



EU-ASEAN COMPASS

HALF-YEARLY UPDATE 01/2015

This half-yearly update covers the the first six months of 2015 (15th January – 30th June) of implementation of the Technical Cooperation for the EU-ASEAN Capacity Building Project for Monitoring Integration Progress and Statistics (COMPASS). It aims to provide a brief overview of past and future activities of the project. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of Expertise France Consortium and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.

Activities implemented during the first half year 2015

Technical assistance missions:

- Information Technology Dissemination Mission to assist the IT procurement dossier for eligible CLMV Countries, ASEANstats and AIMO, by P. Corman and R. Paul, Myanmar, Viet Nam and Cambodia, 23 February-6 March 2015.
- Providing assistance to ASEANstats on IMTS data production and dissemination and to Cambodia Customs and National Statistics Institute, by H. Tyrman and R. Paul, Cambodia, 2-6 March 2015.
- Technical assistance for the development of the “Snapshot” tool to monitor the implementation of ASEAN Code of Practices (CoP) and participation to the Joint Working Group on Data Sharing, Analysis and Dissemination and Sub-Committee Planning and Coordination Meeting for communication strategy and developing statistics glossary for laymen, by T. Paccoud, Jakarta, 10-18 March 2015.
- Technical assistance and facilitation of a national training workshop in Indonesia, by F. Renard, Jakarta, 16-20 March 2015.
- Support to the improvement of the ACSS process, support to regional strategic planning and preparation of a concept paper on providing access to higher education in Statistics for CLMV Mission, by R. Virola, Jakarta, 16-27 March 2015.
- Sub-project Natural Resource-based PIS Monitoring and Indicators Study, Jakarta, September 2014 - April 2015.
- Information Technology and Dissemination Support to ASEANstats and CLMV countries in Jakarta, by P. Corman, 6 April – 8 May 2015.
- Training on International Merchandise Trade Statistics for Viet Nam Customs in Hanoi, by R. Paul, 4-8 May 2015.
- Training on Foreign Direct Investment Statistics (FDIS) for Directorate of Investment and Company Administration in Yangon, by C. Spanneut, 18-29 May 2015.
- Training on Eurotrace for General Department of Customs and Excise in Phnom Penh, by C. Alberti, 1-12 June 2015.
- Technical Assistance on IMTS for General Department of Customs and Excise in Phnom Penh, by H. Tyrman, 8-12 June 2015.
- Technical Assistance/Training on Statistics of International Trade in Services for Ministry of Commerce in Bangkok, by F. Renard, 8-12 June 2015.
- Technical Assistance/ Training on FDIS for National Bank of Cambodia in Phnom Penh, by C. Richards, 15-26 June 2015.
- Facilitating access to higher education for statisticians from Cambodia, Lao P.D.R., Myanmar and Vietnam (CLMV), by Dr. Virola, June 2015.
- Study on Natural Resource-based Priority Integration Sectors Monitoring and Indicators, April - June 2015.

Workshops & Seminar

- CLMV Regional Workshop on International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS), Siem Reap, Cambodia, 10-12 March 2015.
- Workshop on Statistics of International Trade in Services (SITS), Jakarta, Indonesia, 18 March 2015.
- The International Seminar on Trade in Goods and Services Statistics, Manila, Philippines, 14-16 April 2015.
- ASEAN Regional Workshop on International Merchandise Trade Statistics, Manila, 16 April 2015
- Workshop on the use of REXDBS application for ASEANstats, 21-31 July 2015.
- 2nd Project Steering Committee (PSC) and Snapshot Tool Workshop in Jakarta, 28-29 July 2015.

Institutional Building

Development of a Snapshot Tool to Enhance Quality Monitoring, Jakarta, 10-18 March 2015

During the workshop on Advancing Quality Monitoring, Training and Statistical Higher Education Programme for ASEAN held on 13 January 2015, the representative from ACSS-SCPC Members endorsed the development of a snapshot tool for the monitoring of the implementation of the ASEAN Code of Practices (CoP) - section A. COMPASS proposed the Institutional Building expert, Mr. Thierry Paccoud, to develop the snapshot tool. During the 9th WDGSA/8th SCPC on 17-18 March 2015, Mr. Paccoud presented his initial work in the development of snapshot tool for self-assessment and monitoring of the Code of Practice. The table of indicators has been circulated amongst the ASEAN Member States for them to submit their feedback to the expert on the proposed indicators.

