



Video

Unite different strengths to address common threats

At the 8th session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues from 18-29 May, the Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro said that the Forum was meeting at a crucial time, as the world grappled with a “swarm of crises”, including intensified hunger, poverty, global warming and security threats. Indigenous peoples have a record of resilience in the face of great adversity, but they still suffer from prejudice and marginalization. Indigenous women are brutalized by violence. Powerful forces continue to take land from indigenous peoples, denigrate their cultures and directly attack their lives.

<http://webcast.un.org/ramgen/ondemand/specialevents/2009/se090518am.rm?start=01:07:42&end=01:15:04> (8 minutes)

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Developing countries pay the highest price for the crisis

The world's poor are experiencing the most severe consequences for a crisis sparked by the rich, a crisis which threatens the ability of countries to confront issues such as poverty, hunger and disease

The rapidly unfolding global financial and economic crisis has severely disrupted economic growth worldwide and is setting back progress towards

achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other internationally agreed development goals. As the crisis deepens, the impact on developing countries is rapidly worsening, particularly in terms of rising unemployment and a widening external financing gap.

According to the UN Secretary-General Report on the Global Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development, the current crisis comes on top of the 2008 food and energy crisis, which pushed already more than 125 million people into poverty, and which will hit even harder with unemployment rising rapidly, real income falling and fiscal resources shrinking and forcing many countries to cut back on social spending.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that worldwide as many as 50 million more people will become unemployed and as many as 200 million will join the ranks of the working poor between 2007 and 2009, if the right policies to redress the situation are not taken immediately. Furthermore, the UN's global forecast sees negative per capita income growth for much of the developing world in 2009, putting the livelihood of billions at stake.



Underlying causes of the crisis

The present crisis emerges on the back of an unsustainable global growth pattern characterized by strong consumption and low saving in the US, the accumulation of currency reserves in export oriented emerging economies (especially China) and the investment of a large part of these reserves in US Treasuries (i.e. financing of an unsustainable consumption pattern in the US).

Far-reaching financial deregulation facilitated a massive and unfettered expansion of new financial instruments, such as securitized sub-prime mortgage lending, sold on financial markets worldwide. In the context of a highly integrated global economy without adequate regulation and global governance structures, the breakdown in one part of the system has thus led to failure elsewhere, as we are witnessing today.

Even though many developing countries were not directly exposed to the financial turmoil, they are being hurt through a variety of channels, including collapsing trade and commodity prices, capital flow reversals, higher costs of borrowing, declining remittance incomes and strains on official development assistance. As the downturn is having uneven effects, countries are hurt in different degrees

depending on their economic structure and vulnerability to shocks.

The impact of the crisis is further influenced by the capacity of governments to counteract its consequences, depending on their space for counter-cyclical macroeconomic policy measures, the strength of their social protection systems, regulatory frameworks, governance structures and political stability.

Impact on developing countries

Developing countries are more vulnerable to the vicissitudes of the global economy, mostly because of their heavy dependence on external finance, aid and trade, and that their foreign-exchange earning and government revenue tend to rely on few commodities only and they tend to have weak social protection systems.

Even though they are particularly adversely affected by the systemic flaws in the global financial system, most have limited capacity to respond with counter-cyclical measures. At lower levels of development, they are less resilient and thus more vulnerable to fluctuations in world markets:

With fewer resources they are also more typically forced to pursue procyclical monetary and fiscal policies, imposing greater variability in their economic performance and affecting long-term growth. They are also unable to provide massive guarantees and subsidized bail-out packages to financial institutions as these are being provided by developed countries to salvage their financial system.

This asymmetry holds the potential to create an uneven playing field, where capital will flow to the national financial markets with the most explicit government guarantees, complicating efforts of developing countries to raise capital in international markets. Such asymmetry in financial markets may also lead developing countries to introduce additional trade barriers, further exacerbating global inequality.

Following the breakdown of the Bretton Woods system of fixed exchange rates in 1971, exchange rates have been marked by high volatility. Especially for small open developing economies, it is not easy to maintain macroeconomic stability in the face of such volatility as it imposes high costs to firms engaged in international trade lacking adequately functioning insurance markets.

Financing development in Least Developed Countries

The lack of financial resources is a major constraint to poverty reduction and achievement of the MDGs in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Under the Programme of Action for LDCs adopted in Brussels in 2001, donor countries committed themselves to providing 0.15 – 0.20 percent of their Gross National Product as development assistance to LDCs. They also agreed to cancel the debt owed by LDCs and to encourage Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to the LDCs. LDCs committed themselves to take measures to improve domestic resources mobilization.

However, except for oil-exporting countries, there has been no major improvement in domestically generated revenues by LDCs. External support, especially official development assistance (ODA) and debt cancellation, remains essential to the implementation of the Brussels Programme and the MDGs.

Gender perspective

The economic and financial crisis puts also a disproportionate burden on women, who are often concentrated in vulnerable employment. Women are more likely to be unemployed than men, tend to have lower unemployment and social security benefits, and have unequal access to and control over economic and financial resources.

