27 May 2016. The study visit was designed in order to provide an avenue for the ASEAN delegates to learn the European National Statistical Offices best practices in institutional arrangement, dissemination and communication of statistics at national and regional level.

**Table 1. Summary of actions planned and carried out in 1st semester 2016**

Activity code	Title	Activity implemented	Country	Dates
<b>IB01</b>	Support to the improvement of the ACSS process	Launching of the Echoing and Cascading Forum in Manila on 22 February 2016	Philippines	15-22 Jan. 2016
		Organizing the Echoing and Cascading forum in Nay Pyi Taw during 9-13 May 2016	Myanmar	28 April – 30 April 2016 9 – 13 May 2016
		Aligning Myanmar's NSDS with the ACSS RSDS 2016-2025	Indonesia	16-20 May 2016
		Preparing a Concept Paper for the 50 <sup>th</sup> Year Celebration of the ASEAN	Indonesia	16-20 May 2016
<b>IB02</b>	Support to regional strategic planning	Assisting ASEANstats in regional strategic planning and in finalizing the ACSS AWP 2016 and ACSS Strategic Plan 2016-2025	Indonesia	Continuous
		Organising the Workshop on the Broad Framework for the Sustainable Development of ASEAN Statistics in Bali on 28-29 January 2016	Indonesia	January 2016
		Preparing a Roadmap for the Monitoring of the AWP and ACSS Strategic Plan 2016-2025	Indonesia	Continuous
<b>IB07</b>	Study Visit to Eurostat and EU Member State	Facilitating Study visit to Netherlands and Norway		23-27 May 2016

### 2.1.1 Activities implemented

The activities implemented during the reporting period are the following:

#### **IB 01: Support to the improvement of the ACSS process**

a. Objectives:

The objectives of the activity were to:

- Assist in the updating of the Broad Framework for the Sustainable Development of ASEAN Statistics; review the ASEAN Statistical Indicators Consolidated Template; and support ASEANstats in the preparatory work for

the development of the statistical framework for the AC Vision 2025 (the third component will only be a brainstorming session)

- Organise a 1-day workshops and testing the Guidelines on "how to echo/ cascade the outcomes of meetings of the ACSS bodies meetings" in two AMS (Philippines and Myanmar)
- Assist ASEANstats in the preparation of statistical activities/publications to celebrate the 50th Year of ASEAN.

b. Achieved results and main conclusions.

During the first semester of 2016, the IB Lead Expert assisted the ASEANstats in finalising several documents on ACSS IB concerns for the SCPC meeting in January, which were provided by Ms. Alarilla and Ms. Emalia. He provided inputs, recommendations and suggested revisions to the power point presentations drafted by ASEANstats which were emailed to the ASEANstats/COMPASS on various dates during his Mission. In this regard, the COMPASS IB expert achieved the following:

- Organised, facilitated and participated in the Philippines and Myanmar Cascading Forums;
- Prepared a Concept Paper on the ACSS contribution to the 50<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration of the ASEAN
- Updated Sections A-H of the ACSS Strategic Plan 2016-2020 to Sections A-H of the ACSS Strategic Plan 2016-2025;
- Reviewed the existing Monitoring System for the ACSS AWP and prepared a Roadmap towards the systematic/improved monitoring of the AWP2016 and ACSS Strategic Plan 2016-2025;
- Assisted Myanmar in the alignment of its NSDS with the ACSS Strategic Plan 2016-2025; and
- Other activities involved supporting the CLMV scholars in their Master's Program in Statistics at the University of the Philippines School of Statistics in Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines, and discussions with COMPASS on Project Planning and Reporting matters.

On the progress of the Cascading Pilot in the Philippines, the COMPASS IB Expert met with the PSA Cascading Team. He noted that the Team composition was limited to the PSA. While he recognized the practical considerations in limiting the membership to the PSA, he recommended that since the scope of the cascading process extended to the entire National Statistical System (NSS) of the Philippines, the Cascading Team should include members outside of the PSA.

He also noted that due to many pressing matters in the PSA, there has been slow progress in the Cascading Pilot. He stressed the importance of catching up on the cascading processes especially since the Philippines has agreed to be the twinning partner to Myanmar on cascading. The Team promised to fast track the processes.

On the preparation for the Philippine participation in the Myanmar Cascading Forum – During the meeting with Assistant National Statisticians Candido J. Astrologo and Director Benjamin Navarro, the IB Expert made suggestions on the draft power point presentation of Dir. Navarro. He recommended that the focus be on what could be shared by the Philippines in terms of the processes that have been put in place or the lessons learned

The pilot of Cascading the Outcomes of Meetings of the ACSSC and other ASEAN Bodies in Myanmar was launched on 13 May 2016 at the Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw. The pilot in Myanmar is undertaken with the support of the Philippines under the ASEAN-Help-ASEAN (AHA) programme. Presentations were made by the CSO Director General, Dr. Wah Wah Maung and other CSO officials (DDG and Director Than Zaw), COMPASS Team Leader Romesh Paul, ASEANstats Senior Officer Elizabeth Alarilla, Director Benjamin Navarro from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), and the IB Expert on the Cascading Guidelines, followed by a lively discussion.

The ASEAN is celebrating its 50th Year on 08 August 2017. To plan for the celebration, an Overall Committee in the ASEC and a Subcommittee in the AEC have been set up.

To enhance the visibility, credibility, and relevance of the ACSS to the ASEAN Community (AC) and its stakeholders, it is deemed important for the ACSS to participate actively in the celebration. Toward this end, the IB Expert prepared a Concept Paper on the proposed contribution of the ACSS to the 50th Year of the ASEAN.

## **IB 02: Support to regional strategic planning**

### a. Objectives:

The objectives of the activity were to:

- Support ASEANstats in finalizing the ACSS AWP2016 and ACSS Strategic Plan 2016-2025 taking into consideration the SCPC inputs and drafting a Monitoring System for the ACSS AWP2016 and its succeeding Annual Work Plans, including the monitoring of alignment/ coherence/ consistency between the ACSS Strategic Plan 2016-2025 and the NSDS of the AMS.
- Formulate a regional training assessment/agenda
- Assist the CSO Myanmar in the alignment/ coherence/ consistency between the ACSS Strategic Plan 2016-2025 and the NSDS.

### b. Achieved results and main conclusions:

The ACSS5 in Malaysia approved the ACSS Strategic Plan 2016-2025 Matrix of Detailed Strategies, and the AWP 2016 and the Indicative AWP 2017 with the note that changes in the AWP 2016 and AWP 2017 could still be made by the SCPC. The AWP 2016 as presented to the ACSS5 was subsequently revised by SCPC10 but the Indicative AWP 2017 has not been revised since its presentation to the ACSS5.

Sections A-H of the ACSS Strategic Plan 2016-2020 need to be updated and the monitoring system needs to be reviewed. Accordingly, the IB Expert updated Sections A-H and proposed a Roadmap for the Monitoring of the AWP and the ACSS Strategic Plan 2016-2025

The IB Expert and the COMPASS Team Leader had discussions with the CSO DG and the CSO consultant on the alignment of the NSDS of Myanmar with the ACSS Strategic Plan 2016-2025 during the Nay Pyi Taw leg of the mission. It was agreed that the IB Expert would provide some home-based assistance to the CSO Consultant. Accordingly, the IB Expert prepared a Concept Note on how this might proceed.

IB Expert coordinated with the University of the Philippines School of Statistics (UPSS) on the progress of the CLMV scholars and with the Philippine Statistics Authority on the Pilot of the Cascading/Echoing activity as well as on the preparation for the Philippines' participation in the Myanmar Cascading Forum under the AHA scheme.

Two training courses have been planned to be held at Malaysian Institute of Statistics during October 2016. One course will be on seasonal adjustments and the other will be on survey methodology.

## **IB 07: Study Visit to Eurostat and EU Member State**

### a. Objectives:

During the first semester, COMPASS organised a study visit to European Statistical Offices including Statistics Netherlands and Statistics Norway on institutional arrangements, dissemination and communication of statistics at national and regional level for Head of the AMS Statistical Offices, Directors and senior officers from the ASEAN Secretariat.

The main objectives of the study visit were:



- To allow the participants to better understand the structures, the means and the tools implemented in EU Member States to produce and disseminate harmonized data.
- To learn about the experience of CBS Netherlands in the implementation of the international concepts and recommendations
- To gain insight from experiences and good practices for the development of ACSS implementation plan on the Policies and Guidelines on Data sharing, Confidentiality and Dissemination of ASEAN statistics and the ACSS Communication Strategy

b. Achieved results and main conclusions:

The study visit has been highly appreciated by AMS and ASEANstats' participants especially on the interesting and informative presentations and the active discussions with the staff of Netherlands and Norway Statistics.

The organisation and statistical processes implemented in both National Statistical Offices could inspire AMS Statistical Offices and ASEANstats to improve their own practices in these areas.

Some characteristics are common to Statistics Netherlands and Statistics Norway, in particular:

- The statistical systems are centralized in both countries, where most of official statistics are produced and disseminated by the National Statistical Office. In other EU countries, the statistical system is sometimes less centralized.
- In both systems, procedures are in place to maximize Cost x Efficiency.
- There is a high level of cooperation and data exchange between national institutions. Access to registers or data managed by other institutions (e.g. fiscal data) is possible.
- Relations with users are considered as strategic.
- Data transmission with international organization is based on strictly defined data transmission protocols.
- All components of CoP are taken into consideration.
- The most modern tools for data processing and data dissemination are implemented.
- Both institutions maintain a strategic watch and are constantly evolving in order to implement the most modern tools.

A second study visit to Eurostat is planned in November 2016.

### **2.1.2 IB Deliverables:**

- Indicative Roadmap for the Development of Statistical Framework for the Monitoring of the AC Vision 2025, and Agenda and note on the conduct of the workshop on the Broad Framework for the Sustainable Development of ASEAN Statistics
- Mission report on Technical Assistance on IB, Nay Pyi Taw and Jakarta 10 to 21 May 2016
  - a. Concept Paper on the ASEAN 50th Year Celebration
  - b. ACSS Strategic Plan 2016-2025 Matrix of Detailed Strategies

- c. ACSS Strategic Plan 2016-2025 Monitoring Roadmap
  - d. Concept Note on the Technical Assistance to be provided by the IB Expert to Myanmar
  - e. Final Agenda\_ Myanmar Cascading Forum
  - f. Power Point Presentation-IB Expert-Myanmar Cascading Forum
- Mission report on Technical Assistance on IB, on the study visit to Netherlands and Norway 23 to 27 May 2016

### **2.1.3 Challenges:**

This part presents the different challenges faced in the implementation of the Institutional Building field by activity:

- On the strategic plan
  - The continuing manpower resource constraints faced by the ASEANstats restrict the activities that it can undertake/facilitate/coordinate to develop/implement the ACSS Strategic Plan 2016-2025; particularly, responding to emerging data needs at the regional and global levels.
  - The Broad Framework for the Sustainable Development of ASEAN Statistics needs to be continually updated to remain relevant and support the statistical requirements of the emerging ASEAN regional concerns including the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the ASEAN statistical report on SDGs
  - The formation of the ASEAN Community has raised many statistical requirements, particularly those pertaining to the ASEAN Community Vision 2025.
- On narrowing the development gap/ the AHA initiative
  - The need for the CLMV Master's students to support the development of the ACSS by contributing to the improvement of the national statistical institutions. There should be an assurance given that the students will return to their national institution after completion of their master's course and build the capacity of the ACSS by helping build the capacity of their respective NSS.
  - The deferment of the launching of the Cascading/Echoing pilot in the Philippines originally scheduled for November 27, 2015 has delayed the start of the Cascading/Echoing pilot in the twinning partner Myanmar.

