

15th MEETING OF THE VOORBURG GROUP ON SERVICE STATISTICS
18 – 22 SEPTEMBER 2000
Malaysia

1. Introduction

I thank the Voorburg Group Organising Committee for inviting Malaysia to participate in the Group's 15th meeting. This is the second time Malaysia is participating in this Meeting, the first one in 1999.

The Voorburg Group has progressed well since its formation, especially in statistical development work and provides new directions and invaluable recommendations to specific and emerging areas of statistical collection. It is pertinent to mention that Malaysia values these suggestions and recommendations in order to develop and enhance its statistical efficiency.

2. Progress Report

i. Service Product Prices

Malaysia has not collected price data on services, but rather the collection of the average rate of change in prices of **commodities** is conducted on a monthly basis. However, serious thought has been given towards having such collection in view of the comments below.

Currently, the deflator which is used to estimate GDP in real prices is to use the *Producer Price Index* which only covers commodities. As a temporary measure, the *Consumer Price Index* (CPI) is used to deflate services as a whole. This is not appropriate as the CPI relates to changes in prices of the consumption of services at the household level.

ii. Classification of service products

Work on this area has already commenced. ISIC Rev. 3 will be adopted next year, with the review of the CPC concurrently being undertaken.

iii. **Measurement of the demand for services by enterprises**

This approach of collecting data has not been conducted formally in Malaysia.

iv. **Information Society statistics**

Malaysia is planning to conduct two separate surveys relating to **IT** namely:

- a. a census of computer services; and
- b. a survey on e-commerce.

These surveys are expected to be launched in the year 2001(reference year 2000). In computer services, a census will be conducted using the approach put forth in the United Nations Statistical Papers ,Series M. No.81 – **A Model Survey of Computer Services**. In the area of e-commerce, there is much awareness regarding its importance. However, not much work has been done on e-commerce. The exploratory work has been to include a question on the transactions done through e-commerce in the various economic surveys/censuses conducted. Right now we are looking for a suitable model to adopt. Hopefully the recommendations that arises from this meeting will be assist us in its implementation.

As ICT is becoming increasingly important, we are currently identifying and evolving specific indicators/codes to meet this definition through the ISIC and CPC.

Besides these, the on-going economic surveys/censuses like manufacturing, construction, mining and quarrying and selected services are on-going.

v. **Statistics on Non-Profit institutions**

Not a priority at this moment and nothing specific has been done in this area.

vii. **Measurement of employment in services**

Same comments as (v).

viii. **International trade in services**

Data on the above is canvassed through a Quarterly Survey of International Investment and Services which has been conducted since 1999. The categorisation of services follow BPM5. Response to the survey has been poor with respect to international trade in services. The data is still being studied to gauge its effectiveness.