Missing the MDG 3 target of Gender Equality could result in countries having 0.1-0.3 percentage points lower per capita growth rates. Estimates show that the Asia and Pacific region is losing \$42 to 47 billion annually because of women's limited access to employment opportunities, and another \$16 to 30 billion annually as a result of gender gaps in education.

A growing body of evidence demonstrates that investing in women and girls has a multiplier effect on productivity, efficiency and sustained economic growth. Therefore, it is crucial to ensure that policy responses to the financial and economic crisis take into account the differential priorities and needs of women, men, girls and boys and do not undermine the policies and plans that promote gender equality and women's empowerment.

Policy actions to solve the challenge

World leaders have different views on the severity of the crisis, its worldwide implications and how best to respond. Nevertheless, the G20 Summit (London, 2 April 2009) pledged to do whatever is necessary to restore confidence, growth and jobs; repair the financial system to restore lending, strengthen

financial regulation to rebuild trust, fund and reform the international financial institutions to overcome the crisis and prevent future ones.

The G20 announced \$1.1 trillion in international financial support, which includes a tripling of resources available to the IMF to \$750 billion, additional lending by multilateral development banks of at least \$100 billion, and greater support for trade finance. The challenge ahead is to guarantee the adequacy and timeliness in transferring these resources to developing countries.

At the same time, they pledged to reform the international financial institutions to strengthen their longer term relevance, effectiveness, and legitimacy, with the nature of the envisaged governance reforms yet to be specified. The G20 also reaffirmed all existing commitments to provide more aid and debt relief to the poorest countries, including \$50 billion, mainly in the form of IMF loans only available if poor countries qualify.

As a result of the member states request to the GA President, Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann, at the Follow-up international Conference on Financing for Development (December 2008, Doha, Qatar), the UN will be convening a three-day summit of world leaders from 24 to 26 June 2009 in New York to assess the worst global economic downturn since the Great Depression. The aim is to identify emergency and long-term responses to mitigate the impact of the crisis, especially on vulnerable populations, and initiate a needed dialogue on the transformation of the international financial architecture, taking into account the needs and concerns of all Member States.

Global solutions for a global crisis

The financial and economic crisis presents a test of the strength of multilateralism. The crisis is global, requiring globally concerted solutions. Lack of adequate international coordination does not only endanger economic recovery and achievement of the MDGs, but may have wider security repercussions, as history has shown. Economic unilateralism has often also led to political unilateralism and increased tensions among countries.

The systemic causes of the present crisis are ultimately owing to fundamental weaknesses in global economic governance and overcoming these defects is the only genuine solution. These weaknesses underpin haphazard financial deregulation, the explosion of global imbalances and vulnerabilities, and excessive risk-taking behaviour promoted by the international reserve system. Much

more fundamental changes are needed to reform the international financial system in order to provide better safeguards that can prevent it happening again, and to create a framework for global economic governance in line with 21st century realities.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/esa/desa/financialcrisis>

For more information on the Financial and Economic Crisis Summit:

<http://www.un.org/ga/econcrisissummit/>

UNdata Portal - A world of information

The Statistics Division of DESA launched about a year ago UNdata — an internet-based data access system that allows easier and more efficient search and use of statistics compiled by the UN System

Data and metadata are now at the fingertips of internet users around the globe thanks to UNdata, a portal linking to various UN databases covering domains from global poverty to internet usage for a specific country. The single entry point and friendly layout allows users to search for and download relevant information for free, without subscription or registration.



DESA's Under-Secretary-General Sha Zukang stated that the "UN System has accumulated over the past 60 years an impressive amount of information. UNdata is a new powerful tool, which will bring this unique and authoritative set of data not only to the desks of decision-makers and analysts, but also to

journalists, to students and to all citizens of the world."

Why was UNdata developed?

UNdata is the brainchild of DESA's Statistics Division and is essentially an extension of the earlier Common Database (CDB) application, a first attempt of the division to bring different data together. However, the CDB was work-intensive, subject to space constraints and allowed the users little flexibility in the access to information.

In addition, retrieving information from a wide range of data sources for users wishing to perform analysis involving cross-sectional data was challenging. Therefore, with the goal of reducing the fragmentation of UN System databases, the Statistics Division started to develop UNdata in early 2006 as an effort to provide a unified platform of data to global users and promote dissemination, use and understanding of international statistics.

UNdata overcame the problems with an innovative design: a decentralized approach that keeps the data in their "native environment." The data owners retain control over and responsibility for their specialized databases. This implies the idea of a federated data system linked through a powerful search mechanism, which allows users to search UNdata in simple ways.

What do you find in UNdata?

Up to now the UNdata team has completed the work of covering the range of statistics previously compiled by the Statistics Division, including data from 11 specialized agencies, and is now working toward the goal of covering data from other programs and funds. The process is ongoing, as data providers continue to add series to those initially supplied and new partners join the platform.

UNdata currently includes 22 databases, 55 million records, 10 statistical domains, 192 country profiles, 6 glossaries and more than 15,000 html pages and pdfs.