A two days training session will take place end of July to present the new tool and ensure its mastering by the AMS. The session will focus on the table concerning Section A by priority but other tables will also be dealt with. After the training, simultaneous tests will be carried out by the AMS for which the results will be presented at the November ACSS meeting.

Facilitating access to higher education for statisticians from Cambodia, Lao P.D.R., Myanmar and Vietnam (CLMV), Manila, June 2015

The COMPASS IB expert prepared a concept paper on Access to Higher Education in Statistics for CLMV including the selection process for students and the university). Eight students from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam have been selected to attend the University of the Philippines Diliman, to pursue a Master's Degree in Statistics, starting 3 August 2015.

2nd Project Steering Committee (PSC) and Snapshot Tool Workshop, Jakarta, 28-29 July 2015

The 2nd PSC meeting was held in Jakarta on 28 July 2015 to present the progress made by COMPASS during the first six-month implementation of the Annual Work Plan 1 and other upcoming activities. A workshop on the "Snapshot tool" for monitoring Part A: Institutional Environment of the ACSS Code of Practice was held during 28-29 July 2015 back-to-back with the 2nd PSC meeting.

International Merchandise Trade Statistics

IMTS Sub-regional Workshop for Experts from CLMV Customs and National Statistical Officers, Siem Reap, Cambodia, 10-12 March 2015

The EU-ASEAN COMPASS project facilitated the first subregional workshop on International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS). This group created in the framework of the COMPASS programme will meet once a year and includes representatives of Customs and Statistical Authorities from CLMV countries (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Vietnam), as well as ASEANstats and COMPASS experts. The main objectives of the meeting were:

- To review the status and gaps faced by CLMV countries on the various steps of the collection, validation and dissemination process of IMTS data,
- To discuss issues linked to the harmonisation process and data quality, focusing on the application of international standards in the field of IMTS,
- To discuss the specific issue of timely transmission of harmonised data to ASEANstats,
- To help define priority actions to be supported by the COMPASS programme, at national and sub-regional level, for each of the main phases of the IMTS data production process.

Thanks to the active participation of the participants, most of the objectives of the seminar were achieved; in particular a detailed work programme has been established in order to improve the availability and the quality of international merchandise trade statistics.

ASEAN Regional Workshop on International Merchandise Trade Statistics, Manila, 16 April 2015

The workshop was supported by COMPASS. The main objective was to present issues faced by ASEANstats when processing files provided by AMS, and to assess the quality of data taking in account the new international recommendations on IMTS. A new dissemination plan for IMTS data has been presented by ASEANstats. A formal agreement on this plan is expected during the next IMTS Working Group to be held in October 2015.

IMTS Training for Viet Nam Customs, Hanoi, 4-8 May 2015

The EU-ASEAN COMPASS project Team Leader undertook a technical assistance mission to Viet Nam during 4-8 May 2015. He visited the General Department of Viet Nam Customs in Hanoi to assist in improving the data validation process of the IMTS. The COMPASS expert carried out training in data quality management for designated officers responsible for IMTS data compilation at Viet Nam Customs. The specific objective of the activity was to support Viet Nam Customs in developing new rules for data checking and quality control of the IMTS. COMPASS expert also conducted practical training sessions for 6 Vietnam Customs officers.

Training on Eurotrace for General Department of Customs and Excise, Phnom Penh, 1-5 June 2015

The training on Eurotrace at the General Department of Customs and Excise in Cambodia was held by IMTS expert Christine Alberti, in Phnom Penh during 1-5 June 2015. The training focused on introducing the basic concepts on the Eurotrace software in the compilation and validation of trade statistics.

The training was complemented by a technical assistance mission to further configure the Cambodian Eurotrace system in meeting the requirements of the ASEAN IMTS data transmission protocol. This has enabled Cambodia's National Institute of Statistics to transmit monthly IMTS data at ASEAN Harmonized Tariff Nomenclature 8-digit level code to ASEANstats.

Technical Assistance Mission on IMTS for General Department of Customs and Excise, Phnom Penh, 8-12 June 2015

A second technical assistance mission supported by IMTS expert Henri Tyrman, was carried out in Cambodia from 8-12 June 2015. The IMTS key expert took into account the specific framework of Cambodia Customs Clearance System to define the scope of the IMTS statistics and to improve the relevance, quality, comparability and availability of IMTS data in Cambodia.