### **2.1.4 Considerations for implementation of the work programme:**

- The NSDS of the AMS needs to incorporate the priority requirements of ACSS Strategic Plan 2016-2025. National workshops may be needed for this purpose.
- The varying levels of responses to the questions incorporated in the ASEAN CoP monitoring tool among the ASEAN Member States' NSOs required further support and training for Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar to complete the answers. The trainees of the workshop on Snapshot Tool can conduct national workshops to collect the necessary information from the National Statistical System (NSS). In some of the AMSs, it is

difficult to organise national workshops with the appropriate person in attendance. Support from COMPASS could be provided on this specific issue a part of AWP 2017, with a specific focus on CLMV countries.

- Additional technical assistance should be provided to the ASEAN Secretariat on the implementation of the ASEAN CoP monitoring tool sections B and C during the second semester 2016.
- High Level Statistical advocacy continues to remain important; ACSS presentation to the CoW is undertaken regularly; workshops within ASEC should be conducted; relevant statistical activities can be planned during the celebration of the 50th year of ASEAN in 2017
- The ASEAN Statistical Indicators Consolidated Template is periodically revised to incorporate the emerging ASEAN regional priorities as reflected in the AEC, ASCC, and APSC Blueprints 2025, and specific focus on the data requirements for monitoring ASEAN integration.
- The Regional Training Assessment/Agenda should be developed with special attention to the needs of CLMV.

### 2.1.5 Activities Planned for the 2nd Semester 2016

Planned activities for the 2nd Semester 2016 have been defined in the Annual Work Programme 2 of COMPASS for 2016. The activities foreseen for this field are the following:

- WS-R(IB): Regional Workshop on the implementation plan of the policies and guidelines on Data Sharing, Confidentiality, and dissemination of ASEAN Statistics -Jakarta- [23-08 / 23-08] (IB3)
- ACCS-WG (IB/DSA): 10th Working group on Data Sharing and Analysis (WGDSA) Meeting -Jakarta- [22-08 / 22-08] (IB3)
- ACSS-SPC2: Sub-Committee on Planning and Coordination (SCPC) -Jakarta- [24-08 / 26-08]
- ACSS-Committee Sixth Session of ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS) Committee -Vientiane- [01-11 / 03-11]
- SV (IB): ASEAN member states Study Visit to Eurostat -Luxembourg- [14-11 / 18-11]
- IB Mission to support the ACSS objectives -Jakarta- [ 25-07 / 05-08]
- IB Mission to support the ACSS objectives -Jakarta- [08-08 /02-09]
- IB Mission to ASEANstats and LSB to support the ACSS objectives in view of the 6<sup>th</sup> session of the ACSS Committee meeting, Jakarta and Lao PDR [03-15/10/2016]
- IB Mission to support the ACSS objectives -Jakarta- [October and December 2016]
- "IB Mission of local IB expert to support the implementation of the NSDS in Myanmar -Nay Pyi Taw- [ 04-07 / 15-07]"
- Support to the Implementation of the ASEAN-help-ASEAN Initiative including CLM Study Visit to Vietnamese Customs, Visit of CLMV officials to DOSM Malaysia and visit of Vietnamese Expert to Lao PDR [dates to be confirmed]

## 2.2 Progress of IMTS

This section presents the progresses in the implementation of the work plan proposed in the Inception report by field IMTS, from January to June 2016.

During the first half of 2016, COMPASS has supported ASEANstats and the AMS by providing technical assistance to ASEANstats and Lao PDR, and facilitating a third CLMV workshop in Lao PDR. Another technical assistance mission was initially planned in Cambodia but had to be postponed to July 2016 due to the unavailability of Cambodian Customs.

Under component A1, the COMPASS IMTS Key expert provided technical assistance to ASEANstats on data compilation, harmonisation and quality assurance of trade in goods data submitted by the ASEAN Member States.

The COMPASS project also facilitated a sub-regional workshop on IMTS in Vientiane during 19-20 April 2016 for experts from the Customs Departments and the National Statistical Offices from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam. The main objective of the workshop was to identify any pending issues, where gap are faces by CLMV countries in the definition and production of IMTS data. Also the workshop discussed the CLMV countries IMTS quality improvement work plan for the next 2 years.

The workshop was followed by an IMTS technical assistance mission during 25-29 April 2016 to the Lao PDR Statistics Bureau and the Customs Department. The training focused on the scope of the IMTS data, new IMTS 2010 indicators and links with balance of payments and national accounts.

In addition, the IMTS Key expert together with a short term expert on IT began the preparation of a trade indices computation module during a mission in ASEANstats.

**Table 2: Summary of actions carried out for IMTS activities in 1<sup>st</sup> Semester 2016**

Activity code	Title	Activities implemented in 2nd semester 2015	Country	Dates	Remarks
IMTS_04	Facilitating/running sub-regional workshops in the IMTS field	Facilitating/running sub-regional workshops in the IMTS field for the CLMV countries in Vientiane, Lao PDR 19-20 April 2016.	Lao PDR	19 – 20 Apr 2016	
IMTS_05	Technical assistance to ASEANstats on IMTS production and dissemination	Technical assistance to ASEANstats and preparation of regional/sub-regional meetings	Indonesia	19-29 Jan 2016	
IMTS_05	Technical assistance to ASEANstats on IMTS production and dissemination	Technical assistance to ASEANstats and preparation of regional/sub-regional meetings	Indonesia	1-11 Mar 2016	
IMTS_09	Provision of technical assistance to CLMVs in the IMTS field	Development of trade indices application	Indonesia	29 Feb – 11 Mar 2016	

IMTS_09	Provision of technical assistance to CLMVs in the IMTS field	Provide technical assistance in the IMTS field to Lao Customs and the Lao Statistics Bureau during 21-29 April 2016.	Lao PDR	21 – 29 Apr 2016	
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### 2.2.1 Activities implemented

The activities implemented during the reporting period are the following:

#### IMTS04: Facilitating/running sub-regional workshops in the IMTS field

##### Third CLMV Workshop on IMTS (19/20 April, Vientiane)

###### a. Objectives:

The main objective of the CLMV workshop was to identify any pending issues, where gap are faced by CLMV countries in the definition and production of IMTS data. Also the workshop discussed the CLMV countries IMTS quality improvement work plan for the next 2 years. More specifically the workshop aimed:

- To discuss the status of IMTS data transmission to ASEANstats
- To present the status of implementation of Eurotrace in CLMV countries and discuss about future developments
- To discuss specific quality issues, including how to deal with informal trade
- To define the activities where COMPASS support is envisaged in order to reduce gaps in the production of IMTS data and improving the capacity building and the quality of processing IMTS data.

###### b. Achieved results and main conclusions:

The 3rd CLMV workshop helped to raise many issues and needs that should be taken into account in the implementation of the current annual work programme:

- Pending issues and gaps have been identified as well as support needed from COMPASS to reduce gaps;
- Informal trade is still an issue for Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar;
- Some progress needs to be observed on the regularity of periodic data transmission to ASEANstats;
- Tentative dates have been proposed for the next technical assistance missions on IMTS to Cambodia (one week in the first half of July) and Myanmar (one week in the second half of August);
- Participants have been informed about the next regional events on IMTS;
- A training course on seasonal adjustment that could be of interest for IMTS compilers will also be organized by COMPASS later this year;

- ASEANStats will circulate the IMTS quality questionnaire to all AMSs in early July 2016 to seek feedback by the end of July 2016.

#### **IMTS09: Provision of technical assistance to CLMVs in the IMTS field**

##### **Technical assistance to Lao PDR (21/29 April, Vientiane)**

###### **a. Objectives:**

The mission aimed to provide technical assistance to Lao Statistics Bureau (LSB), Lao Customs Department, Bank of Lao on IMTS, following three main objectives:

- To produce an on-the job training on IMTS standards, in particular:
  - Scope of IMTS data
  - New IMTS 2010 indicators
  - Links with Balance of Payments and National Accounts
- To explain the role of Customs Procedures and the need to carefully select the procedures to be included in IMTS
- To introduce in the Eurotrace software the new decision tables and check the results.

###### **b. Achieved results and main conclusions:**

- Following the technical assistance mission, a Technical Working Group should be organized with the participation of: LSB, Lao Customs, BoL. The Ministry of Industry and Commerce could also be part of this Working group, which could meet twice a year. A priority task of the Working Group could be the detailed analysis of differences between concepts applied in IMTS, BOP and National Accounts, and on the best sources to be used to produce data for each field. The presence of duplicated records should be explained by Lao Customs. The issue of informal trade should also be discussed.
- LSB and Lao Customs should agree on an enhanced data transmission protocol.
- LSB (Sector and Prices division) should be considered as the focal point for IMTS data processing and dissemination.
- Dissemination should be improved through production of publications (yearly or quarterly) and web access.
- The production of unit value and volume indices should be envisaged as soon as the data quality is found sufficient and sustainable.
- Some mirror analysis with Lao PDR's main partners should be conducted.

#### **2.2.2 IMTS Deliverables:**

- Mission report on development of indices module and check of the regional database, 29 February-11 March 2016, Jakarta
- Mission report on Technical Assistance on IMTS, 21 to 29 April 2016, Vientiane
- Report on the Third CLMV Workshop on IMTS, 19/20 April 2016, Vientiane

#### **2.2.3 Challenges**

During the first six month of implementation of the AWP2, the IMTS field faced the following difficulties:

- The technical assistance mission to Cambodia planned in March 2016 has been postponed to July 2016 due to the non-availability of Customs staff.
- Lao Customs should clarify some technical issues (duplicated records) in the future in order to define precisely the scope of IMTS data compiled by LSB.
- Some difficulties were also faced in Myanmar to fully understand the practice observed by Customs in the definition of the Customs status of goods. A list of questions is still pending and must find answers in order to go forward in the implementation of international standards for IMTS.
- Lack of internal resources is a permanent issue for IMTS in Cambodia and Lao PDR. This sometimes creates delays in the data transmission process and possible problems in the future for the sustainability of the programme outcomes.

#### **2.2.4 Considerations for implementation of the work programme**

- Participants to regional and sub-regional (CLMV) workshops should always be decision makers in the IMTS statistical field.
- The hardware resource (mainframe) in ASEAN Secretariat should be adapted to the users' needs and to the provision of a user friendly access to the IMTS database. Size of IMTS database is always large and needs suitable IT resources to meet users' expectations.