Official statistics produced by countries and compiled by the UN data system, as well as estimates and projections, are also available for users. The domains covered are agriculture, employment, education, energy, environment, health, human development, industry, information and communication technology, national accounts, population, refugees, trade and tourism. Indicators such as Millennium Development Goals can also be found.

An important feature of UNdata is its access to all accompanying metadata stored in the Wiki application. This includes “cell specific” micro metadata, such as footnotes, as well as all other relevant supporting information, such as the attribution and reference to the exact data source.

The “Wiki” also provides information on relevant glossaries, guidelines, definitions, methodologies and classifications, to help user to better understand, interpret and assess the available data.

Easy Accessibility

UNdata prides itself in its accessibility — a single integrated entry point (<http://data.un.org>) opens the door to a pool of data sources and datasets, allowing users of different degrees of sophistication to access the information with ease.

For instance, typing a simple country name in the search bar leads to an abridged country profile from the *World Statistics Pocketbook*, with a link to the full profile. Links to all the data series available for this country are offered. Additionally, the system also provides a link to the country’s national statistical office website under the heading *related links*.

For users that have more specific and specialized-sector needs, UNdata offers two shortcuts that point the user to the relevant sector datasets. First, the entry page provides a listing of the various underlying datasets. Second, users are able to restrict the search to one or more specific datasets through the application of *filters*. Users can also customize and further refine their searches by sorting, filtering, including/excluding columns and pivoting.

The search result is presented clearly, in simple tabular presentation. Information can then be downloaded in various formats, such as xml or value separated for data imported into relational databases, or excel tables if the original data were provided in that format.

Future development in UNdata

UNdata has attracted 760,000 users with 3.5 million page views from 228 countries and territories since its launch in March 2008. As users request more data from current and additional providers, the Statistics Division continues to monitor and assess searching requests and feedbacks in order to offer more timely updates and explanatory metadata and to include more databases such as country databases.

The UNdata team is also working to provide advanced visualization tools to enhance the functionalities. Tools such as graphs, charts and maps will help users interpret and understand the “underlying messages” better. With such future developments, UNdata is confident in providing more efficient tools for accessing UN System data and reaching more users worldwide.

Data Managers’ meeting from 22-24 June

The Statistics Division commits itself to advance the global statistical system, and is responsible for collecting, compiling, classifying, publishing, and disseminating global official statistical data. Such information includes Commodity Trade Statistics, Demographic Statistics, Energy Statistics, Industrial Commodity Statistics, Millennium Development Goals Indicators, National Accounts Official Country Data, and National Accounts Estimates of Main Aggregates.

The Statistics Division has been collecting statistical data from and collaborating with 192 national statistical systems for 62 years, and most of the wealth of information collected by the UN family is now unveiled for the public through UNdata.

The Statistics Division also hosts regular Data Managers’ meetings with experts from international agencies. During these meetings, experts exchange ideas on data and metadata dissemination and related topics. The next meeting will be held from 22-24 June, and the agenda includes recent and future developments in the UNdata portal in terms of content and functionalities, current initiatives in data dissemination practices in UNdata partner agencies and possible ways to strengthen cooperation and formalize agreements for collaboration.

Source: UN Statistics Division, For more information: <http://unstats.un.org>

Global dialogue on development

Climate change talks to continue in Bonn

Sessions of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) subsidiary bodies and ad hoc working groups will take place from 1-12 June in Bonn

At its 13th session, the Conference of the Parties (COP), by the Bali Action Plan, launched a comprehensive process to enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention through long-term cooperative action, up to and beyond 2012.

The COP decided that the process shall be conducted under a subsidiary body of the Convention, the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA) that shall complete its work in 2009 and present the outcome to the COP for adoption at Cop 15 in Copenhagen in December 2009.

The Chair of the AWG-LCA has prepared a negotiating text to facilitate the negotiations among Parties on 19 May. The text builds upon ideas and proposals submitted by Parties, and covers the issues of a shared vision for long-term cooperative action, along with enhanced action on adaptation, mitigation and finance, technology and capacity building.

The Ad Hoc Working Group on the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP) was established in December 2005 by the COP to discuss future commitments for industrialized countries under the Protocol. The AWG-KP is set to complete its work by the end of 2009.

For the 8th session of the AWG-KP, the Chair of the AWG-KP has prepared two key documents to intensify negotiations on further emission reduction commitments. One document focuses on amendments to the Kyoto Protocol relating to emission reduction commitments of industrialized countries for the second phase of the Protocol (post-2012), while a second document covers other related issues, including emissions trading and the project-based mechanisms, land use, land-use change and forestry.

3,000 participants are expected at the gathering, including government delegates, representatives from business and industry, environmental organizations and research institutions. In addition to the negotiations, more than one hundred side events will be held.

The UNFCCC will give an opening press conference on Monday, 1 June and a closing press conference at the conclusion of the meeting on Friday, 12 April. Parties and non-governmental organizations will also give press briefings throughout the meeting.

