



JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT

The Fourteenth Session of the ASEAN Community Statistical System Committee (ACSS14) 26-28 November 2024, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR

1. The Fourteenth Session of the ASEAN Community Statistical System Committee (ACSS14), hosted by Lao Statistics Bureau, was held on 26 to 28 November 2024. The Session was chaired by Ms. Phonesaly Souksavath, Head of Lao Statistics Bureau, with Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin, Chief Statistician of Department of Statistics Malaysia as the Co-chairperson.
2. Since its establishment in 2011, the ACSS has always been committed to continue its efforts in providing relevant, timely and comparable ASEAN statistics in support of ASEAN integration monitoring and evidence-based policy and decision making. The ACSS has also been consistently strengthening its cooperation to enhance statistical capacities of ASEAN Member States (AMS) and the ASEAN Secretariat.
3. With the support of the Sub-Committee on Planning and Coordination (SCPC) and the technical working groups, ACSS has been continuously improving data provision in economic and social statistics as well as Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicators. Statistical data and products disseminated via the ASEAN Statistics (ASEANstats) website have also been continuously enhanced.
4. Despite achieving significant improvements at the national and regional levels, the ACSS needs to strengthen the collaborative efforts of AMS to face the existing challenges including statistical capacity gap among AMS and resource constraint. Improving inter-agencies coordination and exploring alternative data sources are also crucial to respond to emerging data needs.
5. Aligned with the overall theme of Lao PDR's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2024 of "Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience", and as part of our continuous commitment to further enhance regional statistical cooperation and respond proactively to emerging statistical requirements, we adopted the following theme for 2024 ACSS work programme:

"Strengthening Data Integration to Advance Regional Connectivity and Resilience"

Key Deliverables of the ACSS Work Programme 2024

6. In implementing our commitment to meet data requirements for supporting the monitoring of ASEAN integration, we continued our work programmes to provide relevant, timely and comparable statistics on SDG indicators, national accounts, foreign direct investment, international merchandise trade, and international trade in services, as well as other economic and social indicators.
7. As part of our efforts in enhancing data provision to the users for enriching their analysis, data on GDP by expenditure have been disseminated on the ASEANstats website. In addition,



the number of SDG indicators available on the website has increased as well.

8. We developed the Handbook of Mirror Analysis of ASEAN Trade Statistics as part of our efforts in improving the data quality of intra-ASEAN merchandise trade statistics.
9. We initiated the utilisation of Application Programming Interface (API) for the collection of the ASEAN Statistical Indicators Consolidated Template (ASI-CT) from AMS to ASEANstats. ASEANstats had completed the implementation with Singapore and is expanding the initiative to other AMS by considering their readiness.
10. We developed the draft ACSS Action Plan 2026-2030 along with its corresponding Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). The Action Plan was developed for ACSS to align with the recent development of ASEAN initiatives as well as the statistical development at regional and global level. The draft will incorporate any relevant updates and developments at regional and global level, including the endorsement and adoption of post-2025 Strategic Plans of ASEAN Economic Community, ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community and ASEAN Political and Security Community as well as updates to international statistical standards and guidelines, before being finalised in the following ACSS session.
11. We endorsed the Concept Note on the ACSS Virtual Academy and agreed to start developing the platform early next year. The virtual academy aims to enhance the sustainability, effectiveness, and efficiency of ACSS capacity building programs, while addressing knowledge management and knowledge transferability challenges.

ASEAN-Help-ASEAN Framework for ACSS Capacity Building

12. Since 2021, we have implemented 66 capacity-building activities under ASEAN-Help-ASEAN Framework (AHAF) through regional and sub-regional workshops, trainings and bilateral technical assistance covering all key ASEAN statistics. With more than 90% of the participants found the activities to be effective and useful in improving their skills and daily work, we are committed to continue and enhance the implementation of AHAF.
13. We understand that the current expertise and resources on some key topics are not available in the region. Therefore, we would expect technical and funding support from our development partners and international organisations.

Strengthening Data Integration to Advance Regional Connectivity and Resilience

14. In responding to the increasing demand on statistics and to the needs for ensuring effective process of data compilation, we commended AMS' strategies and responses to the emerging issues in regional development and AMS' efforts in strengthening data governance, integration, and stewardship:
 - i) Brunei Darussalam's 1) strengthen administrative data through advocacy programs including the recent National Statistics Day with the theme enhancing administrative data in building sound policy and reliable statistics; 2) the formation of the National Statistics Steering



Committee to address data gaps and statistical coordination; 3) develop an integrated statistical system that strengthens the data ecosystem and aligns with the National Digital Transformation plan; and 4) adopt international standards and classification at national level.