Statistics on International Trade in Services**SITS National Training Workshop, Jakarta, 16-18 March 2015**

On 16-18 March 2015, a workshop on SITS was organised by Bank Indonesia and facilitated by COMPASS SITS Expert, Mr. François Renard, in Jakarta. The three-day workshop provided the participants with understanding on the data availability and the ability to utilize these data to support policy making and international trade negotiation, particularly on the international trade in services sector. The workshop gathered both data compiling institutions, such as Central Bank and National Statistics Office, and data users. Participants came from 10 Government Institutions, namely Bank Indonesia Statistics Indonesia, Indonesia Financial Services Authority, Ministry of Trade, National Development Planning Agency, Ministry of Tourism, The Coordinating Ministry of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Transportation, Ministry of Public Work, Ministry of Industry, and representative from ASEAN stats.

International Seminar on Trade in Goods and Services Statistics, Manila, 14-16 April 2015

The workshop was held by COMPASS, in partnership with ASEAN Secretariat, Asian Development Bank Institute and Central Bank of Philippines, on 14-16 April 2015, in Manila.

It aimed to provide international and practical guidance in addressing the increasing globalization, outsourcing and interconnection of Asian countries through economic transactions crossing national borders in form of goods and services, financial instruments, investment, temporary and permanent labour migration, and technological information. The workshop especially focused on the processing of transactions on multinational activity related to trade in goods and services, particularly manufacturing services on physical inputs owned by others, maintenance and repair services, merchanting, transit trade, and re-exports.

Technical Assistance and Training on SITS for the Ministry of Commerce, Thailand, Bangkok, 8-12 June 2015

The national workshop of SITS in Bangkok was opened by Ms. Pimchanok Vankhorphorn, Deputy Director-General of Trade Policy and Strategy.

The workshop provided the participants with an understanding on the basic concepts and definitions relating to the compilation of international trade in services data based on the recommendations from the Manual on SITS 2010. Participants comprised the different Departments of the Ministry of Commerce involved in foreign trade.

Foreign Direct Investment Statistics

Training on Foreign Direct Investment Statistics for the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, Yangon, 18-29 May 2015

Together with a first technical assistance mission to Myanmar, Ms. Christine Spanneut, a COMPASS short-term FDIS expert in Foreign Direct Investment Statistics (FDIS), conducted training in the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) and provided technical assistance on FDIS in Yangon, from the 18 till 29 May 2015. Within the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, DICA is in charge of scrutinizing and monitoring investment projects of foreign and domestic enterprises. Thirty people, working in diverse DICA Divisions, attended the training. The training aimed at making DICA staff informed of the international standards on FDIS based on the concepts and definitions in the 6th edition of the IMF Balance of Payment and International Investment Position Manual as well as in the 4th edition of the OECD Benchmark Definition of Foreign Direct Investment. Possible ways to assist Myanmar's FDIS meet international standards were discussed during the last session.

Technical Assistance and Training for to the National Bank of Cambodia, Phnom Penh, 15-26 June 2015

In consultation with the Cambodian authorities FDIS expert, Mr. Christie Richards, conducted a Training of Trainers Mission in Phnom Penh from 15 to 26 June 2015 to assist in Cambodia's Foreign Direct Investment Survey to be conducted jointly by the National Bank of Cambodia and the National Institute of Statistics of the Ministry of Planning. The expert carried out additional tasks related to the Survey, such as review and pre-piloting of the survey questionnaire.

Integration Monitoring

Sub-project Natural Resource-based PIS Monitoring and Indicators Study, September 2014 - April 2015

The sub-project Natural Resource-based PIS Monitoring and Indicators Study aimed to assist AIMO to

- Identify the key trade preferences and facilitation measures in the services area to which the AMS have committed;
- Identify specific indicators that can be used to measure outcomes and impacts, including (as case studies) for one or two of the four services PIS for use as part of the 2015 ASEAN Integration Monitoring Report (AIMR); and
- Inform the development of enhanced integration monitoring tools and frameworks going forward.

The COMPASS Integration Monitoring Expert, David Martin, listed the key trade commitments made by the AMS in the services area and specific indicators that could be used to measure outcomes and impacts of these commitments, and used the indicators to quantitatively and qualitatively assess the outcomes and impacts (i.e. determine the regional value-added) of these commitments. Texts were produced as part of the 2015 AIMR, together with recommendations for AIMO (and other stakeholders) on enhancing their current integration monitoring tools and frameworks, complementary to the "compliance monitoring" work done as part of the AEC Scorecard.

Study on Natural Resource-based PIS Monitoring and Indicators, April - June 2015

The COMPASS Integration Monitoring Expert, David Martin, listed the key trade commitments made by the AMSs in the Services areas of the PIS and some quantitative and qualitative indicators to measure outcomes and impacts of these commitments. Texts were produced as part of the 2015 ASEAN Integration Report, together with recommendations in enhancing the current integration monitoring tools and frameworks, complementary to the "compliance monitoring" part of the ASEAN Economic Community Scorecard.