For more information:

<http://unfccc.int/meetings/sb30/items/4842.php>

World leaders reaching for solutions to the global financial crisis

Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development from 24-26 June in New York to identify emergency and long-term responses

In 2009, for the first time in history, global economic growth has entered negative territory. Credit flows have dried up and major investment firms and lending institutions have been wiped off the map. Jobs are disappearing by more than a million a month, according to the International Labour Organization, and trade has dropped at the steepest rate since the Great Depression, the World Trade Organization observed.

Recent assessments of the impact of the ongoing economic crisis increasingly highlight the deteriorating social and political fallout in the least developed countries and middle-income countries as well. Prospects for an early recovery have faded, forcing countries to prepare for a prolonged downturn in trade, investment and employment.

The United Nations is convening a three-day summit of world leaders from 24-26 June 2009 at its New York Headquarters to assess the worst global financial and economic crisis, with the aim to identify emergency and long-term responses to mitigate the impact of the crisis, especially on vulnerable populations, and initiate a needed dialogue on the transformation of the international financial architecture, taking into account the needs and concerns of all Member States. The UN Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its

Impact on Development was mandated at the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development (December 2008, Doha, Qatar), and will certainly provide a uniquely inclusive forum to address issues of urgent concern to all nations.

The conference will consist of plenary sessions and four interactive roundtable exchanges with world leaders and representatives of the United Nations system, including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, as well as civil society organizations and the private sector. The summit will produce an outcome document, a draft of which is expected to be available in the first weeks of June.

The four roundtables on examining and overcoming the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development will address the impact on the crisis on employment, trade, investment and development, including the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals and the Millennium Development Goals. It will also discuss actions and appropriate measures to mitigate the impact of the crisis on development and consider the role of the United Nations and its Member States in the ongoing international discussions on reforming and strengthening the international financial and economic system and architecture. The roundtable will also include contributions of the United Nations development system in response to the crisis.

For more information on the conference on the crisis: <http://www.un.org/ga/econcrisissummit/>

For more information on DESA's Financial and Economic Crisis Website: <http://www.un.org/esa/desa/financialcrisis/>

Innovative CSD session ends with success

17th CSD Session from 4-15 May concluded with a shared vision as the way forward where a green economy, a green revolution, and a green stimulus could help the world out of current crises

With the number of hungry people approaching 1 billion world-wide and the impacts of climate change at hand, the 17th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) has adopted an agenda to accelerate the implementation of the policy actions it negotiated on the issues of agriculture, drought, desertification, land use, rural development and sustainable development in Africa.

Over 1000 participants attended the 17th CSD Session held from 4 – 15 May, which featured high-level dialogues with the Major Groups as well as with a group of representatives from the Policy Research Community. The Commission also held three roundtables to foster interactive ministerial-level dialogue on the global food crisis, integrated land and water management and an African green revolution.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Ms. Gerda Verburg, Netherlands' Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, and CSD 17 Chairperson, presented the outcome of the three round-tables, entitled the Shared Vision, in which Governments, Major Groups, and UN bodies shared their vision of agriculture and rural development's central contribution to sustainable development, including through the eradication of hunger and extreme poverty and the protection of rural ecosystems.

The Vision provided a way forward where a green economy, a green revolution, and a green stimulus, with significant investments in agriculture, could help the world out of the current food, financial and climate crises. "Sustainable farms, food, feed, fuel, funds – all are needed to put us on a sustainable path to the future. But the most important ingredients in the recipe are farmers, especially women farmers, and rural communities whose empowerment is the key to poverty eradication and to sustainable development," it reads.

The Commission also adopted a series of Policy Options and Practical Measures to guide agricultural development along with measures addressing drought, desertification, land use, rural development and sustainable development in Africa.

At the opening of the High-Level Session, Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon emphasized that sustainable development was a way to escape the cycle of poverty, degradation and despair. "This idea of an integrated and comprehensive approach to development remains as valid today as ever. It shows how to address the climate crisis, the food crisis and the energy crisis. It contains durable solutions to the financial crisis and the global recession", he said.

Policy debates on such topics as agricultural trade reform, GMOs and biofuels ran concurrently not only with the negotiations being undertaken by Member States, but also with a Partnerships Fair, a Learning Centre offering short-courses on a range of practical topics, and numerous Side Events showcasing

sustainable development initiatives from around the world.

The events, open to UN staff and CSD participants, brought together diverse stakeholders in the sustainable development process.

For more information:

http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd17.shtml

Forum on Forests calls for more cooperation

The 8th session of the UN Forum on Forests from 20 April-1 May in New York, focused on financing for forests, emerging issues, biodiversity, desertification and climate change

At the biennial meeting of the UN Forum on Forests, all 192 Member States of the UN met to consider ways to improve global management of forests at a time when climate change and numerous environmental and economic crises continue to pose severe risks to healthy forests. In total, over 650 participants from Member States, IGOs and civil society participated in the session.