#### **2.2.5 Activities Planned for the 2nd Semester 2016**

Planned activities for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester 2016 have been defined in the Annual Work Programme 2 (AWP 2) of COMPASS for 2016. The activities foreseen for each field are the following:

- IMTS01 Regional Working Group on IMTS, October, Vietnam
- IMTS03 Regional workshop on specific issues in the IMTS field, Vietnam (back to back with WG)
- IMTS05 Technical assistance to ASEANstats on IMTS production and dissemination, Jakarta
- IMTS06 Assistance in the data quality assessment on IMTS
- IMTS08 National trainings/workshops in IMTS for CLMVs
- IMTS09 Provision of technical assistance to CLMVs in the IMTS field (Cambodia and Myanmar)
- IMTS10 Facilitation of a study visit to a developed AMS for CLMVs in the IMTS field (27/29 September, Malaysia)

### **2.3 Progress of SITS**

Under SITS, the COMPASS SITS lead expert undertook a technical assistance mission to Vietnam during 23 May – 3 June 2016 to support Government Statistical Office to plan a small pilot survey on manufacturing services in areas electronics, computers and government processing. Discussions were held with some enterprises located in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

Two COMPASS SITS experts facilitated and supported a regional workshop in Hanoi, Vietnam during 2-3 June 2016 on the conceptual background and practical compilation issues for financial services and FISIM under Balance of Payments Manual version 6. Also the workshop focused on the compilation of partner country data on SITS.

Following the regional workshop, the two COMPASS SITS experts facilitated and supported a CLMV sub-regional workshop in Hanoi, Vietnam during 1 June 2016 to review 2015 data deliveries, compliance with ASEANstats data template requirements and discuss the COMPASS programme's support in delivering these plans.

A COMPASS SITS expert also provided technical assistance to ASEANstats in order to analyse the result from the code of practice self-assessment questionnaire and to develop quality indicators in line with international best practice. The indicators included revisions analysis and Intra-ASEAN asymmetries analysis. The indicators covered statistical process as well as the output and were based on UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and IMF/OECD quality assurance frameworks.

This section presents the progresses in the implementation of the activities proposed in the Annual Work Programme 2 (AWP 2) of COMPASS during January to June 2016.

The work programme in SITS was approved by the COMPASS Project Steering Committee on the basis of a proposal made by the Lead Expert, which was elaborated after the collection at the national level of needs for technical assistance and regional cooperation. The regional meeting of the WGSITS was organised back to back with a regional workshop in February 2016 and hosted by Bank of Thailand, without COMPASS support. Nevertheless, some of the missions planned during the first semester had to be postponed due to the unavailability of some of the beneficiary countries. COMPASS has envisaged the need to conduct more technical assistance to ASEANstats and the AMSs in the next semester.

**Table 3. Summary of actions planned and carried out for SITS activities in 1<sup>st</sup> Semester 2016**

Activity code	Title	Activity implemented	Country	Dates	Remarks
SITS_03	Regional training/ workshop on specific issues in the SITS field	To facilitate the SITS CLMV workshop held in Hanoi, Vietnam 1 June 2016.	Vietnam	1 – 3 Jun 2016	
SITS_08	Provision of technical assistance to CLMVs in the SITS field	Technical assistance mission to Hanoi, Vietnam to support GSO to conduct a small pilot survey on manufacturing services in areas: electronic/computer and garment processing.	Vietnam	23 – 31 May	
SITS_05	Assistance in the data quality assessment on SITS	The analysis of results from Code of Practice self-assessment questionnaire by SITS Working Group members The development of quality indicators in line with international best practice.	Indonesia	6-10un 2016	

### 2.3.1 Activities implemented

The activities implemented during the reporting period are the following:



**SITS 03: Regional training/ workshop on specific issues in the SITS field**

## a. Objectives:

The aims of the workshop were to present the conceptual requirement and international best practice in the compilation of two key SITS data requirements:

- The conceptual background and practical compilation issues for financial services and FISIM.
- The compilation of partner country data.

## b. Achieved results and main conclusions for SITS:

ASEC and 9 ASEAN Member States participated in the workshop (except Singapore). The main findings highlighted during the workshop on FISIM and compilation of partner country data are, as follows:

- FISIM
  - FISIM is not yet implemented by most AMS. The work is still in progress.
  - Different approaches are used depending on availability of data
  - Participants stated it was easier for exports than imports
  - Stocks – sourced from banking stats, IIP or BIS (caution re coverage)
  - Interest flows – BOP primary income
  - Reference rate – bank lending rates or mid-point
  - It is easier to compile in more detail when exchange control is still in place
- Partner country data
  - ASEANstats estimates missing data to produce (rough) ASEAN aggregates
  - AMS have a range of different sources used to compile partner country data – ITRS, surveys, administrative data and data models. AMS agree to review whether more partner data can be provided to ASEANstats
  - Compilation of ASEAN/non-ASEAN breakdowns should be the first priority to allow ASEAN aggregates to be derived
  - Need individual AMS by ASEAN partner in order to analyse and reduce asymmetries
  - Travel is the most important SITS component and it is recommended that AMS compile detailed partner country breakdowns of travel to allow asymmetries to be analysed at the 2017 SITS Workshop

**SITS 05: Assistance in the data quality assessment on SITS**

## a. Objectives:

The technical assistance provided by the project aimed to cover the following objectives:

- The analysis of the answers to the Code of Practice self-assessment questionnaire by the WGSITS members.

- The development of quality indicators in line with international best practice. The aim will be to produce a yearly regional quality report on SITS from 2017. Indicators may include revisions analysis and intra-ASEAN asymmetries analysis.

b. Achieved results and main conclusions for SITS:

The quality report aims to measure the level of compliance with the Code of Practice for each indicator in the self-assessment questionnaire. However, the analysis of the answers to the questionnaire proves that it cannot be used as is as an input for a quality report. A redraft of the questionnaire is recommended.

Quantitative indicators on revisions and on asymmetries would be required as inputs to the quality report. The SITS Workshop recommended that an analysis of travel asymmetries be discussed at the next Workshop.

The priority should be to improve the coverage and quality of SITS data before the implementation of the quality report given the shortage of resources in both AMS and ASEANstats.

### SITS 08: Provision of technical assistance to CLMVs in the SITS field – Vietnam May 2016

a. Objectives:

The technical assistance mission aimed to support GSO to conduct a small pilot survey on manufacturing services in areas such as electronic/computer and garment processing. This was planned to include:

- Review of results from 2015 AES filter questions – currently being processed;
- Review of availability of data from Customs Procedure Codes, and;
- Assessing whether they can be used as a source of information;
- Testing availability and quality of data via company visits;
- Finalising Pilot Survey questions;
- Agreeing longer term data collection strategy considering Economic Census will take place in 2017 and SITS census in 2019.

b. Achieved results and main conclusions for Trade in Services:

- Three models for goods for processing / manufacturing services in Viet Nam were identified, based on whether the resident processing company undertakes processing on behalf of a client or on own account. Different sources and methods were developed for each model.
- Customs Procedure Codes can be used to identify imports and exports of goods for processing with and without change of ownership. While this information is considered to be of good quality, additional data collection will be required as a large proportion of goods flows are reported as “mixed”.
- The General Directorate of Customs will provide a list of companies reporting “mixed” goods for processing. The GSO will undertake a pilot survey of these to collect information on both the value of goods flows and the processing fee received.
- The pilot survey will be undertaken in October and November, with results to be analysed in December (possibly with the assistance of a follow-up mission).

### 2.3.2 SITS Deliverables:

- Mission report of TA Mission to Viet Nam from 23-31 May 2016, Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam.
- Mission report and presentations for the CLMV Workshop (1 June, 2016) and SITS Workshop (2-3 June, 2016), Hanoi, Viet Nam.
- Mission report of TA Mission to ASEANstats from 6-10 June 2016, Jakarta, Indonesia.

### 2.3.3 Challenges:

It remains a challenge to meet the planned objectives due to the ongoing overlap with other donor projects in the AMS and the lack of resource to absorb high levels of donor support in CLMV in particular. The ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area SITS project continues to impact on the capacity to absorb COMPASS technical assistance in Cambodia and Lao PDR in particular. However, the first CLMV Workshop in June 2016 was used to clarify CLMV priorities for COMPASS support, with mission dates and priorities agreed for the second half of 2016 and first half of 2017. This will help deliver technical assistance to CLMV and will be repeated in 2017.

### 2.3.4 Considerations for implementation of the work programme:

The following issues to improve the implementation of the work programme should be considered:

- It is important that activity under the COMPASS project is coordinated as far as is possible with the work of other donors. ASEAN Secretariat should access donor plans as far as possible in advance of each year's planning round.
- CLMV workshops should be organised in advance of each year's planning round, in order to clarify requirements for COMPASS support.
- Member States should be encouraged to share good practices as much as possible at SITS Workshops and other regional meetings. This will help promote the "ASEAN-help-ASEAN" initiative.
- Agree country plans to develop SITS, including the need for COMPASS support over the next 12 months, at the conclusion of each country mission.
- Working days for "helpdesk" support from home, would help the continuity of work between missions. This is particularly important as missions are often very intermittent. Helpdesk support would allow a culture of continual improvement.

### 2.3.5 Activities Planned for the 2nd Semester 2016

- SITS 04 Technical Assistance to ASEANstats on the production and dissemination of ASEAN data
- SITS07 Provision of technical assistance to non CLMVs in the SITS field (Indonesia and Malaysia)
- SITS 08 Technical Assistance to CLMVs on SITS (Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam)

## 2.4 Progress of FDIS

Under FDIS, a COMPASS FDIS expert, conducted a four-week mission from 2 - 29 March 2016 to the National Bank of Cambodia (NBC) to assess the results of the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Survey for the years 2013 and 2014, in particular to enhance the response by resorting to use of data available from financial reports of companies, administrative data and media sources. The mission assessed the inward foreign direct investment (FDI) survey of selected FDI enterprises which was jointly conducted by the National Institute of Statistics (NIS) and the NBC.

Another COMPASS FDIS mission was conducted from 23-27 May 2016 to the State Bank of Vietnam to support the planning of full FDI survey to be conducted later in 2016 by the BOP Division, following the successful recent pilot FDI survey. The main discussions concerned practical methods to sample from the survey register, to impute data for non-respondents, and to gross up from survey data to estimates of population totals. The treatment in FDIS of data concerning Production Sharing Agreements was also discussed. The pilot FDI survey results and materials were reviewed as well as the survey materials for the imminent full FDI survey.

In addition, the COMPASS project facilitated and supported a CLMV sub-regional workshop in Jakarta, during 16 – 17 May 2016. The CLMV Workshop on FDIS concentrated on the experiences of Cambodia and Vietnam compilers in conducting pilot enterprise surveys to collect FDI data. Presentations were also made by compilers from Malaysia and the Philippines on the compilation of FDIS in their countries. Discussions were encouraged and learning points for participants were highlighted during the Workshop.

A COMPASS FDI expert also participated in the Working Group on International Investment Statistic (WGIIS) meeting held in Jakarta on the 18-19 May 2016. The expert contributed to the various discussions, particularly those following the country presentations on their national work plans, and in the five specific areas: (i) data collection for PSA's, (ii) use of partner country data, (iii) appropriate level of detail in metadata, and (iv) information collected from AMS on implementation and capacity building needs and priorities for FDIS to help the COMPASS programme for 2016, and (v) planning a regional FDIS Workshop on FDI indicators. The Meeting agreed to organise focused group discussions on specific topics of common interest to some AMSs, i.e. Production Sharing Agreement. This is planned for implementation in 2017. Support to this activity will be requested from the COMPASS Project for AWP3.

The activities planned during the first 6 months of AWP2 and their status of implementation are listed below.

This section presents the progresses in the implementation of the work plan proposed in the Inception report by field, from January to June 2016.

