

Global statistical developments

*Advancing official statistics for the 2030
Agenda for Sustainable Development and
national development priorities*

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Purpose of this presentation

- To present a selection of developments in official statistics to inform the development of the Viet Nam Statistical Development Strategy
- The selection is based on personal judgement
- To suggest some recommended actions for consideration

Two Threads

Statistical products and services	GSO as an institution
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Future of economic statistics2. Going beyond GDP3. Population Censuses	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Data stewardship2. Roles and responsibilities3. Maximising the use of multiple data sources4. Integrity5. Funding for official statistics6. Service offerings7. Modernisation

Statistical Products and Services

1. Future of Economic Statistics

UN Statistical Commission has convened a Friends of Chair Group on Future of Economic Statistics

- Chaired by Statistics Canada and with many leading NSOs
- Recommendations going to UN Statistical Commission in March 2021
- Desired outcomes
 - Better **cooperation and networking** between NSOs through exchange and sharing of knowledge, governance, partnerships, and technology
 - Better **national data solutions** provided by global statistical infrastructure and data solutions to drive efficiencies and connectedness
 - Better **working methods** and aligned governance arrangements inclusive of the different actors in the system
 - Better and **responsive system of economic statistics** with improved granularity and timeliness, as well as better integration of the measures of economy, society, and environment

Recommendation: Join the Group

Statistical Products and Services

2. Going beyond GDP

UN Statistical Commission special session with Ms. Martine Durand (OECD) and Professor Joseph Stiglitz

- Policy makers and decision makers are becoming less domain-specific and looking for more multi-domain statistics
 - E.g. the impact of COVID-19 (vital statistics) on economies (jobs, GDP) and societies (mental health, domestic violence, migration)
- Statistical landscape is still 'stove-piped' e.g. economic, environment but some integration is happening e.g. environmental-economic accounts
- Prediction: stove pipes will reduce

Recommendation

- Digest the 'Going beyond GDP' reports for relevance to the Viet Nam Government's priorities
- Start moving in the direction of multi-domain statistics e.g. SEEA Accounts

Statistical Products and Services

3. Population Censuses

- Largest undertaking for a NSO
- Very costly in terms of \$, time, people, etc.
- Two questions emerging
 1. Are there alternative **methods** e.g. instead of enumerating can a population register be established?
 2. Are there alternative **data sources** e.g. some data collection combined with administrative data, mobile phone data, satellite data

Recommendation

- Establish a Viet Nam Census Futures project
 - What is the situation in Viet Nam?
 - Is the GSO under pressure to reduce costs? To be more efficient? To improve timeliness? To improve frequency?
 - What could be Viet Nam's options?

GSO as an institution

1. Data Stewardship

- UN Statistical Commission convened special session in 2020. Will discuss again in March 2021
- Emerging new role for NSOs
- Data Steward has various meanings - one meaning is steward of all Government data
- Country specific e.g. In New Zealand, the Chief Statistician is also Chief Data Steward
- Can be beneficial for an NSO e.g. new role, improved prominence, better understanding of data which could be used for official statistics, influence of standards used by other data collection agencies in the Government
- Driven by country priorities e.g. digitisation agenda, trust-in-government agenda,

Recommendations

- Assess if data stewardship is or is likely to be a priority for the Viet Nam Government
- Assess whether the GSO wants to have a role
- Stay in touch with the UN Statistical Commission discussions

GSO as an institution

2. Roles and Responsibilities

- Data stewardship is one emerging role which the GSO may wish to embrace
- Other roles could also emerge
 - The Philippines Statistical Authority has three roles
 - central statistical authority (National Statistician)
 - Civil registration (Civil Registrar General)
 - Philippine Identification System - the government's central identification platform for all citizens and resident aliens of the Philippines (2018)
 - Chief Economist, Chief Data Officer, Chief Digital Officer, Chief Privacy Officer, Chief Information Officer,

Recommendations

- Watching brief on developments in Viet Nam situation
- Assess and act if appropriate

GSO as an institution

3. Non-traditional data sources

- Fundamental Principle 5
 - “Sources of Official Statistics Data for statistical purposes may be drawn from **all types of sources**, be they statistical surveys or administrative records. Statistical agencies are to **choose the source with regard to quality, timeliness, costs and the burden on respondents**”
- Non-traditional data sources = administrative data, mobile phone data, satellite data, scanner data, electronic transactions data, banking data, electricity meter data, etc
- Lots of interest and discussion, but very little evidence of use by NSOs. Most frequent examples are for price statistics and for statistics which require a geographic dimension
- A Global Statistical Geospatial Framework for integrating statistical and geospatial data exists

Recommendations

- Test and trial use of non-traditional
- Join relevant Task Teams under the UN Statistical Commission Global Working Group on Big Data e.g. prices, agriculture
- Join the Expert Group on Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information

GSO as an institution

4. Integrity

- Innovation can lead to integrity questions e.g. is the NSO legally allowed to do something, how can we trust the statistics produced from different data sources or different methods
- UN Statistical Commission Friends of the Chair Group on implementing the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics have produced some valuable guidance
 - Big Data sources and the Fundamental Principles
 - Open data and the Fundamental Principles

Recommendations

- Digest the guidance provided by the Friends of Chair Group
- Watching brief on developments by the Friends of Chair Group

GSO as an institution

5. Funding

- Investments in statistics is an ongoing discussion internationally and usually domestically
- Paris21 present annual findings of ODA in statistics
- The Bern Network has been established to consider financing facilities
- Donor investments can be for donor-priorities, not domestic priorities
- Funding to a country doesn't necessarily mean funding to the NSO

Recommendations

- Undertake scenario planning for Viet Nam GSO and Viet Nam National Statistical System
- Identify critical partners, domestically and internationally
- Integrate with the Viet Nam Census futures proposal

GSO as an institution

6. Service Offerings

- The VSDS is an opportunity to consider GSO's current service offerings and what could be future service offerings
 - What services are you currently providing that are no longer needed or useful? E.g. hardcover publications?
 - What services could you be offering
 - Microdata access e.g. to university and research sector
 - Data visualisations
 - Confidentiality services
 - Coding tools e.g. for industry classifications, for geo-coding

Recommendations

- Do a SWOT analysis of current service offerings
- Compare Viet Nam service offerings with an NSO you may aspire to (e.g. similar stage in development, similar cultural fit, etc)

GSO as an institution

7. Modernisation

- A lot of NSOs start with a modernization strategy without thinking what are they trying to modernize to?
- Modernisation could be simply upgrading IT infrastructure, or more expansive such as modernizing roles and responsibilities (points 1., 2., 6, for instance), modernizing statistical programmes (e.g. point 1., 2., and 3.).
- Until you know what you want to modernize 'to', a modernization investment may not achieve its desired effect

Recommendations

- Think carefully before embarking on a modernization program. Agree on what you are modernizing to.

Summary

- The Viet Nam Statistical Development Strategy is an opportunity to put in place what is needed for 2021-2030 and the foundations for post-2030
- The UN Statistical Commission, Paris21 and OECD are valuable sources for the future of official statistics
- 10 suggestions have been offered. They are the author's personal judgement. Viet Nam GSO should assess and choose what best suits Viet Nam's situation
- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a development agenda which can benefit Viet Nam and the Viet Nam GSO if-and-only-if you drive where you want to be and what investments are needed

THANK YOU

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