While development of climate change-related financing mechanisms for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) have captured considerable attention and resources, Ms. Jan McAlpine, Director, United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat, pointed out that these mechanisms are unlikely to address the full scope of sustainable forest management. For this reason, she said, improving coordination and cooperation is essential to advance a mutually supportive agenda for climate change and sustainable forest management.

The UNFF8 resolution called for strengthened unprecedented levels of coordination and enhanced cooperation, to ensure that sustainable forest management strategies are brought into relevant programmes and processes such as those on climate change, biodiversity and water resources management.

Sha Zukang, UN Under-Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs, emphasized that sustainable management of the world's forests is a critical factor in developing integrated solutions to the numerous global crises currently being faced - financial, economic, environmental and social. "Forests need resources now," Mr. Sha said, "and

investing in forests will generate dividends of sustainable, inclusive and green growth for decades to come."

Countries also engaged in lengthy negotiations on how to address financing for sustainable forest management, but agreement could not be reached, and the draft text was forwarded for consideration by the next session of the Forum in January 2011.

The ninth session of the Forum (24 January – 4 February 2011) will focus on "Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication", which includes issues of community based forest management, social development and indigenous and other local and forest-dependent communities.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/esa/forests/session.html>

Trends and analysis

Emerging world economic issues and trends

Project LINK meeting in St. Petersburg from 4-6 June to discuss the implications of the global financial crisis on growth

Project Link is a co-operative, non-governmental, international research activity, which integrates independently developed national econometric models into a global econometric model. It provides a consistent framework for undertaking quantitative studies of the international economic transmission mechanisms and of the effects of international and national policies, developments and disturbances on the outlook for the world economy, and global economic integration in general.

The semi-annual expert group meeting of project LINK on the world economy will be held in Saint Petersburg from 4-6 June 2009 as a special session of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum. Jointly organized by DESA, the University of Toronto and the Centre for Macroeconomic Analysis and Short-term Forecasting, Moscow, the meeting will discuss the implications of the global financial crisis on growth and the prospects for the world economy in 2010. The discussions will be held at a special session where the global economic outlook prepared by DESA's Development and Policy Analysis Division will be presented and will include the participation of a broader audience of investors, representatives of businesses and government officials, as well as international organizations and institutions.

Founded under the intellectual leadership of Nobel Laureate Lawrence Klein, LINK has expanded from a core of 11 researchers and 7 country models in the 1969 to more than 100 participants from 60 countries, with 79 country models, including 45 models of individual developing countries and regions. The national centers of the project include universities, private research organizations, government agencies, and central banks.

LINK organizes two meetings per year; one at the various United Nations offices, the other one at various locations around the world. Meeting participants discuss the forecasts prepared with the LINK model, emerging world economic issues and trends as well as methods of global economic

analysis. LINK is also a platform through which technical cooperation can be carried out to assist developing countries in improving capacity of macroeconomic policy analysis and formulation.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/esa/policy/link/>

Measuring productions in national accounting

Workshop in Beijing from 8-10 June will focus on measuring production from appropriate basic economic data sources

The international workshop from data to accounts is jointly organized by DESA's Statistics Division and the National Bureau of Statistics of China. It is the first in a series of events under the project on strengthening statistical capacity development in China and other developing countries in Asia funded by the Chinese Government.

With the objective to enhance the capacity of National Statistical Offices of Asian countries to produce reliable and high quality national accounts estimates, the workshop will give an overview on the production approach in the System of National Accounts and address the data and measurement issues of the agricultural, manufacturing and services sectors. The informal sector will also be discussed.

For more information:

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/newsletter/globalstat_unsd_calendar.htm

Bringing information to the world

Data managers will meet in New York from 22 -24 June to further enhance the UNdata portal

As part of the effort by DESA's Statistics Division to facilitate easy access to data resources of the UN System, UNdata (data.un.org), a web-based data access system was recently launched for the public. It brings UN statistical databases within easy reach of users through a single entry point from which users can search and download a variety of statistical resources of the UN System. In this context, the Statistics Division is organizing a second Data Managers meeting.

The second UNdata—Data Managers' Meeting will gather experts from international agencies to exchange ideas on data and metadata dissemination. The meeting will cover several topics including: recent and future developments in the UNdata portal in terms of content and functionalities; current initiatives in data dissemination practices in UNdata partner agencies; and possible ways to strengthen cooperation and formalize agreements for collaboration.

Since its foundation, the United Nations System has been collecting statistical information from Member States on a variety of topics. The information thus collected constitutes a considerable information asset of the organization. However, since these statistical data are often stored in proprietary databases - each with unique dissemination and access policies - as a result, users are often unaware of the full array of statistical information that the UN System has in its data libraries.

The current arrangement also means that users are required to move from one database to another to access different types of information. UNdata addresses this problem by pooling major UN databases and those of several international organizations into a single internet environment. The innovative design allows users to access a large number of UN databases either by browsing the data series or through a keyword search.