**Table 4. Summary of actions planned and carried out for FDIS activities in 1<sup>st</sup>semester 2016**

Activity code	Title	Activity implemented	Country	Dates	Remarks
<b>FDIS_01</b>	Supporting the implementation of the ACSS objectives in the FDIS field	Assist ASEANstats and participate in the WGIIS Meeting held at ASEAN Secretariat.	Indonesia	18 – 19 May 2016	
<b>FDIS_04</b>	Facilitating/running sub-regional workshops in the FDIS field	Facilitate and run a sub-regional workshop (CLMV) held at ASEAN Secretariat. Topics covered by the workshop were FDIS surveys, planning of FDIS activities with CLMV countries, and coordination with IMF activities on FDIS.	Indonesia	16 – 17 May 2016	
<b>FDIS_09</b>	National trainings/workshops in FDIS for CLMVs	Workshop presenting the results of the FDI survey (both data and methodological results) to national stakeholders and develop a plan for a regular FDI survey	Cambodia	28 March 2016	Moved forward
		FDIS National training/workshop	Lao PDR		Postponed to 2018
		FDIS National training/workshop	Myanmar		Postponed to 2 <sup>nd</sup> semester
		FDIS National training/workshop	Vietnam		Cancelled
<b>FDIS_10</b>	Provision of technical assistance to CLMVs in the FDIS field	Technical assistance mission to Cambodia (analysis and dissemination of the pilot survey)	Cambodia	2 – 27 March 2016	
		Technical assistance mission to Laos	Lao PDR		Postponed to 2018
		Technical assistance mission to Myanmar	Myanmar		Postponed to 2 <sup>nd</sup> semester
		Technical assistance mission to Vietnam, (review of the current progress with FDI Pilot Survey, discussion on survey register and sampling method for a full scale survey, and follow up of the implementation of the recommendations.)	Vietnam	23 – 27 May 2016	
<b>FDIS_11</b>	Facilitation of a study visit to a developed AMS for CLMVs in the FDIS				Postponed to 2 <sup>nd</sup> semester

### 2.4.1 Activities implemented

#### FDIS 01: Supporting the implementation of the ACSS committee's objectives in the FDIS field

a. Objectives:

COMPASS technical assistance had for main objectives to:

- Support ASEANstats in the organisation of the 30th meeting of WGIIIS
- Support the WG meeting in technical issues.

b. Achieved results and main conclusions:

The COMPASS FDI expert participated in all discussions, particularly those following the country presentations on their national work plans, and contributed in five specific areas:

- data collection for Production Sharing Agreements (PSA),
- use of partner country data,
- appropriate level of detail in metadata,
- information collected from AMS on implementation and capacity building needs and priorities for FDIS to help the COMPASS programme for 2016, and
- organization of a regional FDIS Workshop on FDI indicators.

#### FDIS 04: Facilitating/running sub-regional workshops in the FDIS field

a. Objectives:

The sub-regional workshop on FDIS aimed to:

- Take stock, with all CLMV, of the methodological results of the pilot surveys that have been carried out in Cambodia and Vietnam,
- Discuss the issues faced at each implementation step of their pilot survey and
- Express recommendations derived from this experience.

b. Achieved results and main conclusions:

Participants included representatives from the National Bank of Cambodia and Council for the Development of Cambodia, Lao Statistics Bureau and Bank of the Lao PDR, Myanmar Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, State Bank of Vietnam and Vietnam Foreign Investment Agency, Malaysia Department of Statistics and Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (under AHA mechanism), ASEANstats, and IMF Regional Advisor.

The CLMV Workshop on FDIS concentrated on the experiences of Cambodia and Vietnam compilers in conducting pilot enterprise surveys to collect FDI data.

Presentations were also made by compilers from Malaysia and the Philippines on the compilation of FDIS in their countries. Discussions were encouraged and learning points for participants were highlighted during the Workshop. The Workshop was successful in meeting its objectives and giving delegates ideas to improve their FDIS compilation practices.

The recommendations expressed by the group are listed in the relating mission report.

#### FDIS 09 National trainings/workshops in FDIS for CLMVs

##### a. Objectives:

In the AWP2, the following dates had been tentatively planned for FDIS national training/workshops in CLMVs:

- **Cambodia:** October (workshop to present the results (both data and methodological results) to national stakeholders and to develop a plan for a regular FDI survey)
- **Lao PDR:** April (training of the interviewers on the methodology and questionnaire of a FDI survey planned in June-July 2016, to be organized jointly by BOL and LSB)
- **Myanmar:** April and May (training in business accountancy (local trainer), then, training in view of a FDI survey)
- **Vietnam:** May (workshop to present the results of the pilot survey to national stakeholders and to develop with them an agreed complete plan for a full FDI survey)

##### b. Achieved results and main conclusions:

Out of the four activities planned, only one could be carried out during the first semester of 2016. One should be implemented next semester, whereas the two others have been cancelled or postponed to an indefinite date as explained below:

- **Cambodia:** At the request of NBC, the workshop was put forward in March. The FDI expert presented the preliminary results of FDI Survey 2013 -2014 to NBC staff and the revision of FDI data induced by them.
- **Lao PDR:** Lao PDR representatives attending the May CLMV workshop informed the project technical assistance team that due to their work programme, they will not be able to welcome any COMPASS activity in the FDIS field **before year 2018**. It should be noted that an important World Bank programme is currently being implemented and therefore the statistical resources are overloaded.
- **Myanmar:** The training in accountancy has been postponed to next semester.
- **Vietnam:** Given the good cooperation between the stakeholders (mainly State Bank of Vietnam, GSO and Foreign Investment Agency), the organisation of a national workshop was no longer felt useful.

#### FDIS 10: Provision of technical assistance to CLMVs in the FDIS field

##### a. Objectives:

In the AWP2, the following dates had been tentatively planned for FDIS technical missions to CLMVs:

- **Cambodia:** March, in order to support the pilot survey during the exploitation phase (data entry/treatment) as well as the analysis phase (production of a model of publication and of a methodological report, including plans for a full survey)

- **Lao PDR:** April, to launch pilot surveys of FDI enterprises (finalisation of the questionnaire, of the instructions, of the time-table, etc.)
- **Myanmar:** April, same objectives as in Lao PDR.
- **Vietnam:** May, same objectives as in Cambodia.

b. Achieved results and main conclusions:

Like for the previous activity, the project faced difficulties in implementing the activities initially agreed. Technical assistance missions to Cambodia and Lao PDR were nevertheless carried out successfully. A mission to Myanmar is also planned during the second semester:

- **Cambodia:** The pilot FDI survey results were analysed by the FDI expert and other information sources (for instance Council for the Development of Cambodia and Ministry of Economy and Finance) were scrutinized as well, in order 1-to check the plausibility of the results and 2-to complement them, notably in sectors not covered by the survey, like real estate purchases by individuals. A renewed methodology to estimate FDI data has been proposed and recommendations have been made to improve Cambodia FDIS. All these elements can be found in Mr Christie Richards' report.
- **Lao PDR:** No activity could be organized in this country. See the remark under FDIS 09.
- **Myanmar:** The technical assistance mission has been postponed, due to the postponement of the training in accountancy.
- **Vietnam:** The pilot FDI survey results and materials were reviewed as well as the survey materials for the imminent full FDI survey. The main discussions concerned practical methods to sample from the survey register, to impute data for non-respondents, and to gross up from survey data estimates of population totals. The treatment in FDIS concerning Production Sharing Agreements was also discussed. Recommendations were made for the full survey. (See mission report.)

#### FDIS 11 Facilitation of a study visit to a developed AMS for CLMVs in the FDIS

Following a request made by the institution having offered to host the study visit (Bank of Indonesia), this event has been postponed to next semester.

#### 2.4.2 FDIS Deliverables:

- Mission report covering Technical Assistance mission to Cambodia (2 to 29 March)
- Mission report covering 16 to 27 May mission including:
  - Technical Assistance for ASEANstats,
  - CLMV Workshop,
  - Technical Assistance for the State Bank of Vietnam.

#### 2.4.3 Challenges

As summarized by the FDI expert having run last CLMV workshop, the common concerns from CLMV are:

1. funding and resources (financial in some countries, but also human),
2. interest and commitment from management, enterprises and users,
3. understanding by users and respondents of the concepts underpinning FDIS,
4. Cooperation between all institutions relevant to the compilation of FDIS.



The biggest challenges are to be found in Lao PDR and Myanmar.

- Lao PDR has received a large grant from the World Bank which decides on the country priorities in the statistical area and keeps busy the available human resources.
- In Myanmar, the institution in charge of compiling FDIS has little human resources with English speaking skills and with adequate educational background. Therefore, these resources are overloaded with work with various development partners which are more and more present in the country.
- In both countries, furthermore, the turnover is high and many training efforts have already been lost.

On the other hand, regarding the cooperation issue, COMPASS can be pleased with the FDI surveys carried out in Vietnam and Cambodia, since, in both countries, the survey was carried out jointly by the NSO and the Central Bank. Both institutions learned from one another. This cooperation will enhance the coordination of the statistical system in CLMV. It should be considered as a success from an institutional capacity building point of view.

#### **2.4.4 Considerations for implementation of the work programme:**

Some considerations expressed in last half-yearly report in order to improve the implementation of COMPASS activities remain valid.

- COMPASS activities regarding FDIS should be better coordinated with those of other international organisations/ development partners, especially IMF (Vietnam), ADB, World Bank (Lao PDR) and JAIF (Myanmar). Coordination with IMF has improved, with Mr Fernando Lemos, IMF regional advisor, having attended the CLMV workshop and the WGIIIS meeting. On the contrary, JAIF has conducted a similar activity to COMPASS in June 2016, based on the proposal draft by ASEANstats in 2012.
- FDIS activities should focus on narrowing the gap between AMS, therefore more support should be provided to enable CLMVs to catch up.
- CLMVs should be encouraged to send the same participants to COMPASS regional and sub-regional activities in order to strengthen capacities rather than dilute them.

In order to cope with challenges 2 and 3 listed above, an important activity should be the national and regional dissemination of data and metadata. COMPASS should fund publications and press releases in CLMV.

#### **2.4.5 Activities Planned for the 2nd Semester 2016**

The activities foreseen for each field are, as follows:

- FDIS\_03: Regional trainings/workshops dissemination of FDIS for producers and users [29-30 September]
- FDIS 04: Facilitating/running sub-regional CLMV workshops in the FDIS field [19-20 October] (to be discussed in SCPC meeting)

*A second CLMV workshop was initially planned on the topic of business registers. As ASEANstats has made the same request to JAIF in 2012, and was approved only in late 2015, a seminar has been organized with JAIF assistance in Myanmar in June 2016. The planned workshop has to be re-oriented towards another FDI issue.*

As noticed from diverse COMPASS activities, a possible harmonisation concern could regard the treatment of PSA (production sharing agreements – types of contract which are mainly found in the mining and quarrying sector). As the WGIIIS has decided the setting up of a Task Force to tackle this issue, COMPASS could assist the work of this Task Force.

- FDIS\_06 Assistance in the analysis of the results of the first self-assessments and in a potential revision of the list of indicators for next round [October].
- FDIS\_09 National training session in accountancy, in Myanmar [22-26 August]:

The training will be carried out in Burmese by a local expert, will be organised in DICA to help DICA Planning and Statistics Division's staff to analyse the financial statements received by DICA. During next technical assistance missions of COMPASS FDIS and ITD respective experts (see FDIS 10), the relevance of training DICA in a database management tool will be checked against the support brought by ADB to the re-building of DICA business register.

