SUMMARIES

1. THE RESEARCH PROJECT (FSP 2S) ON "THE INFORMAL SECTOR IN THE VIETNAMESE ECONOMY: CHARACTERISTICS, ROLE AND IMPACT ON HOUSEHOLD LIVING CONDITIONS"

Jean-Pierre Cling, Do Trong Khanh, Mireille Razafindrakoto and François Roubaud

This article presents the research project on the informal sector in Vietnam conducted jointly by the researchers from Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD) and the Institute of Statistical Science (2006-2009). In the first part, we describe the main objectives of the project, which is dedicated to the study of the informal sector. The latter is a "black hole" of statistics, as there are no available data concerning this sector. The second part details our methodological approach, based on original household surveys. The third part replaces this project within the framework of the global research and cooperation partnership conducted between IRD and GSO. Last of all, we present a first assessment of the project, as well as the final results which are expected at the end of this project.

2. MEASURING THE INFORMAL SECTOR IN VIET NAM: SITUATION AND PROSPECTS

Mireille Razafindrakoto, François Roubaud and Le Van Duy

This paper presents a diagnosis on the informal sector measurement and analysis in Vietnam, based on the review of the design and methodology of existing surveys and of the legislation concerning household business activities. The authors provide some first rough estimates on the weight and characteristics of informal sector, using existing data (mainly VLSS/VHLSS). The paper also presents the adequate statistical framework adopted to measure the informal sector and informal employment in Vietnam, which consists in designing a mixed household/enterprise survey, based on the *1-2-3 survey* scheme adapted to the Vietnamese context. The strategy has followed two stages: improving the design of the existing Labour and Employment Survey (LES); conducting a specific Household Business and Informal Sector Survey (*HB&ISS*).

3. INTRODUCTION OF INTERNATIONAL CONCEPTS RELATED TO THE INFORMAL SECTOR

This is extracted from the Manual on Surveys of Informal Employment and Informal Sector (ILO, 2007). Main purpose of the paper is to introduce Vietnamese readers the international statistical concepts of informal sector enterprises, informal own-account enterprises, enterprises of informal employers, which have been adopted by the Fifteenth International Conferences of Labour Statisticians and the Expert Group on Informal Sector Statistics (Delhi Group). The paper also deals with a number of related issues, including the links between the concepts of informal sector and non-economic activities, non-market production, agricultural activities, outworkers and important sub-classifications of informal sector enterprises.

4. INTRODUCTION OF INTERNATIONAL CONCEPTS RELATED TO INFORMAL EMPLOYMENT

This is an other extracted part of the Manual on Surveys of Informal Employment and Informal Sector (ILO, 2007). Here we introduce the international statistical concepts of employment in the informal sector and informal employment, which have been adopted by

the Fifteenth and Seventeenth International Conferences of Labour Statisticians. The paper also deals with a number of related issues, including the links between the concepts of informal employment and non-observed economy, 'informal economy', and important sub-classifications of employment in the informal sector and informal employment.

5. INTEGRATION OF THE INFORMAL SECTOR STATISTICS INTO THE SYSTEM OF NATIONAL ACCOUNTS: SOME METHODOLOGICAL ISSUES

Nguyen Huu Chi and Nguyen Thi Thu Huyen

This paper discusses some major methodological issues concerning the integration of the statistical information on the informal sector into the system of national accounts. In addition, the paper addresses informal sector international definitions and the issues that are to be taken into account to follow the system of national accounts. The paper also reviews some experiences of developing data sources, conducting surveys for obtaining the information on the informal sector and presents an initial theoretical proposal for a system of indicators on the informal sector, consistent with the national accounts framework.

6. STATISTICAL MEASUREMENT OF THE INFORMAL SECTOR IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA: LESSONS FROM THE 1-2-3 SURVEYS

Mireille Razafindrakoto and François Roubaud

This paper presents the experience of African countries in mixed household-enterprise surveys, using the *1-2-3 survey* methodology in order to quantify the informal sector. The originality of these surveys stems from its three-phases approach which were applied in different countries on the continent. The first phase comprises a classic household employment survey (phase 1) which allows identification of informal sector entrepreneurs. The second module (phase 2) asks the latter specific questions regarding informal sector enterprises. A third questionnaire (phase 3) is directed to a stratified sub-set of households drawn from the first phase, in order to get information on their consumption.. For each one of the three phases, the paper highlights some illustrative results, drawing on the African experience over the last 15 years.

7. MEASURING THE INFORMAL SECTOR: THE LATIN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

Javier Herrera, Mireille Razafindrakoto and François Roubaud

Different approaches have been experimented in Latin America, where specific mixed household-enterprise surveys on the informal sector have been firstly designed and implemented. In spite of the progress accomplished in the measurement of the informal sector, there are still a lot of technical issues to tackle. This paper aims at providing a broad picture of the statistical tools at stake in an historical perspective, and at drawing some lessons from the Latin American experience. The paper provides information on the regional background in measuring the informal sector, and presents the design and the methodology of the *1-2-3 surveys* conducted in Latin America. Some illustrative results are given, in order to show the heterogeneity of the informal production units and to draw some lessons for the required surveys approach.