For more information:

<http://data.un.org/wiki/AboutUs.ashx>

Effective innovations in public administration

EGM and Capacity Development Workshop on Innovations in Governance and Public Administration for the Achievement of the Development Goals in New York from 23-24 June

This meeting, organized within the framework of the United Public Service Day by DESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management, will provide a platform for experts and government officials from around the world to present and discuss significant innovations in public administration that have won the 2009 United Nations Public Service Awards (UNPSA), to discuss practical challenges and opportunities in innovation in the public sector, as well as to provide policy

recommendations on how to promote a culture of innovation in the public sector.

The meeting will be conducted in a plenary session, divided into five groups, one for each specific theme, and will be devoted to the presentation of innovative experiences in public administration that have won the 2009 UNPSA, as well as discussions among international experts on how to promote a culture of innovation in the public sector for improved performance.

The purpose of these presentations will be to enhance knowledge about effective innovative solutions to governance challenges in all corners of the globe, as well as to highlight the factors that lead to innovation in public administration for drawing useful lessons learned. Time will also be devoted for discussion and interactive participation of participants.

At the end of each session, the keynote speaker will provide conclusions and recommendations on how to develop a culture of innovation in public administration based on the lessons learned from the cases presented. The speaker will also discuss how successful practices presented can be replicated and tailored to the specific circumstances of other countries, as well as provide feed-back to the UN Secretariat on how to further share and adapt innovative practices to achieve the UN Development Goals.

For more information:

<http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/un-dpadm/unpan034580.pdf>

Reviewing environmental-economic policies

UNCEEA will meet in New York from 24-26 June to measure the nexus between economic growth, development and environment

The United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA) is an intergovernmental body providing strategic vision and direction to environmental-economic accounting and related statistics. The 4th Meeting of the UNCEEA will discuss the policy relevance of environmental-economic accounting and environment statistics framework to measure the nexus between economic growth, development and the environment including climate change.

In particular, it will discuss the contribution of these frameworks and more broadly of the statistical community to global initiatives related to climate change, the green economy, sustainable consumption and production, biodiversity and ecosystem services. Senior experts from academia and the policy and scientific community will be invited to participate in the meetings.

The UNCEEA will also review progress made in the revision of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA), the implementation of the SEEAW and monitor the progress of work of various technical groups and city groups working under its auspices.

For more information:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/ceea/>

Civic values for social justice

World Civic Forum 2009 on Building Our Humanitarian Planet was held in Seoul, from 5 - 8 May

The Forum, organized by Kyung Hee University and DESA, gathered during four days with about 2000 participants from 75 countries, including representatives from the academia, civil society organizations, private sector, as well as government and international organizations. A total of 350 presentations were made in plenary sessions, roundtables, thematic sessions, workshops and expert meetings, all on a variety of issues related with the Forum's central theme: *Building our humanitarian planet*.

Among the most relevant topics were the role of civil society in facilitating inclusive and equitable development by partnership with public and private organizations, the contribution of universities to this process (capacity building, values, leadership, knowledge sharing, etc.), and the need of citizens engagement to better meet the challenges for sustainability coming from climate change.

The Forum was opened by Mr. Inwon Choue, President of Kyung Hee University; DESA's Under-Secretary-General Mr. Sha Zukang on behalf of the Secretary-General; and Mr. Han Seung-soo, Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea, among other high level participants. Mr. Sha also participated in a roundtable on the contribution of universities to

equitable, inclusive and sustainable development, together with the Assistant Director General of UNESCO, Mr. Hans d'Orville, and presidents from top universities of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea.

The Forum concluded with a joint declaration from participants of the World Civic Forum, including representatives of governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, civil society groups and academic institutions.

The Declaration highlights civic values for social justice, social inclusion and equity as well as civic engagement in public, global governance and civic action to foster the global agenda, including climate change. This Declaration is intended to favor mobilization of the global community to foster enhanced citizen participation to address present and future challenges for development and governance worldwide.

For more information: <http://www.wcf2009.org/>

Role of infrastructure in metropolitan development

Conference on Sustainable Urbanization in the Information Age was held on 13 May in New York

The conference was jointly organized by the Global Alliance on ICT for Development (GAID/DPADM) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), with sponsorship from the American Institute of Architects, the Regional Planning Association and several private firms and social organization.

The conference was opened by Ms. Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Mr. Cheick Sidi Diarra, and, representing DESA, Mr. Roberto Villarreal, Chief of the Socio-Economic Governance and Management Branch of the Division for Public Administration and Development Management.

During the conference, 200 participants from diverse countries (US, UK, Australia, Spain, Canada, South Africa, etc.), associated with CSOs, academic institutions, professional associations and private sector firms participated in lively discussions about the challenges of harnessing urbanization in sustainable ways, addressing issues of infrastructure,

urban planning, governance, citizens engagement and applications of ICT.

Three ambassadors to the United Nations (Estonia, Germany and Indonesia) chaired the corresponding sessions of the Conference. Presentations made by panelists and analyzed by discussants helped raise the key issues. It was agreed by consensus at the conclusion of the conference that a similar one will be held again next year, with explicit attention to follow up related developments in represented countries.