- FDIS 10: Provision of technical assistance to Myanmar [12-30 September]

The FDIS expert, seconded by the local trainer in accountancy, will test with DICA staff the feasibility of using the financial statements received by DICA to compile better FDIS. In case of negative outcome, the FDIS expert will prepare a pilot FDI survey with DICA staff.

The ITD expert will join the FDIS expert during part of the mission, in order to decide on the best method to computerize FDIS compilation.

- FDIS\_11 Facilitation of a study visit to Bank Indonesia for CLMVs in the FDIS field [17-19 October 2016]

## 2.5 Progress of ITD

During the reporting period, COMPASS has supported ASEANstats and AIMO under the field of ITD:

- by preparing a new version of the DTT;
- by facilitating the collection of FDIS data through amendments to the templates, and of IMTS by proposing changes to the Data Transmission Protocol;
- by adapting the production databases in accordance with the new templates (FDIS, SITS);
- by adapting the production system to allow the production of statistical results for Priority Integration Sectors (PIS) and other user-defined lists and by training ASEANstats (IMTS);
- by preparing the analysis of the new Bridging Application between the Eurotrace production system and the PC-Axis dissemination system;
- by supporting ASEANstats to improve their capacity to disseminate statistical information on intranet and internet;
- by supporting ASEANstats in the processing of IMTS data files received from AMS;
- by assisting the IT equipment procurement selection board and by proposing changes to the selected offer;
- by contributing to the PSC Meeting 3.

In addition, COMPASS ITD expert assisted the EU Delegation to prepare the IT procurement dossier for Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Vietnam and the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEANstats/ASEAN Integration Monitoring Office). Also, he provided support to the EU Delegation in Jakarta to launch and publish the regional tender.

The ITD Lead expert also undertook a mission to Lao PDR during 25-29 April 2016 to provide technical assistance to the Lao PDR Statistics Bureau and the Customs Department in the implementation of the Eurotrace software.

During the next six months, COMPASS will continue their support to the ASEAN Secretariat in the collection, processing and dissemination of statistical information. They will continue their support to AMS in the statistical data processing.

This section presents the progresses in the implementation of the AWP2 from January to June 2016.

**Table 5. Summary of actions carried out for ITD activities in 1st Semester 2016**

Activity code	Title	Activity implemented	Country	Dates	Remarks
ITD_01	Consolidate the data transmission system	Prepare new/Update FDIS template	ASEC	Feb-16 May-16	Implementation during HY2
		Consolidate the collection of IMTS data		Feb-16	
		Further improvements of the data transmission system: development of the new DTT		Jun-16	
ITD_02	Consolidate the ASEANstats production system for enhanced and integrated database	Adapt the production system to the new FDIS templates	ASEC	Feb-16	
		Continuous support to ASEANstats to improve their capacity to harmonize and consolidate national data		continuous	
ITD_03	Facilitate dissemination and availability of statistics	Analyse the possibilities to review/rewrite the bridging application	ASEC	Feb-16	TORs finalised
		Continuous support to ASEANstats to improve their capacity to disseminate statistical information		continuous	
ITD_07	Support to CLMV countries in the data processing	Support to Lao PDR in Data Processing	Lao PDR	Apr-16	
ITD_08	Assistance in preparing the equipment tender dossier	Prepare amendments to the selected offer	ASEAN	Jun-16	
PM	Project Management	Contribution to PSC3 Reports	n/a	Feb-16	

### 2.5.1 Activities implemented

The activities implemented during the reporting period are the following:

#### ITD01: Consolidate the data transmission system

##### a. Objectives

- ASEANstats is equipped with information technology and trained in its use
- Improved capacity to compile, harmonise, consolidate and disseminate timely statistics at ASEANstats

##### b. Achieved results and main conclusions

- **Prepare new/Update FDIS template (mission 26/01-19/02/2016, Jakarta)**

New FDIS templates were prepared and are operational.

- **Prepare new/Update FDIS template (mission 02/05-20/05/2016, Jakarta)**

The templates were changed to allow entering any year between 2000 and 2025.

- **Consolidate the collection of IMTS data (mission 26/01-19/02/2016, Jakarta)**

The Data Transmission Protocol was reviewed in order to match WGIMTS recommendations and to make the IT aspects of transmitting data more clear and precise. A few changes in the 'methodology' part, where some inconsistencies or ambiguities could be found, were also proposed. The recommended data file formats are important both in terms of ASEAN statistics quality and in order to reduce the work load associated to data pre-processing at ASEANstats.

- **Further improvements of the data transmission system (mission 26/01-19/02/2016, Jakarta)**

The development of the new DTT was started with the Junior IT Expert recruited through the project, who started work on February 1st. The ITD Lead Expert provided guidelines and further details to the software requirements as described in the analysis document. The ITD Lead Expert was at the disposal of the Junior Short Term Expert to provide support and answers to any point needing clarification.

The ITS Division was met by the ITD Lead Expert and the Junior Short Term Expert in order to discuss technical points on the implementation of the new DTT and to sort out issues (such as the maximum file size allowed for upload).

- **Further improvements of the data transmission system (mission 02/05-20/05/2016, Jakarta)**

The new DTT was finalised with the IT Junior Expert and is now operational and ready for testing. ASEANstats IT staff was trained on it, both from the end-user and administrator viewpoints. The User Manual and Administrator Manual were delivered. The technical documentation was also provided to ASEANstats, as well as to ITSD.

ASEANstats tested the new DTT and provided their comments to COMPASS by mid-June. This led to a list of changes, improvements and training to be implemented by the project during next period. This will require further IT technical assistance, preferably provided by the IT expert who was involved in the development of the new DTT. This assistance was not initially included under AWP2 and will need to be discussed with PSC Members.

It was agreed with ITSD that the new DTT will be made operational on the current server if the new server is not delivered by October. The switch to the new DTT for users will be prepared by the ITD Lead Expert and ASEANstats in collaboration with the ITSD during next period.

## ITD\_02: Consolidate the ASEANstats production system for enhanced and integrated database

### a. Objectives

- ASEANstats is equipped with information technology and trained in its use
- Improved capacity to compile, harmonise, consolidate and disseminate timely statistics at ASEANstats

### b. Achieved results and main conclusions

- **Adapt the production system to the new FDIS templates (mission 26/01-19/02/2016, Jakarta)**

The FDIS templates were further amended and the Eurotrace domain adapted accordingly. Thailand's flat data was uploaded too: the data was first aggregated to avoid Eurotrace considering duplicate records. For testing purposes, most of the existing data was uploaded into Eurotrace. After uploading the results were compared to source data which showed identical figures.

As a conclusion, one can use the database to perform any kind of query for statistical purposes.

- **Continuous support to ASEANstats to improve their capacity to harmonize and consolidate national data**

## IMTS

The ITD Lead Expert prepared a document that summarises how to produce the Priority Integration Sectors (PIS) and other lists with Eurotrace. This document also includes the description of the methodology used, and some comments and proposals for possible improvements. ASEANstats forwarded the document to AIMO/AIMD for their feedback/view on this matter.

ASEANstats was also on-the-job trained on the production of the PIS results.

## FDIS

The Eurotrace FDIS domain was tested using the existing national data with the most recent templates.

## General

Support was provided to ASEANstats to overcome difficulties encountered in processing the data.

## ITD03: Facilitate dissemination and availability of statistics

### a. Objectives

- Improved statistics in terms of availability, quality and comparability, in key areas related to ASEAN regional integration
  - Improved capacity to compile, harmonise, consolidate and disseminate timely statistics at ASEANstats
  - ASEANstats is equipped with information technology and trained in its use
  - Improved information exchange on statistics within ACSS

### b. Achieved results and main conclusions

- **Analyse the possibilities to review/rewrite the bridging application (mission 26/01-19/02/2016, Jakarta)**

The terms of reference for the development of the new BA and the profile of the Junior Expert(s) were finalised.

- **Continuous support to ASEANstats to improve their capacity to disseminate statistical information**

A document describing the situation of IMTS dissemination on intranet and internet was prepared at the beginning of the mission, jointly with ASEANstats. This document was used to prepare the discussion during a meeting with ASEANstats/AIMD on the dissemination status, difficulties met and possible improvements. The document was updated after the meeting and the work done on the dissemination side.

Some matrixes were reviewed to improve the overall consistency/harmonisation of how the tables are presented on screen. Many tables were also amended to include the commodity code description.

A new subset was introduced for SITC 2-digit results.

A work was done by the ITDLE in order to improve the code descriptions in Eurotrace and, consequently, on the dissemination sites. These descriptions are not initially provided by ASEAN Secretariat in a self-explanatory form. The metadata was reviewed at 2- 4- and 6-digit levels and, where possible, at AHTN 8-digit level. The changes were implemented in the production system (Eurotrace) and the dissemination system (PX-Web).

Further work was done for the dissemination of IMTS:

1. New nomenclatures were added. They now include 5 tables:

AHTN07	ASEAN Harmonized Tariff Nomenclature (AHTN) 2007 Release
AHTN12	ASEAN Harmonized Tariff Nomenclature (AHTN) 2012 Release
HS07	Harmonized System Classification, 2007 Release
HS12	Harmonized System Classification, 2012 Release
SITC4	Standard International Trade Classification, revision 4

They are available on both web sites (intranet and internet).

2. AHTN 8-digit matrixes were also prepared.

They include a big dataset by AMS, Main partners (Dialog + AMS), 8-digit AHTN and Flow, covering years 2012 to 2014. This dataset is only available on intranet because it contains Malaysia detailed data: Malaysia requested to check the data prior to publication.

AHTN 8-digit tables also include ten matrixes, one for each AMS, by 8-digit AHTN, all partner countries and Flow, covering years 2012-2014. They are all on intranet and internet websites, except Malaysia which is not on internet.

3. Statistical tables based on HS 6-digit were analysed

There is a potential issue regarding some of these tables: the table label refers to the Harmonized System.; however, the analysis shows that, for each year from 2000 to 2009, a number of 6-digit codes are found in the data but they do not belong to any of the HS nomenclatures (HS1996, HS2002, HS2007 or HS2012).

4. A technical PX-Web problem was found for some of the tables showing the descriptions of the HS 6-digit or AHTN 8-digit codes

For an unidentified reason, these tables crash in PX-Web, on both intranet and internet sites. The recent PX-Web version 2015 May R1 was also tested with the same unfortunate result. For this reason, there are still two tables where the code descriptions cannot be found. The PC-Axis team was contacted by email, with an example of crashing matrix and technical information on the circumstances of the crash. The email was sent too recently to receive an answer before the end of the mission.

#### **ITD05/ITD08/ITD10: Assist in preparing the equipment tender dossier for CLMV countries and ASEAN Secretariat**

##### a. Objectives:

- Improved statistics in terms of availability, quality and comparability, in key areas related to ASEAN regional integration:

ASEANstats is equipped with information technology and trained in its use

- Strengthened capacity of the ASEAN Integration Monitoring Office to monitor the process and results of regional integration on behalf of the ASEAN Member States:

AIMO is equipped with IT

- Narrowed gaps between ASEAN Member States in their capacities to compile statistics through additional specific technical assistance, access to statistical higher education for Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Viet Nam staff, and support to the ASEAN-help-ASEAN scheme :

CLMV countries are better equipped with and able to use the information technology needed to improve their ability to collect, compile, transmit, analyse and disseminate statistics as part of the ASEAN Community Statistical System

##### b. Achieved results and main conclusions

- **Tender Dossier (mission 02/05-20/05/2016, Jakarta)**

During the mission a meeting with the EU Delegation was organised to discuss the different possibilities in terms of changes that can be made in the selected company's offer. Item numbers can be increased but no new item can be added within a given lot.

