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FOREWORD

Statistics reflect the reality of life in numbers. It is necessary for making the right decisions on solving and preventing public problems, as well as for observing the dynamics of society and country as a whole development.

The statistics of Kazakhstan is primarily directed towards the improvement of socio-economic situation in the country, raising the living standards, including solution of poverty, health, education, industrial development problems and other matters.

Nothing is more important for the provision of veracity, accurateness and reliability of statistics, than the international experience exchange and close interaction with foreign partners.

We always aspire to raise the standards of work and expertise of our staff. We are open to cooperate with international partners and happy to be helpful for all.

In the next few years Agency will run the work on promoting international cooperation in sphere of statistics to the new level. It means that Kazakhstan will be able to provide assistance to other countries in development of their statistical capacity.

I hope that our international cooperation activities will bring the best results for all of us.

Alikhan SMAILOV
Chairman



HISTORY OF STATISTICS KAZAKHSTAN

From the perspective of Agency's development, the last sixteen years can be divided into the following main stages:

1. **1993-1996** – formation of the Agency as a national body creating the methodological know-how, formerly concentrated in Moscow, providing basic international relations and membership in international organizations, implementation of SNA 93 international standard;

2. **1997-2006** – further development of SNA and formation of integrated accounts and tables, introduction of international classifications into all spheres of statistical production, development of statistical registers as a main instrument of statistical activity in the field of economic statistics and active use of information technologies on the basis of technical cooperation programs with international donors;

3. **2007-2009** – as a result of complete revision of methodologies and classifications, adoption of international standards on statistics production, development of automated data processing system, implementation of new data storage approaches and metadata system development, Agency entered the transition stage preceding new structural changes – completion of donor programs;

4. **2010** – phase of enhancement of international cooperation, building bilateral relationships, studying world advanced experience, implementing joint methodological works with national partners, statistical capacity building projects.



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF THE AGENCY

The aim of international statistical cooperation is to strengthen capacity of international statistical system, improve data comparability, develop statistical methodologies, as well as to promote knowledge exchange and use of international statistical data.

The strategical aim of international cooperation of Statistics Kazakhstan is to become reliable and important partner on international scene, producing high quality and harmonized statistics.

International statistical cooperation is one of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics adopted at the Special Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission. The use of international standards on the national level contributes to improvement of international comparability, increases impartiality of decisions, especially in disputable cases. Herewith, only active involvement of national statistical offices in the establishment and revision of international standards contributes to the achievement of veracity, relevance and reliability of international standards.

International collaboration of the Agency is implemented within the framework of continuous cooperation with international organizations and statistical offices of other countries in such areas as adoption of statistical methodologies, standards and classifications, introduction of modern tools, information and communication technologies, enhancement of professional expertise and skills of the staff.

International statistical cooperation can be subdivided as bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

The Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics adopted at the Special Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission on 11-15 April, 1994, state that “international and multilateral cooperation in the field of statistics contributes to the improvement of official statistics systems in all countries”.

Relationships in the field of official statistics between the Republic of Kazakhstan and other states and international organizations are formed on the basis of bilateral and multilateral treaties signed by the Republic of Kazakhstan, based on the principles of equality of rights and common interest, in the order determined by the legislation (the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan “About the State Statistics”).



BILATERAL COOPERATION

Agency on Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan continues to expand partner relations with national statistical offices. In the frameworks of joint projects, signed agreements and memorandums the Agency carries out statistical capacity building, experience exchange activities, provides consulting assistance.

Norway

In 2005-2007 cooperation was implemented within the framework of the project cooperation “Technical assistance to Kazakhstan statistics. Phase 1”. As a result of the visit of Agency’s delegation to Norway in April 2008, it was decided to extend the project cooperation till 2010 by launching the second phase of technical cooperation. Projects are implemented in the form of study visits, missions and workshops. Cooperation comprises most of the areas of statistics: national accounts, labor statistics, population register, dissemination of data and publications design. Memorandum of Understanding between the Agency and Statistics Norway was signed on 31 October, 2008, in Astana. And at the present time the projects on total quality management, national accounts, registers and price statistics are in the process of implementation through reciprocal visits of the experts of two countries.



