International Telecommunication Union

ITU Regional Forum and Training Workshop on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators: Measuring the Information Society
and
ITU-ASEAN Meeting on Establishing National ICT Statistics Portals and Measuring ASEAN ICT targets

Bangkok, 13-16 October 2014

Conclusions and Recommendations

ICT Data and Statistics Division
BDT/ ITU

Workshop objectives

- To strengthen the capacity of countries in the Asia-Pacific region, including ASEAN and Pacific countries, to collect, produce, analyze, utilize and disseminate national indicators and statistics on telecommunication/ICT

- To have a better understanding of:

  ➢ Global and regional activities on ICT statistics, targets

  ➢ Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development

  ➢ ITU Data Collection: Methodologies, Questionnaires

  ➢ Countries' related activities and initiatives

Workshop objectives

- To assist countries/subregion in measuring and monitoring national/subregional ICT targets

- To identify challenges faced by countries in coordinating and responding to ICT stats questionaires and attempt to address said challenges

- To strengthen and expand partnerships on measuring ICT for development

- To establish a regional network of ICT indicators and statistics experts

Conclusions and recommendations

Telecommunication administrative data

- Overall data availability in the region:

  - Mid/low response rate to ITU questionnaires: 46% for the Short Questionnaire 2014, 59% Long Questionnaire 2014 and 10% price data questionnaire 2013.
  - Response rates from the Pacific region low.

- Recommendations:

  - Identify/nominate/update statistical focal points in the Ministry or NRA
  - Compile data from operators/ISPs on a regular basis
  - Empower data producers to provide the data
  - Plan in advance the data submission to ITU (dates, country focal points, coordination between national data producers)

Telecommunication administrative data

- The ITU Handbook 2011 (and its additions) should be used as the main reference document for defining and collecting telecommunication administrative data

- Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (EGTI):

  - Limited participation of countries present in the workshop in the main ITU forum of discussion of administrative indicators.

- Recommendation:

  - Register to the EGTI online forum and actively participate in the discussions

Household ICT statistics

- Overall:
  - ➢ Low response rate to ITU HH long questionnaire 2013 (15%) and to HH short questionnaire 2014 (33%)
  - ➢ Some household access indicators are available from census 2010 round. Some data are available but are not reported/disseminated
  - ➢ The individual usage indicators are not widely available in the region.

- Main data sources and surveys in the region:
  - ➢ stand-alone ICT surveys in some (more advanced) countries,
  - ➢ multi-purpose HH surveys

Household ICT statistics

- Recommendations:
  - ➢ Countries are encouraged to collect ICT household statistics, at least for the basic indicators; these could be added to existing HH surveys
  - ➢ Countries should identify/nominate/update statistical focal points in the NSOs
  - ➢ NSOs should report ICT-related statistics regularly through the ITU *Household Questionnaire* sent to focal points in the NSO every year
    - ➢ Complete the questionnaire for all years where information is available for at least one of the ICT core indicators.

Household ICT statistics

- Recommendations (cont):

➢ The ITU *Manual for Measuring ICT Access and Use by Households and Individuals 2014 edition* should be used as the main reference document for defining and collecting ICT household statistics

➢ Experts from countries are encouraged to join the ITU Expert Group on Household indicators (EGH) and its online discussion forum

National coordination

- ICT data collection and dissemination involves a number of different stakeholders at the national level

- There are best practice examples of coordination on ICT statistics in several countries of the region

- Coordination among ICT Ministries, NRAs and NSOs should be enhanced in countries in order to improve the ICT data production and dissemination. The NSO should play an active role in this regard and could work towards including ICT statistics in the NSDS.

- A national coordination mechanism could be established in countries of the region (e.g. inter-agency committee), which brings together regularly all stakeholders involved in ICT statistics (ICT Ministries, sector Ministries, NRAs, NSOs, data users), to discuss data priorities based on policy needs, and manage and harmonize data production and dissemination

Other issues identified

- National ICT strategies and broadband plans should include measurable targets and indicators

- ICT data collection at the international level should be coordinated, eg. through the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development

- A number of countries from the region (especially the Pacific islands) are currently not included in the ITU ICT Development Index (IDI) due to non-availability of data – these data gaps need to be addressed (see previous recommendations)

- A number of countries proposed additional indicators while others proposed to reduce the number of indicators collected by ITU to minimum necessary. Such proposals could be raised in the Expert Group forums (see previous recommendations)

Other issues identified

- There is a need to further strengthen the capacity of countries in the region to produce ICT statistics; this should be addressed by ITU in cooperation with other partners in the future, e.g. through regional workshops

- Ensuring data quality in ICT statistics is important and countries are encouraged to apply existing NQAFs in their statistical work

- Countries should explore the development of a national database system to collect and store ICT statistics

- National data portals are good ways to disseminate ICT statistics and countries may consider setting up such portals. Existing best practice examples from the region could serve as models in this regard.

Resources

- ITU statistics:
  http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/

- ITU data collections/questionnaires
  http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/datacollection/default.aspx

- ITU Handbook, Manual and Expert Groups:
  http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/definitions/

- Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development and various documents: http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/partnership/index.html