Regarding ASEAN Secretariat's lot (lot 5), the only change was the replacement of the two tower servers with rack servers following a request by ITSD. This was accepted by EU Delegation provided a formal request letter is sent by ASEC. The letter was prepared and sent during mission.

After discussions with ITSD, it was decided not to increase the number of switch boxes (item 5.1.4).

The ITDLE provided the EU Delegation with all the changes to be made in the initial offer. The company will receive the new request and will need to accept it and propose new prices. The deadline for the contract signature is 31 July. After the signature the company has up to three months for the equipment delivery.

#### **ITD07: Support to CLMV countries in the data processing**

##### a. Objectives

- The capacity to compile statistics in the key areas related to regional integration within Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam (CLMV) is improved to narrow the gap with other ASEAN countries

## b. Achieved results and main conclusions

- **Technical Assistance mission in Lao PDR (25/04-29/04/2016, Vientiane)**

In collaboration with the Lao Statistics Bureau (LSB), Customs and with the help of the COMPASS IMTS Senior Expert, the proper implementation of each Customs Procedure (CPC) in the data processing system Eurotrace was performed.

The issue of duplicate records within Customs data files was discussed with LSB and Customs. In order to facilitate discussions, examples were provided. The ITDLE prepared two versions of the data processing system Eurotrace: one which excludes duplicates (current situation) and one that includes them. An analysis of the impact on figures of including duplicates was also delivered.

Discussions between LSB and Customs will be conducted after the mission in order to clarify how to adequately process these duplicates and what data or variable are needed in order to do so. This will also be an opportunity to discuss the inclusion of much needed variables into Customs data files, which should lead to a second TA mission to Lao PDR during next period.

LSB faces difficulties in processing the IMTS data, causing delays in sending their data to the ASEAN Secretariat. All of 2015 data was processed during the mission. It was recommended to LSB not to delay further the transmission of this data.

### 2.5.2 ITD Deliverables:

- Mission Report on the ITD Technical Assistance to ASEC, 26 January-19 February 2016
- Mission Report on the ITD Technical Assistance to Lao PDR, 25 April – 29 April 2016
- Mission Report on the ITD Technical Assistance to ASEC, 2 May – 20 May 2016

### 2.5.3 Challenges and considerations for the implementation of the work programme:

#### Data Transmission

- For the implementation of the new version of the DTT, it is important to involve the ITS Division (The web server used for the DTT is managed by the ITSD). Despite tools such as the DTT are provided by the project, they remain the property of the ASEAN Secretariat and, in particular, ASEANstats. Therefore it is important that the latter proactively coordinate with the ITSD all IT matters which are required for a smooth functioning of the IT tools developed by the project to support ASEANstats for the production of statistical information, and to support the ASEAN Secretariat e.g. for the integration monitoring.

#### Data processing

- The data processing depends on preliminary data files' pre-processing (especially for IMTS). It is important that all IT support needed is provided to the officer in charge of the processing of statistical data in due time.
- Similarly, it is important that ASEANstats take all the necessary steps to ensure that the transfer of know-how related to the data processing, production and dissemination to new staff is effective.

#### Dissemination

ASEANstats was trained on the preparation of dissemination datasets. They must put in practices the training received by preparing statistics available for dissemination.

Any difficulty met should be reported to the ITD expert who can provide additional support.



**IMTS**

- the quality of IMTS data for years 2009 and before, in terms of compliance with international nomenclatures, is a concern regarding the dissemination of this data on the internet;
- the sheer size of very detailed IMTS dissemination datasets generates technical difficulties for the implementation of these datasets on the website. Some choices might need to be done not to include all detailed information.
- the ASEAN Secretariat does not dispose of self-explanatory descriptions of the AHTN codes. This makes it inconvenient to implement these descriptions on websites.

**2.5.4 Activities Planned for the 2nd Semester 2016**

- ITD TA mission to support Lao PDR on IMTS processing [11-15 July 2016]
- ITD TA mission to support ASEC [18 July-5 August + 12-30 September + 31 October – 11 November]
- ITD Mission to update the bridging application (Eurotrace -PC axis) [25 July – 5 August]
- ITD TA mission to ASEC for the migration of Eurotrace from Access to SQLserver [31 October – 4 November]
- ITD TA mission to support Myanmar in the processing of statistical data and in the transmission of statistics to the ASEAN Secretariat in the field of FDIS [03-07 October 2016]
- ITD TA Mission to update the bridging application (Eurotrace-PC axis) [5-16 December]
- ITD TA mission to implement changes in the new DTT (to be discussed during 4th PSC meeting) [dates to be confirmed]

**2.6 Progress of Other Fields (OF)**

Under Other Fields (OF), The COMPASS team continued to support the eight scholars from CLMV. The eight scholars successfully completed their first year and will start their second and final year on the 1st August 2016. Under the ASEAN-help-ASEAN initiative the Philippines Statistical Authority continues to provide support to the CLMV scholars by conducting a training module in official statistics.

Besides, the EU-ASEAN COMPASS project supported the 2nd Workshop of ASEAN Advisory Group on the System National Accounts (AAGSNA) which was held in Jakarta during 19-20 April 2016. The AAGSNA falls under the purview of the ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS) Committee and is composed of selected experts having extensive knowledge, experience and expertise on National Accounts from all 10 ASEAN Member States.

In addition, the project supported the first ASEAN Millennium Development Goals (MDG) / Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Indicators workshop that was held in ASEAN Secretariat Jakarta on 9 – 10 June 2016. This workshop aimed at building capacity of the ASEAN Member States (AMS) and the ASEAN Secretariat staff both for the compilation of MDG and the SDG indicators. The first focus was on how to report on the final achievements for the MDGs from 1990 to 2015 at the end of the period by producing tables, graphs and presentation on the achievements in a statistical report. The second focus of the workshop was on how to develop the national systems for reporting on the SDG and to develop a set of regional priority SDG indicators for future monitoring and documentation. The workshop agreed on plans for the production of an ASEAN MDG/SDG 2015 Statistical Report in early 2017.

**Table 6. Summary of actions planned and carried out for Other Fields activities in 1st semester 2016**

Activity code	Title	Activity implemented	Country	Dates	Remarks
OF01	Support in the preparation of a 2015 ASEAN report on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and in the development of ASEAN post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators	Supported and facilitated a Workshop on MDG/SDG	Jakarta, Indonesia	9 – 10 June 2016	
		Prepared work plan for publication of MDG/SDG Statistical report	Jakarta, Indonesia	7 – 15 June 2016	
		Reviewed the draft Terms of Reference for the future working group on MDG/SDG in ASEAN.	Jakarta, Indonesia	7 – 15 June 2016	
OF02	Supported ASEANstats to reconvene the ASEAN Advisory Group on System National Accounts	Facilitated the organisation of AAGSNA regional workshop	Jakarta, Indonesia	19 – 20 April 2016	
OF03	General training in specific statistical methodology	Planned during 2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester 2016			Agreed with Malaysian Statistical Institute to conduct 2 training courses on seasonal adjustment and survey methods during 24 – 28 October 2016
OF04	Support to “access to higher formal education in statistics for CLMV statisticians”	Continued to support the 8 CLMV students undertaking their masters in Statistic at the UP Diliman in Manila	Manila, Philippines	January – June 2016	Increased students daily meal allowances from PHP 600 to PHP 800
		Team Leader, IB expert and ASEANstats Senior Officer Mission to Manila to meet and discuss issues faced by the CLMV scholars	Manila, Philippines	22 – 23 February 2016	Paid the fees for the TOEFL exam for 6 students  Agreed to cover the financial costs to support the research activity.

### 2.6.1 Activities implemented

The activities implemented during the reporting period are the following:

#### OF 01: Support in the preparation of a 2015 ASEAN report on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and in the development of ASEAN post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators, June 2016 in Jakarta, Indonesia

##### a. Objectives:

The activity aimed to:

- Support and facilitate a Workshop on MDG/SDG
- Prepare work plan for publication of MDG/SDG Statistical report
- Review the draft Terms of Reference for future working group on MDG/SDG in ASEAN.

In order to achieve these main goals, the mission more specifically aimed to build capacities and ensure dissemination through technical work and on the job training on the program of reporting on the MDGs and planning for the SDG process. This gave a clear focus for the mission and the follow up work, to build capacity for and support the production of the ASEANstats report: ASEAN MDG/SDG 2015 Statistical Report and the first ASEAN SDG Statistical Report.

##### b. Achieved results and main conclusions:

During the mission of the COMPASS Expert, a first ASEAN Millennium Development Goals (MDG) / Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Indicators workshop was held in ASEAN Secretariat Jakarta on 9 – 10 June 2016. This workshop aimed at building capacity of the ASEAN Member States (AMS) and the ASEAN Secretariat staff both for the MDG and the SDG. The first focus addressed by the COMPASS expert was on how to report on the final achievements for the MDGs from 1990 to 2015 at the end of the period by producing tables, graphs and presentation on the achievement in a statistical report. The second focus was on how to develop the national systems for reporting on SDGs and to develop a set of regional priority SDG indicators for future monitoring and documentation. The workshop agreed on plans for the production of an ASEAN MDG/SDG 2015 Statistical Report in early 2017.

In order to ensure that the momentum for the MDG/SDG process is retained both at the regional and national level, it was recommended to establish a permanent organizational set up and support comprising a combination of workshops and expert assistance at the regional level. The next workshop to finalise the draft statistical report is tentatively scheduled in February 2017.

The draft TOR of the WGMDG/SDGI will be presented at the meeting of the SCPC in August 2016 for their consideration, prior to seeking the official endorsement by ACSS Committee in its upcoming 6th Session in Vientiane, scheduled in November 2016.

#### OF 02: Supported ASEANstats to revive the ASEAN Advisory Group on System National Accounts, 19 – 20 April 2016 in Jakarta, Indonesia

##### a. Objectives:

AAGSNA was created to:

- Provide technical guidance and advice in the implementation of 2008 SNA, including the resolution of conceptual, methodological and implementation issues;

- Recommend measures towards achieving the milestones, targets, and quality standards in the implementation of 2008 SNA;
- Ensure that the ASEAN programme on 2008 SNA is in line with related international programmes, standards, and reference manuals;
- Promote integration of 2008 SNA implementation strategies in relevant regional and national strategies for the development of statistics, and/or related national development programs; and
- Advocate for the development and harmonisation of relevant basic economic statistics in support of the implementation of 2008 SNA.

b. Achieved results and main conclusions:

The COMPASS project supported the 2nd Workshop of ASEAN Advisory Group on the System National Accounts (AAGSNA) which was held in Jakarta during 19-20 April 2016. The AAGSNA falls under the purview of the ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS) Committee and is composed of selected experts having extensive knowledge, experience and expertise on National Accounts from all 10 ASEAN Member States.

During the workshop, Nine (9) participating AMS (Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam) gave presentations on the current status of the 2008 SNA implementation, including major issues and challenges, as well as recommendations to ASEANstats.