For more information: <http://www.un-gaid.org>

Capacity development

Water accounts for Latin America

Technical workshop on the preparation of water accounts will be hosted by ECLAC from 1-4 June in Santiago

DESA's Statistics Division, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), is conducting a technical workshop to assist countries with the implementation of the System of Environmental Economic Accounting for Water (SEEA-Water).

The workshop has a practical focus and will provide countries with the necessary training to implement the System of Environmental and Economic Accounts for Water (SEEA-Water). The workshop will cover the SEEA-Water standard tables, how they are compiled, and global implementation of the SEEA-Water. Participating countries will share experiences in implementing the SEEA-Water, compile SEEA-Water Standard tables using national data and develop a plan for the implementation of the SEEA-Water in participating countries.

For more information:

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/newsletter/globalstat_unsd_calendar.htm

Manufacturing statistics

Comprehensive and comparable manufacturing statistics in the Latin American region will be the focus of a workshop from 1-4 June in Santiago

This workshop, organized by DESA's Statistics Division in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística (IBGE), continues the programme for the development of comprehensive and comparable manufacturing statistics in the Latin American region. Building on topics discussed at previously held workshops, this proposed workshop will in particular focus on the conduct of manufacturing surveys, including the planning and management of surveys, sampling issues, questionnaire design and data collection issues, as well as specific methods and techniques used for capturing small and household units.

For more information:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/industry/meetings/eclac2009/ac177-2.asp>

Latest technologies in knowledge transfer

Regional workshop will be hosted by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics in Dhaka from 15-18 June to establish an IT network

The workshop, organized by DESA's Statistics Division in cooperation with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), is part of DESA's Development Account project for strengthening of statistical capacity of countries of South Asia. One of the objectives of the project is to establish an IT network, which will aim to provide a forum for technical dialogue among countries in the region for promotion of knowledge management in the form of common platforms for data and metadata exchange and the sharing of information on methodologies and statistical analysis.

Within the SAARC Secretariat context it is expected that decisions will be taken on the modalities of the common platforms, including a concept paper for the design and organization of the community website with interactive technology (electronic forum, wiki, etc).

This workshop will give an overview of the latest technologies in knowledge transfer; it will discuss traditional knowledge bases and web forums, as well as usage of social networking in knowledge sharing. Data dissemination and data exchange technologies, such as SDMX, will be treated also.

One of the outcomes of this Regional Workshop should relate to the practical bottlenecks at individual country level, which may prevent the community website from becoming actively used. In that regard countries will be invited to make presentation on their statistical systems and their practices in communication, data sharing and data dissemination.

For more information:

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/newsletter/globalstat_unsd_calendar.htm

Challenges and good practices for tourism statistics

Meeting in Vientiane, Laos from 16-19 June, the objective of this workshop is to train representatives on methodological development of tourism statistics

The workshop will be attended by representatives from national statistical offices, national tourism authorities and central banks from South East Asian countries and review the current country-practices in compiling tourism statistics. The training will focus on both the interpretation of conceptual issues and options for the implementation of the international recommendations in country specific circumstances and facilitate the establishment of a network of statisticians in the South East Asian countries working on tourism statistics.

For more information:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/tradeserv/Workshops/Vientiane/default.htm>

contribute to a regional strategy to harmonize data collection, compilation and revision policies, and quality standards to extend the scope and detail of the national accounts in the region.

For more information:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/workshops.asp>

National accounts for SADC countries

Workshop in Windhoek, Namibia, from 16-19 June to increase statistical capacity building in the region

DESA's Statistics Division, in collaboration with the Central Bureau of Statistics of Namibia, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) are organizing a workshop on National Accounts for SADC countries.

The workshop is part of the efforts of the Statistics Division to increase statistical capacity building in the region and as such relates to the framework of the project "Strengthening statistical capacity building in support of progress towards the Internationally Agreed Development Goals in the Southern African Development Community region".

The purpose of the workshop is to discuss National Accounts issues brought about by the update of the System of National Accounts and main challenges faced by SADC countries on national accounts issues such as, the timeliness and reliability of source data, benchmarking and rebasing, volume measures and back casting in view of the update of the SNA and ISIC. It is foreseen that these discussions would

Publications and websites

Technical reports



World Economic Situation and Prospects as of mid-2009

Faced with the worst recession since World War II, the United Nations baseline forecast for world economic growth has been revised downwards compared with the pessimistic scenario of the *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2009* published in January. The world economy is expected to shrink by 2.6 per cent in 2009 after an expansion of 2.1 per cent in 2008 and nearly 4 per cent per year during 2004-2007. While a mild recovery is expected in 2010, risks remain on the downside. Developing countries are disproportionately hard hit by the crisis.