Germany

Since 1993 the Agency fruitfully cooperates with the Federal Statistical Office of Germany within the frameworks of TACIS programs, German Technical Cooperation Agency (GTZ) projects and on a bilateral basis.



German Statistical Office provided assistance to the Agency in implementing and adopting international methodologies in most of the TACIS rounds. Projects in such areas as labor market, investments, ecology and small business statistics, dissemination of statistics, information technologies and structure of regional statistical system were realized.

Cooperation with the Statistical Office of Germany was also realizing under the project of GTZ “Assistance to Kazakhstan statistics”. This project included the following components: labor market, price and innovations statistics, living standards indicators, regional statistics.

It should be noted that mutually beneficial cooperation between the Agency and German Statistical Office is also implemented on a bilateral basis. Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Statistics was signed in 2003. In 2007 Agency experts visited the Statistical Office of Germany with the aim to get knowledge of the information system used in German statistics. Also, during 2007-2008 the Agency received consultations on establishment of a training center. In August 2008, in Wiesbaden it was organized a seminar on the issues of conducting trainings in the field of statistics with participation of Statistics Korea, the World Bank and the Agency. In December 2008 experts of the Statistical Office of Germany visited Astana with the purpose to determine general framework of cooperation, when commercial services and foreign trade statistics were chosen as priority areas. At the present time we cooperate in the field of commercial services statistics within the framework of Kazakhstan – Germany intergovernmental working group on trade-economic cooperation.

Turkey

Cooperation of the Agency with the State Statistical Institute of the Republic of Turkey and Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency also should be noted separately. Numerous mutual visits of delegations, consultation activities and study courses were carried out within the framework of this cooperation. It comprises various branches of statistics, including national accounts, labor and agriculture statistics, as well



as use of information technologies. In 2009, 27 experts of the Agency have attended the study courses on statistics held by TurkStat. And during the visit of Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs to Kazakhstan on 11th of February, 2010, the Memorandum on Cooperation between the Agency and the Statistical Institute of the Republic of Turkey was signed. It will serve as a base for continuation and enlargement of present warm relations between two agencies.

Russian Federation

Agency cooperates with the Federal State Statistics Service of Russian Federation within the frameworks of CIS Statistical Committee, Customs Union activities and on a bilateral basis. Work meetings, seminars aimed at experience exchange are organized regularly. Thus, several meetings on SNA, price and trade statistics were carried out since 2008. Agency experts visited Rosstat in order to get knowledge of integrated information system for national accounts.

Tajikistan

During 2009 the Agency provided consulting assistance to the statistical office of the Republic of Tajikistan, whose experts visited Astana several times. Environment, agriculture and trade statistics were among the issues covered during these consultations. In 2010 another visit of the delegation of the Agency of Statistics under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan was carried out, aimed at the receiving of consultations on population census. As a result of this visit, agreement on providing assistance to Tajikistan during the forthcoming census was reached.

Azerbaijan

In the beginning of 2010 the Agency was visited by experts of the State Committee on Statistics of the Republic of Azerbaijan. During one week the structural units of the Agency held meetings with Azerbaijan colleagues on such issues as quality management system, dissemination of data, registers and classifications, interaction with regional statistics departments.

Belarus

In November 2009 the delegation of the statistical office of the Republic of Belarus made a visit to Astana in order to study the experience on carrying out and processing the data of population census. During the visit Belarus colleagues could get acquainted with whole



range of activities related to preparation, carrying out, processing and disseminating the results of the National Population Census of the Republic of Kazakhstan 2009.

Other countries

Statistics Kazakhstan actively cooperates with a wide range of national statistical offices, builds new relations, maintains existing contacts. In addition to ten existing bilateral agreements on cooperation, during the last two years the Agency has signed five more documents.