TORs for AAGSNA and SNA Compilers Forum were revised from the previous documents (outcomes of the 1st SNA Forum Workshop in Manila in 2008) and ASEANstats presented the recommendations from the discussion on reviewing draft ToRs. The TORs and recommendations of the 2nd Workshop on AAGSNA will be communicated to the next Sub Committee on Planning and Coordination (SCPC) Meeting (August 2016) for their consideration, prior to seeking the official endorsement by ACSS Committee in its upcoming 6th Session in Vientiane, scheduled in November 2016.

The workshop also agreed that the AMSs complete the questionnaire on “Conceptual Compliance to the 2008 SNA”, and review the template on “Scope of Implementation of 2008 SNA – Data Set” (in excel file) for submission to ASEANstats in one month from the end of this workshop. The completed questionnaire and template from AMS will further be assessed by BPS-Statistics Indonesia and ASEANstats to decide the achievement of the country in the implementation of 2008 SNA (marked by Milestones stages).

ASEANstats also presented the ASEAN-Help-ASEAN mechanism which is envisioned as a regular program for all AMS, in which AMS with more advanced progress in the 2008 SNA implementation to assist other AMS with inadequate institutional and technical capacity building in changing over to the 2008 SNA adoption.

Besides, participants agreed for the need for Concept Papers on ASEAN SNA Catch-Up Programme, including the gap assessment, activities related to ASEAN-Help-ASEAN mechanism, and need for TA and financial supports. ASEANstats will draft the concept paper in consultation with AMS Focal Points on SNA.

The next 3rd workshop on AAGSNA is scheduled on Q1 2017 (tentative).

### OF 03: General training in specific statistical methodology

The plan as agreed with Malaysian Statistical Institute is to conduct 2 training courses in seasonal adjustment and survey methods during 24 – 28 October 2016

**OF 04: Support to access to higher formal education in statistics for CLMV statisticians****a. Objectives**

The facility “Support to access to higher formal education” aims for CLMV national statistical systems to have improved their capacity as a consequence of increased access to higher formal education in statistics for staff members already working in the key statistical areas, by funding 8 CLMV scholars to enrol in a two-year master programme in statistics at the University of Philippines. In order to ensure students successfully pass their exams, Philippines Statistical Authority may support them through ASEAN-Help-ASEAN mechanism.

In this regard, this activity has for main objectives to:

- Provide advice, guidance and support to the 8 students.
- Liaise with the UP Diliman professors to assess the progress being made by the 8 scholars.
- Liaise with the Philippines Statistical Authority to initiate the ASEAN-Help-ASEAN activities.
- To provide regular update to the ACSS, ASEANstats on the students’ progress and difficulties faced.

**b. Achieved results and main conclusion**

All eight candidates passed successfully their first academic year at the University of Dilliman, Manila, Philippines. Nevertheless, there still remains a concern with regard to level of English proficiency and Statistics background of the selected students. Even though, preparatory courses in English have been provided to the students prior to the commencement of their Master’s Degree, they are still finding difficulties in following the courses. In order improve their level of English they have been asked to sit the TOFEL English test.

IB Expert coordinated with the University of the Philippines School of Statistics (UPSS) on the progress of the CLMV scholars. There have been some issues raised by the students in Manila. The CLMV scholars reported that they were finding the second semester more difficult than the first semester, particularly the course on official statistics, which is surprising since official statistics are related to their work in the NSOs. The UPSS said this was to be expected since overall, the second semester courses were more difficult. However, according to the UPSS, the scholars should find the second year courses easier. One scholar reported that he got hospitalized and incurred medical expenses but has not filed for insurance claim. The IB Expert advised him to communicate directly with the insurance company or seek the assistance of the COMPASS Project staff. During the mission, the COMPASS Team Leader explained that the insurance policy provisions were actually quite clear on how to file for claims. Some scholars were charged exit visa fees when they left the Philippines. The UPSS promised to consult their international affairs office on the matter.

The scholars should start the second and final year at the University of Philippines in early August. The UPSS has requested COMPASS to provide financial support for the CLMV scholars to participate to two statistics seminars being held in the Philippines. Further information on the seminars should be provided by the university for this to be submitted to the PSC.

**2.6.2 OF Deliverables:**

- Combined mission report of the Team Leader to Manila (Cascading Forum and meeting CLMV scholars)
- Report/highlights of AAGSNA workshop
- Report/highlights on MDG/SDG workshop
- Mission report of expert on MDG/SDG

- First Year exam results of the 8 CLMV scholars.

### 2.6.3 Challenges:

Students were struggling with the English language and need further support. Students were finding difficulty in following the theoretical courses in Statistics

### 2.6.4 Considerations for implementation of the work programme:

It is important to monitor the result of the students on regular basis.

University has requested financial support from COMPASS for the students to participate in statistical conferences being held in Philippines during the 2nd year.

### 2.6.5 Activities planned

- Continued support and monitoring of the CLMV scholars during their second year in Manila;
- Participation of CLMV scholars in 13<sup>th</sup> national statistical conferences being held in Manila in October 2016;
- Training course on seasonal adjustments in Kuala Lumpur [24-28 October 2016]
- Training course on survey methodology in Kuala Lumpur [24-28 October 2016]
- TA Mission on MDG and SDG in November 2016.

## 3. Communication and Visibility

During the first semester 2016, COMPASS has produced the Fifth Quarterly Update and Sixth Quarterly Update as their three-month publication. The quarterly updates aim at being disseminated to all partners as the project newsletter. The project has also contributed systematically to the EU Delegation newsletter with articles and photos on its activities.

Besides, the project website is updated regularly with articles on COMPASS activities in order to make it lively and attract regular visitors. Following the dissemination of press releases by partners regarding COMPASS support and scope of action, it is also planned to upload all press releases on the website and encourage beneficiary administration to communicate with national media on the project support.

In coordination with ASEC and EUD, it is also planned that the COMPASS office is refurbished in view of improving the visibility of the project for ASEC visitors.

## 4. Use of Project Resources Allocated under AWP2

The following budget resources have been used for this second interim period (1st January – 30th June 2016):

- 170 working days of Key Experts;
- 267 working days of Senior STE;
- 30 working days of Junior STE;

Approximately € 222,117.35 of incidental expenditure (to be submitted to expenditure verification).

As mentioned during the 3rd PSC meeting, the second COMPASS annual work programme, has been stepping up in terms of planned budget in comparison with the previous year, in order to respond to growing needs for harmonised statistics within the region. In spite of implementation issues described in the last part of the report, the project has deployed a total of 455 expertise days for the first semester 2016, compared to 417 expertise days for the first semester 2015 which is quite encouraging.

These expertise days were mostly dedicated to technical assistance under Component A “Support to the Implementation of the ACSS Committee Work Plan” and project management. Further support is planned under Component B “Strengthening the Capacity of the AIMD to monitor the process and results of regional integration” during the second semester in coordination with AIMD.

Nevertheless, in spite of efforts made by all partners to stick to planned activities agreed at the beginning of the year, the implementation rate remains low in comparison to what was planned under AWP2. Though it was initially acknowledged that this annual work programme was very ambitious, still only 32% of planned expertise days have been implemented between January and June 2016, as follows:

- 47% of working days of Key Experts implemented;
- 29% of working days of Senior STE implemented;
- 23% of working days of Junior STE implemented.

Likewise, 27% of budgeted incidentals have been used so far under AWP2.

**Table 7. Comparison between estimated working days under AWP 2 and actual consumption per component from January to June 2016**

	KE 1		KE 2		SSTE		JSTE		Incidentals *	
	Est	Act	Est	Act	Est	Act	Est	Act	Est	Act
<b>Component A</b>										
Sub component A1			7		251	59			€ 161,000.00	€ 61,027.58
Sub component A2			52	18	256	71.5	110	30	€ 300,000.00	€ 62,609.86
Sub component A3			55	16.5	250	73	20		€ 299,000.00	€ 84,332.51
<b>Component B</b>					64				€ 34,000.00	
<b>PM</b>	220	117	25	18.5	105	63.5			€ 39,000.00	€ 14,147.40
<b>Total</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>926</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>€ 833,000.00</b>	<b>€ 222,117.35</b>

\* Indicative figure

Table 8. Comparison between estimated working days under AWP 2 and actual consumption per field from January to June 2016

	KE 1		KE 2		SSTE		JSTE		Incidentals *	
	Est	Act	Est	Act	Est	Act	Est	Act	Est	Act
<b>Institutional Building</b>					199	37			€ 138,000.00	€ 41,123.65
<b>Trade in Goods</b>			114	34.5	50	16			€ 110,000.00	€ 15,279.33
<b>Trade in Services</b>					137	39			€ 84,000.00	€ 24,227.37
<b>Foreign Direct Investment</b>					152	49.5	20		€ 158,000.00	€ 22,398.89
<b>Other Fields</b>					85	16			€ 200,000.00	€ 91,588.89
<b>IT and Dissemination</b>					136	46	110	30	€ 72,000.00	€ 13,351.83
<b>Integration Monitoring</b>					62				€ 32,000.00	
<b>Project Management</b>	220	117	25	18.5	105	63.5			€ 39,000.00	€ 14,147.40
<b>Total</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>926</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>€ 833,000.00</b>	<b>€ 222,117.35</b>

\* Indicative figure



## 5. Implementation issues

During the reporting period, the project received very good feedback regarding all the activities implemented. Press releases have been issued following project support in organising technical assistance missions and workshops. Feedback on mission reports remains very positive by both experts and beneficiary administrations. COMPASS also carried out regular evaluation of project events by participants in order to monitor the quality of its support. Evaluation of events has so far always been very good.

Nevertheless, although the project does not face any technical problems in the implementation of the activities, it struggles to stick to the programme schedule as defined in the AWP2. The implementation pace is longer than initially expected and several technical assistance missions had to be postponed.

In this regard, there are several lessons to be learned from the implementation of the first six months of 2016 as follows:

### 1. Replacement of the COMPASS Team Leader.

One of the main issues for the project implementation during the reporting period has been the departure of the project Team Leader who should be replaced by early September. In order to prevent this issue from impacting too much on the implementation of the planned activities and in coordination with the ASEAN Secretariat, some coping mechanisms have been put in place by the project team, with notably the mobilisation of short-term expertise on project management. This has enabled to maintain the missions and events planned with partners in spite of the internal difficulties. The role and responsibility of the new Team Leader of COMPASS in providing leadership and management of the project as well as in ensuring effective work relations and partnership between the ASEAN Secretariat and the EU-ASEAN COMPASS Project Management will be fundamental for the good implementation of the project.

### 2. Absorption capacity

The Project faced difficulties in the implementation of planned activities due to the low absorption capacity of some beneficiary institutions, especially in the less advanced countries. The Project activities are in addition to their regular activities. Thus, officers sometimes face difficulties in making themselves available for COMPASS experts' missions, providing the necessary information and completing their agreed tasks between the missions of the COMPASS Experts. The additional workload generated by the COMPASS Project is difficult to manage in the departments with limited staff.

### 3. Adaptation to the administrative environments

To ensure a high level of ownership by the beneficiaries, the project has to use the communication channels and protocol, which are already in place. These procedures may take longer than expected which results in delaying the organisation of activities.

A Programme national coordinator has been nominated in each AMS as focal point to facilitate communication between the Project and the country. Nevertheless, coordination in CLMV at national level remains a challenge. The communication with the national partners is still done at regional level.