Information Technology and Dissemination

Needs assessment for CLMV, ASEANstats and AIMO IT Procurement, 23 February-6 March 2015

Further to the Workshop on Information Technology Procurement for the CLMV Countries on the 14th January 2015 in Jakarta presenting the tender procedure to CLMV representatives, the COMPASS Team Leader and the ITD Lead Expert visited Cambodia, Myanmar and Viet Nam in order to assess the Information and Technology needs for the compilation of statistics in the projects key statistical fields (IMTS, SITS and FDIS). After visiting the various institutions (National Statistical Office, Customs Department, Central Bank, etc.) responsible for compiling the key statistics, the ITD expert prepared detailed technical specifications (hardware and software) required by each of the beneficiary countries. A comprehensive list of equipment was then submitted to the EU delegation to start the procurement process.

ITD Support to ASEANstats and CLMV countries, 6 April – 8 May 2015

The ITD expert, Philippe Corman, undertook a mission to the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta during 6 April to 8 May 2015 to provide support to ASEANstats and AIMO in consolidating the data transmission system between ASEAN Member States (AMSs) and ASEANstats to the REXDBS production system, and in facilitating the IT procurement for ASEANstats, CLMV countries and AIMO.

Assistance was provided to ASEANstats in revising and updating the IMTS, SITS and FDIS templates and the production database accordingly. The ITD expert harmonized, validated and uploaded the 2012-2014 AMSs IMTS data onto the ASEAN Regional Exchange Database system.

Other Fields

Facilitating Access to Higher Education for CLMV Statisticians, 16-27 March 2015

From 16 to 27 March, the Expert, Mr. Romulo Virola prepared the concept paper on providing access to higher education in Statistics for CLMV to narrow the development Gap in ASEAN. COMPASS will support a two-year master programme for the scholar programme. The project has allocated €150,000 which will allow two scholars from each eligible CLMV countries to participate in this activity. The host educational institution is proposed to be the UP Institute of Statistics and the UP School of Statistics in the Philippine. The 2015-2016 School Year will start in August in the Philippine. Therefore, the process of selecting the candidate was started for the CLMV countries to submit the nomination of five candidates at the latest by 6 April 2015. In parallel, the COMPASS Scholarship Screening Panel (CSSP) will be assembled. The CSSP will deliberate to choose the candidate tentatively on 6 May 2015 and will announce its decision on the following week.

ASEAN-help-ASEAN: Attachment Officer, July 2015

In line with the recent turnover of staff in the ASEANstats and the increasing demand for International Merchandise Trade Statistics in monitoring and assessing the impact of regional integration measures on Trade in Goods, an Attachment Officer (AO) was recruited to support ASEANstats in improving the quality of IMTS data. The AO will provide support to ASEANstats in assessing the quality of IMTS data according to the IMTS 2010 framework as well as in compiling and analysing ASEAN IMTS. The AO is to provide technical assistance and training to new ASEANstats' staff in the implementation of the IMTS2010 data processing.

Upcoming Activities

- 27 July – 07 August 2015, Nay Pyi Taw IMTS/Eurotrace Technical Assistance
- 03 – 07 August 2015, Nay Pyi Taw IMTS Technical Assistance
- 10-14 August 2015, Hanoi, ITD Technical Assistance.
- 10-11 August 2015, Hanoi, Sub-regional Workshop for CLMV on FDIS.
- 12-13 August 2015, Hanoi, Regional Workshop on FDIS.
- 14 August 2015, Hanoi, Working Group on International Investment Statistics.
- 12-21 August 2015, Jakarta, ITD Technical Assistance.
- 17-21 August 2015, Hanoi, Technical Assistance Mission on FDIS.
- 7-11 September 2015, Hanoi, Technical Assistance on SITS.
- 14-15 September 2015, Jakarta, Sub- regional Workshop for CLMV on SITS.
- 16-19 September 2015, Jakarta, SITS Technical Assistance
- 8-9 October 2015, Working Group on International Merchandise Trade Statistics
- 3-5 November 2015, ASEAN Community Statistical System Meeting, Putrajaya, Malaysia.
- October 2015, Millennium Development Goals / Sustainable Development Goals Workshop
- December 2015, Nay Pyi Taw, Technical Assistance Mission on SITS.
- January 2016, 3rd Programme Steering Committee Meeting.