Besides the above-mentioned memorandums with Norway and Turkey, during the visit of the President of the Republic of Latvia to Kazakhstan on 3rd of October, 2008, Memorandum on Cooperation in the Field of Statistics was signed by the Agency and the Ministry of Economics of the Republic of Latvia. On 2 March, 2010, in Astana, the Chairman of



Signing of MoU, Daejeon, 23 April 2010

of the Agency Mr. Alikhan Smailov and the Vice-President of the National Institute of Statistics of Romania Mr. Cristian Nicolae Stanica have signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Statistics. And also during the visit of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Korea on 23 April, 2010, heads of the statistical offices of two countries have signed the Memorandum on Cooperation.

As a result of carried out cooperation activities the Agency has established necessary contacts for the implementation of advanced experience into its practice. Consultations, workshops, meetings with colleagues from other countries aimed at the improvement of statistical system are organized. Recently, the following cooperation activities were held; with the National Institute of Statistics of Italy – on ICT statistics, with the Statistics Department of Lithuania – export/import price indexes, Croatia – on metadata. Statistics Denmark provided consultations on some aspects of national accounts formation, Canada – on agriculture and small business statistics.

With such effective policy of international statistical cooperation the Agency can achieve the best development results.



MULTILATERAL COOPERATION: INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND STATISTICS KAZAKHSTAN

At the multilateral level the Agency takes active part in many international activities held by UN Statistical Commission, UNECE and UNESCAP statistical divisions, Economic Cooperation Organization, the World Bank, etc. Agency experts participate in conferences, seminars, various expert group meetings.

United Nations Statistical Commission

UN Statistical Commission is responsible for the harmonization of official statistics at a global level by means of developing methodologies on demographic, social, economic statistics. The Commission assists countries in improving their work on collection and analysis of statistical data. Kazakhstan regularly participates in annual sessions of the Commission, interacts with UN Statistics Division.

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Regional commission of United Nations, was founded to develop economic activities and strengthen economic relations within the region, as



Workshop in Astana on dissemination of the MDG indicators



well as between the region and the rest of the world. UNECE implements its activities in the fields of transport, environment, energy, trade, economic cooperation and integration, including the sphere of statistics.

The Commission provides support and assistance to Kazakhstan in the development of statistical system and integration into international statistical network. In 2007-2008 the UNECE jointly with UNESCAP conducted the global assessment of the statistical system of Kazakhstan. At the present time the Agency cooperates with UNECE in the new format – studying methodological aspects of various branches of statistics, and conducting short-term workshops after completion of the work. Joint workshops and seminars on methodological issues of price, labor, demographic and etc. statistics are held. Two international workshops on indicators of the Millennium Development Goals were held with the assistance of UNECE in 2009 in Astana.

Statistics Kazakhstan annually participates in plenary sessions of the Conference of European Statisticians.

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

One of the regional commissions of United Nations. ESCAP Committee on Statistics deals with the statistical issues in the Asia-Pacific region. Kazakhstan is a Vice-Chairman of the Committee's Bureau for the period 2009-2011. In this context, the Agency supports the strengthening of positions of ESCAP Committee on Statistics, as a major regional coordinator of statistical activities, as well as the expansion of its activities on interaction with national offices and international organizations in the Central and North Asia subregion. Also, within the framework of ESCAP, Kazakhstan is a pilot country of the project on disability statistics. The Agency experts participate in seminars and courses on various branches of statistics conducted by ESCAP Statistics Division.

United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

UNSIAP is a unique organization dealing with coordination and realization of HR training activities in the field of statistics. The Agency often participates in its short-term statistical courses. Experts of the Agency took part in the courses on household sample surveys, economic statistics, national accounts and etc. In connection with the election of the Agency to the Bureau of ESCAP Statistical Committee, Statistics Kazakhstan intends to develop relations with SIAP by hosting regional seminars and increasing the number of participants from the Agency.



United Nations Population Fund

UNFPA is an international organization that provides assistance to countries in improving reproductive health policies and individual choice based family planning services, and develops politics in the field of population. It should be noted that UNFPA provides ongoing expert and financial support to Statistics Kazakhstan.

United Nations Children's Fund

The main objective of UNICEF's work is to protect children's rights and support the right of every child for a safe, healthful and happy childhood.