#### 4. Organising the project management

The administrative procedures used to get the approval of the Terms of reference and the COMPASS STE are quite time consuming. The mobilisation of the short-term experts has to follow a two-step process:

- definition of the terms of reference and profile of the expert and their approval by the ASEAN Secretariat and the EU Delegation (EUD) in Jakarta;
- submission of the CV of the expert for approval by the ASEAN Secretariat and the EUD.

This process takes longer than initially envisaged and is time consuming for the project team. On certain occasions the project is unable to deploy quickly the short-term experts. The description of the terms of reference of the key experts as part of the AWP2 and the use of the same team of experts would enable to reduce the time needed to start the activities in each field.

#### 5. Low implementation rate in some of the COMPASS project fields in CLM countries.

With regard to the involvement of the beneficiary countries, COMPASS Project has prioritised its support to the CLM countries, especially for the activities on IMTS, FDIS and SITS. However, there are remaining challenges in the implementation of the AWP2; such as the low absorption capacity of the CLM countries, lack of English proficiency; and poor coordination between and among the various institutions in the CLMV countries.

As an example it has not been possible to carry out any technical assistance mission on FDIS or SITS to Lao PDR so far because of the difficulty to get commitment by the national counterparts in implementing the planned activities. Nevertheless, the country took part in the WG Meetings, Regional workshops and CLMV workshop on SITS, and FDIS. Hopefully, the situation should improve for SITS on the second semester 2016. FDIS support in the country may have to be postponed to 2018.

Lack of human resources in some AMSs is still an issue. This sometimes creates delays in the data transmission process and possible problems in the future for the sustainability of the project outcomes.

Several missions had to be postponed due to other donor funded projects ongoing in parallel (AANZFTA in the field of SITS and IMF in the field of FDIS) with COMPASS.

#### 6. Multiple donor support in the field of SITS

On the SITS activities, it remains a challenge to meet the planned objectives due to the ongoing overlap with other donor projects in the AMS and the lack of resource to absorb high levels of donor support to CLMV in particular. The ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area SITS project continues to impact on the capacity to absorb COMPASS technical assistance in Cambodia and Lao PDR in particular. However, the first CLMV Workshop in June 2016 was used to clarify CLMV priorities for COMPASS support, with mission dates and priorities agreed for the second half of 2016 and first half of 2017. This will help deliver technical assistance to CLMV and will be repeated in 2017.

##### Major concerns for the FDIS sector in CLMV countries

The common concerns that worry CLMV in the FDIS sector are:

- funding and resources (financial in some countries, but also human);
- interest and commitment from management, enterprises and users;
- understanding by users and respondents of the concepts underpinning FDIS;

- cooperation between all institutions with something to offer for FDIS.

#### 7. Lack of coordination between the institutions in some of the countries.

National Statistical Office is the only representative at the PSC. COMPASS works closely with other national institutions such as Customs, Central Banks and Ministries of Commerce. The co-ordination in the countries must be ensured by the PSC member / COMPASS national co-ordinator. The 5<sup>th</sup> Session of the ACSS Committee has welcomed the participation of representatives from other relevant statistical agencies in the open session of the ACSS Committee, beginning in 2016.

#### 8. Delivery of ITD equipment

The ITD tender has been published and a company has been selected by the selection committee comprising of the EUD, ASEAN Secretariat and the COMPASS ITD expert. The IT equipment will be provided by an international supplier; this would need Customs clearance to be obtained. The relevant national beneficiaries must ensure that the appropriate paper provided to the supplies in order to be exempted from Customs duties.

#### 9. Promoting ASEAN-Help-ASEAN mechanism

On the programme of ASEAN-Help-ASEAN, it was agreed to postpone the IMTS study visit schedule for Malaysia under AWP 1 to AWP2. This postponement was requested by Malaysia due to the heavy workload as Chair of the 5th Session ACSS in November. Meanwhile, Indonesia agreed to host a study visit in 2016. However further support is needed from the more developed countries to assist the least developed countries such as Lao PDR, Cambodia and Myanmar.

#### 10. Formal Higher Education

On Formal Higher Education, eight candidates are studying at the University of Diliman School of Statistics (UPSS), Manila, Philippines. There still remains a concern with regard to level of English proficiency and Statistics background of the selected students. Even though, preparatory courses in English have been provided to the students prior to the commencement of their Master's Degree, they are still finding difficulties in following the courses. In order improve their level of English they have been asked to sit the TOFEL English test.

There have been some issues raised by the students in Manila:

- The CLMV scholars reported that they were finding the second semester more difficult than the first semester, particularly the course on official statistics, which is surprising since official statistics are related to their work in the NSOs. The UPSS said this was to be expected since overall, the second semester courses were more difficult. However, according to the UPSS, the scholars should find the second year courses easier.
- Some scholars were charged exit visa fees when they left the Philippines. The UPSS promised to consult their international affairs office on the matter.
- The UPSS have requested COMPASS to provide financial support for the CLMV scholars to participate to two statistics seminars being held in the Philippines.

## 6. Considerations

In conclusion, the project would like to thank all its ASEAN partners for their good cooperation and support for the development of ASEAN Community Statistical System. Good achievements have been made since the project was first launched in 2014. With the implementation of the AEC Blueprint 2025, the EU-ASEAN COMPASS the project is becoming even more crucial to enhance effective statistical systems at both regional and national levels that are necessary to support a robust monitoring and evaluation framework.

In this regard, it is important that all project stakeholders continue their efforts to facilitate effective and timely implementation of the project. To keep improving the support provided by the COMPASS project, the following considerations should be taken into account:

- Ensure the budget is available at National for the participation to official ASEAN Meetings. EU Delegation has agreed that CLMV countries participation to official meetings can be funded when organised back to back with COMPASS events;
- Participants to regional and sub-regional (CLMV) workshops should as far as possible be decision makers in each of the COMPASS supported statistical fields;
- All AMS must be aware that participants to COMPASS meetings should not be limited to Statistical Offices but should involve other relevant institutions (Customs, Central Bank, etc.);
- On narrowing the development gap, a regional training strategy should be developed with special attention to the needs of CLMV.
- Many new requests have been submitted by beneficiary institutions for further support from the COMPASS project which do not always fall under activities planned in AWP2. Thus, these requests may need to be discussed during the fourth PSC meeting in order to update the project annual work programme if necessary.

## Annex 1. List of implemented TA missions and Workshops

Table 11. List of COMPASS Technical Assistance Missions from January to June 2016

No	Field	Title	Country	Dates
1	IB	Mission to Manila in preparation for the echoing and cascading forum to be held on 22 February 2016	Philippines	15-22 Jan 2016
2	IB	IB Mission of local IB expert to support echoing and cascading WS in Myanmar	Myanmar	28 – 30 Apr 2016
3	IB	IB Mission of local IB expert to support echoing and cascading WS in Myanmar	Myanmar	9 – 13 May 2016
4	IB	IB Mission to support echoing and cascading in Myanmar	Myanmar	11 – 13 May 2016
5	IB	IB Mission to support the ACSS objectives	Indonesia	16 – 20 May 2016
6	IMTS	TA to ASEANstats (definition of the Work plan for 2016)	Indonesia	19-29 Jan 2016
7	IMTS	TA of 2 experts to ASEANstats (development/dissemination of trade indices application)	Indonesia	29 Feb – 11 Mar 2016
9	IMTS	TA to Lao PDR	Lao PDR	21 – 29 Apr 2016
10	SITS	SITS mission of 2 experts to Vietnam	Vietnam	23 – 31 May 2016
11	SITS	SITS Mission to ASEC on SITS quality assessment in ASEC	Indonesia	6 – 10 Jun 2016
12	FDIS	FDIS Mission to Cambodia	Cambodia	2 – 27 Mar 2016
13	FDIS	FDIS Mission to Jakarta to support the meeting of the Working Group	Indonesia	16 – 20 May 2016
14	FDIS	FDIS Mission to Vietnam	Vietnam	23 – 27 May 2016
15	ITD	ITD Mission to support the ASEAN Secretariat	Indonesia	25 Jan – 18 Feb 2016
16	ITD	ITD Mission to update the data transmission tool	Indonesia	1 Feb – 31 May 2016
17	ITD	ITD Mission to support data processing in Lao PDR	Lao PDR	25- 29 Apr 2016
18	ITD	ITD Mission to support the ASEAN Secretariat	Indonesia	2 – 20 May 2016
19	OF	TA Mission on MDG and SDG	Philippines	7-17 June 2016
20	OF	Regular monitoring of CLMV Students at University of Philippines by COMPASS expert	Philippines	Continuous
21	PM	Mission of Key Expert 2 on the IB study visit on Dissemination Standards and Practices	Netherlands and	23-27 May 2016

			Norway	
22	PM	Planning mission to Lao for AWP2 Activities	Lao PDR	18-20 Feb. 2016
23	PM	Project Management Mission to Manilla to monitor progress on higher formal education and participate to the echoing and cascading forum	Philippines	20-22 Feb. 2016
24	PM	Project Management TA mission to ASEC	Indonesia	29 March – 8 April 2016
25	PM	Project Management TA mission to Myanmar on implementation of AWP2	Myanmar	27-30 April 2016
26	PM	Project Management TA mission to Myanmar on implementation of AWP2 Project Management TA mission to ASEC	Indonesia	26 April – 4 May 2016
27	PM	Project Management TA mission to Myanmar on implementation of AWP2	Myanmar	12-13 May 2016
28	PM	Project Management TA mission to ASEC	Indonesia	27 June – 1 July 2016

**Table 12. List of COMPASS Events from January to June 2016**

No	Field	Type	Title	Country	Dates	No. of participants
1	IB	WS-R	Workshop on Broad Framework for the Sustainable Development of ASEAN Statistics	Indonesia	28-29 Jan 2016	28
2	IB	WS-N	Echoing and Cascading forum on Institutional Building (IB) in the Philippines	Philippines	22 Feb 2016	Non PSA = 52 PSA = 27
3	IB	WS-N	Echoing and Cascading forum on Institutional Building in Myanmar	Myanmar	13 May 2016	68
4	IB	PIM	Participation to 9th meeting of "UN statistical commission meeting" including side event "9th meeting of the partnership for statistic development in Asia Pacific".	US	8 – 11 Mar 2016	LSB-funded
5	IB	SV	Study Visit on Dissemination Standards and Practices	Netherlands & Norway	23 – 27 May 2016	12
6	IMTS	WS- CLMV	CLMV Workshop on International Merchandise Trade in Statistics (IMTS)	Lao PDR	19 – 20 Apr 2016	19
6	SITS	WS CLMV	Statistics on International Trade in Services (SITS)	Vietnam	1 Jun 2016	20
7	SITS	WS-R	Regional workshop on Statistics on International Trade in Services (SITS)	Vietnam	2 – 3 Jun 2016	20
8	FDIS	WS CLMV	CLMV FDIS Workshop	Indonesia	16 – 17 May 2016	18
9	OF	WS-R	Regional Workshop of Advisory Group on System of National Accounts	Indonesia	19-20 April 2016	19
10	OF	WS-R	Focal Points Workshop on the ASEAN Sustainable Development Goals	Indonesia	9-10 June 2016	18
11	PM	PSC	3 <sup>rd</sup> COMPASS Project Steering Committee (PSC3)	Indonesia	28 Jan. 2016	28

**Annex 2a. COMPASS event schedule for 2ns Semester 2016**



## **Annex 2b. COMPASS activity schedule for 2nd Semester 2016**

## **Annex 3: Mission reports**

REPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON CD OR UPON REQUEST