- ii) Cambodia's 1) Inter-Censal Population Survey 2024; 2) Agriculture Survey 2024; 3) Gender and Environment Survey 2024; 4) Final report of Socio-Economic Survey 2023; 5) Final Report of Agriculture Survey 2023; 6) Final report of Agriculture Census 2023; 7) update on questionnaire of Socio-Economic Survey 2025; 8) update on questionnaire of Labor Force survey 2025; 9) development of NSDS 2024-2028; 10) release of the rebased National Accounts Base Year 2014; and 11) upgrade on CAMSTAT Data Platform.
- iii) Indonesia's 1) statistical capacity building to government agencies, universities, and villages; 2) assessment on the quality of Sectoral Statistics to 625 government agencies indicated by the Statistics Development Index; 3) development of Economy-Wide Survey as one of the implementations of survey integration applied to all industries; and 4) Agriculture Economy Survey in conjunction with the Agriculture Census integrated with related administrative data.
- iv) Lao PDR's 1) strengthening of data governance and integration through the Statistics Law, decree on statistics classification, and a new 2026-2035 NSDS; 2) modernisation of data collection with tools like CAPI and GIS for 2025 population and housing census; 3) participation in regional, international and ASEAN exchange programs to enhance statistical capacity and capability; and 4) improvement of access to reliable statistical information for decision-makers and the public.
- v) Malaysia's 1) Agriculture Census 2024: Advancing agricultural data integration; 2) PADU Hub: A national socio-economic database with real-time household insights; 3) Economic Census 2023 and Myageing Dashboard: Enhancing data literacy and access; 4) DOSM's 75th Anniversary, officiated by the Prime Minister, celebrating credible data; and 5) new metrics – Basic Expenditure of Decent Living, Cost of Living Index, and GDP by Administrative District: Providing in-depth insights into Malaysian Cost of Living.
- vi) Myanmar's 1) provision of trainings to the staff of regional offices as well as line ministries to develop statistical capacity; 2) preparation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) progress report; 3) provision of policy inputs from the conduct of disaster surveys and child labor surveys; and 4) conduct of Population Census and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Survey in 2024 to provide demographic and household data and statistics for SME development.
- vii) The Philippines's 1) conduct of the 2024 Census of Population and Community-Based Monitoring System to generate local level statistics and localised SDGs; 2) release of the Provincial Product Accounts on the 2023 economic performance of all the provinces and highly urbanized cities of the country; 3) enactment of a national law institutionalizing the Philippine Ecosystem and Natural Capital Accounting System; and 4) approval of the Philippine Statistical Development Program 2023-2029.



- viii) Singapore's 1) data stewardship role as a national statistical office and as a trusted centre for individual and business data; 2) release of the Household Expenditure Survey 2023 and Singapore Standard Occupational Classification 2024; 3) amplification of data and data services to target user groups; 4) expansion of datasets in the Anonymised Microdata Access Programme to enable deep-dive studies by researchers; and 5) contribution at international statistical fora, and recognition for excellence in delivering digital services.
 - ix) Thailand's 1) adoption of the third Statistical System Master Plan (2023–2027), reinforcing its commitment to accurate and accessible data through inter-agency collaboration; 2) enhancement of the National Statistical Office Data Catalog and the Government Data Catalogs, supporting evidence-based decision-making and equitable access; and 3) advancement of the Digital Frame system, establishing an updated geographic information system for census and survey projects.
 - x) Viet Nam's 1) strengthening of coordination with line ministries in using administrative data to formulate a highly connected data ecosystem; 2) improvement of statistical methodology research, conduct of in-depth socio-economic analysis to support the national development plans, strategies and policy making on digital economy, e-commerce, and green growth, etc.; and 3) data and information provision to fulfill the needs of key areas of ASEAN statistics.
15. We are committed to advancing regional integration and cross-border data sharing among AMS focusing on strengthening of statistical capacities, improvement of data governance, and alignment with the current blueprint and post-2025 strategic plans of ASEAN. Through collaboration, we aim to support sustainable growth, enhance decision-making, and contribute to the monitoring of both the 2025 plan and post-2025 vision and strategic plans of ASEAN, and to foster a more connected, data-driven future for the region.

Appreciation for Development Partners and International Organisations

16. We appreciated the contribution of the Norway Statistics (SSB), UK Office for National Statistics (ONS), Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) and Enhanced Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument (E-READI) for providing support for ACSS capacity building in strengthening institutional framework and coordination, improving the availability and comparability of key statistics for ASEAN regional integration monitoring, and narrowing the gaps in statistical capacity among AMS.
17. We thanked the International Organisations, namely the Asian Development Bank (ADB), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), and United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). We acknowledged with appreciation their support towards the goal of a more responsive ACSS, providing high quality statistics in support of the ASEAN integration.



Handover of the ACSS Chairmanship

18. We expressed our sincere gratitude to the Government of Lao People's Democratic Republic, through Lao Statistics Bureau, for its excellent chairmanship, good preparation, and impeccable arrangements for the Fourteenth Session of the ACSS Committee.
19. We welcomed the ACSS Chairmanship of Malaysia in 2025.

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ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS) Committee

- 1. BRUNEI DARUSSALAM: Mr. Bahrum Kadun**

- 2. KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA: Mr. Keo Chettra**

- 3. REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA: Dr. Eng. Imam Machdi**

- 4. LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC: Ms. Phonesaly Souksavath**

- 5. MALAYSIA: Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin**

- 6. THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR: Mr. Htun Zaw**

- 7. REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES: Dr. Claire Dennis Mapa**

- 8. REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE: Dr. Koh Eng Chuan**

- 9. KINGDOM OF THAILAND: Ms. Hataichanok Chinauparwat**

- 10. THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM: Mr. Nguyen Trung Tien**

- 11. ASEAN SECRETARIAT: Dr. Ahmad Zafarullah Abdul Jalil**

28 November 2024