In 2006 the Agency jointly with UNICEF conducted the Multi Indicator Cluster Survey. This survey was implemented for the first time in Kazakhstan. It provides a huge amount of information about the state of children and women in the country. The MICS data are useful for the Government, civil society institutes, non-governmental organizations and international agencies in planning and developing social programs for children and women.

Currently Kazakhstan is preparing for the next round of MICS. In this regard, it is planned to sign a memorandum of understanding between the Agency and UNICEF.

Statistical Office of European Union (Eurostat)

According to the Agreement on Partnership and Cooperation between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the European Union, bilateral cooperation in the field of statistics is aimed at further development of the effectiveness of statistical systems for providing reliable statistical information required for monitoring processes of economic changes and private enterprises development in Kazakhstan.

One of the striking examples of our cooperation is a TACIS (Technical Assistance for the CIS) program. In 1993-2007, during the realization of TACIS rounds, 39 projects in such areas as statistical infrastructure, business statistics, economic and social statistics were implemented. More than 300 meetings (consultations, conferences, workshops) involving nearly 250 international experts were conducted.



Upon completion of the TACIS program, by a joint initiative of the Agency and Eurostat it was decided to continue the cooperation, and at the present time negotiations on the signing of a memorandum of understanding are continuing. Also, collaboration with Eurostat is realized within the framework of projects between the PDAP (Support for Policy Dialogue and Advice Program in Kazakhstan) and the Government of Kazakhstan. Thus, in November 2008 expert from Netherlands has carried out a consulting mission to Astana on registers and classifications, and in 2009 a joint work on automated calculation of gross domestic product was implemented.

Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States

The main activities of CISSTAT are to promote the reforming of the state statistics in CIS countries with reference to ongoing socio-economic transformations and internationally accepted statistical standards, as well as the multilateral exchange of statistical information and the development of common information and statistical area within the CIS. Interaction with the Agency is in the joint coordination of statistical activities and the development of recommendations on agreed methodology, including staff training, conducting workshops and other activities related to the state statistics reforming, publishing statistical and information bulletins. Chairman of the Agency Mr. Alikhan Smailov is a member of the Council of Heads of CIS Countries Statistical Offices. Within the framework of the Global Round of International Comparison Program, a Memorandum of Understanding between the Agency and CISSTAT on conducting international comparisons of GDP in the CIS region was signed on April 2, 2010.

World Bank

Cooperation between the Agency and the World Bank was implemented within the framework of the annual Joint Economic Research Programs. The Agency received assistance on the development of the Statistical Master Plan, methodological assistance on improving the poverty statistics, unemployment assessment and household surveys.

In collaboration with the World Bank, the work on complex development of Kazakhstan statistical system was launched in 2010. For this purpose the World Bank will grant a loan. In the first stage, in order to identify new targets, the Statistical Master Plan will be updated.



International Monetary Fund

The Agency cooperates with the IMF within the framework of the Special Data Dissemination Standard. SDDS is an initiative of the IMF, being the largest repository of metadata in the world. Two important requirements of the SDDS are the advance release calendar and the national summary data page.

The IMF conducts training courses on financial statistics at the Joint Vienna Institute, as well as on national accounts in Washington, and the Agency experts attend these courses regularly.

Economic Cooperation Organization

With the ECO the Agency interacts in the frameworks of annual Meeting of Heads of Statistical Offices, expert groups and national coordinators meetings, as well as in the work of ECO Editorial Board.

The Agency hosted the Second Meeting of Heads of Statistical Offices of ECO member states on 27-28 May, 2010, in Astana.



*2nd Meeting of the Heads of National Statistical Offices
of ECO Member States*

Other organizations

Cooperation with other international organizations is also important. Each year the Agency has the opportunity to send its experts to the training courses conducted by Korea and Japan international cooperation agencies (KOICA and JICA), Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency,

Joint Vienna Institute, IMF and etc. Various meetings in the frameworks of Organization of the Islamic Conference, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, International Labour Organization, World Tourism Organization and etc. are attended. Also, the Agency on a regular basis and upon special requests provides interested organizations with statistical information about Kazakhstan.



JICA Training Course



Participants of TIKa workshop on statistical classifications



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