The report also discusses the unprecedented global policy response, which includes monetary, financial and fiscal measures, to stabilize financial markets and revive global growth. The key message of the report is that greater efforts are needed, including through better policy coordination and larger financial transfers to developing countries, in order to achieve a balanced process of global demand reflation, which also allows developing countries to take adequate countercyclical action, protect their vulnerable populations and align the response with long-run sustainable development goals.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/esa/policy/wess/wesp.html>



World Public Sector Report 2008: People Matter – Civic Engagement in Public Governance – forthcoming

The 2008 Report highlights the importance of civic engagement in public governance and by profiling several case studies, demonstrates how such practices gain the capacity to strengthen governance, make it more transparent and accountable and most importantly, contribute to developmental outcomes that are more sustainable, equitable and just.

The Report also highlights several challenges and cautions that adequate attention must be given to the issues of power relations, institutional capacities of the government as well as the civil society organizations and adaptation of methodologies and strategies that suit the local conditions and other factors crucial to the introduction of successful civic engagement practices in public governance.

Printed copies of the report will be released during the observance and celebration of the United Nations Public Service Day and Awards on 23 June.

For more information:

<http://www.unpan.org/DPADM/MajorPublications/WorldPublicSectorReport/tabid/595/language/en-US/Default.aspx#2007>

To order: <https://unp.un.org/Details.aspx?pid=17127>

To download:

<http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/un/unpan028608.pdf>

Best Practices and Innovations in Public Administration - forthcoming

Printed copies of the report will be released during the observance and celebration of the United Nations Public Service Day and Awards on 23 June.

For more information:

<http://www.unpan.org/DPADM/Products/Publication/tabid/625/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

The United Nations Contribution to the Improvement of Public Administration - forthcoming

Printed copies of the report will be released during the observance and celebration of the United Nations Public Service Day and Awards on 23 June.

For more information:

<http://www.unpan.org/DPADM/Products/Publication/tabid/625/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

To order: <https://unp.un.org/Details.aspx?pid=18053>

Statistical compilations



Energy Statistics Yearbook 2006

The Yearbook is a comprehensive collection of international energy statistics prepared annually by DESA's Statistics Division. The

2006 issue presents energy statistics on the supply of primary and secondary forms of energy for the period 2003-2006 for more than 190 countries and areas. Data for each type of fuel and aggregate data for commercial fuels are shown for individual countries and areas and are summarized into regional and world totals. Complete time series for the period 1950-2006 are available on the Energy Statistics Database.

For more information:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/energy/yearbook/default.htm>

To order: <https://unp.un.org/details.aspx?pid=17302>

To download:

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/energy/yearbook/EYB_Cover2006.pdf



Energy Balances and Electricity Profiles 2006

The 2006 edition is the fourteenth issue in a series that started in 1990. It contains energy balances for 115 developing countries for the period 2003-2006 and electricity profiles

for 190 countries for the period 2001-2006. The energy balances are snapshots of the annual energy flows in each country showing energy production, trade, conversion and consumption of fuels. The electricity profiles provide detailed information on the production, trade and consumption of electricity, net installed capacity and thermal power plant input and efficiency. This book is an excellent source for assessing and analyzing production and consumption patterns in detail on an internationally comparable basis.

For more information:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/energy/balance/default.htm>

To order: <https://unp.un.org/details.aspx?pid=19275>

To download:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/energy/balance/Cover%20EBEP%202006.pdf>



World Statistics Pocketbook 2008

This Pocketbook is an authoritative and comprehensive compilation of key statistical indicators in convenient country profile format. The 2008 edition presents available data for 215 countries and areas for 55 indicators, generally for the years

2001 and 2007, in the areas of population, economic activity, agriculture, industry, energy, international trade, transport, communications, gender, education and environment, based on over 20 international statistical sources. The notes on the sources and definitions of the indicators are provided to help users perform further research on the statistics.

To order: <https://unp.un.org/details.aspx?pid=18467>

Discussion papers



Sustainable Development Innovation Briefs – Issue 7, May 2009

This brief discusses the potential for sustainable agriculture to contribute towards sustainable development with a particular focus on developing countries. It describes different sustainable agricultural practices and the extent of their adoption, identifies constraints to their further adoption, and presents actions and policy options that could accelerate the widespread adoption of sustainable agricultural practices.

To download:

http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/resources/res_pdfs/publications/ib/no7.pdf

World Economic Situation and Prospects – Monthly Briefing, No 8, May 2009

This issue of the monthly briefing states that the world economy will contract by 2.6 per cent in 2009 and that a recovery in 2010 is possible, but risks of a prolonged recession are high. Developing countries are disproportionately hit by the crisis and fiscal responses, while significant, are asymmetric. More financial transfers to developing countries are needed as part of better coordinated global efforts.

For more information:

http://www.un.org/esa/policy/publications/dpad_wes_pmbn.html

Websites



DPADM News now available on UNPAN

The United Nations Public Administration Network

(UNPAN) is pleased to release its latest addition to the portal. UNPAN users may now avail of the DPADM News, which highlights details of the latest activities of the Division for Public Administration & Development Management (DPADM) in news feature style.

To browse:

<http://www.unpan.org/DPADM/Home/tabid/420/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

Comings and goings

Comings

The following staff members were promoted in May

Jacob Assa, Statistician, Statistics Division

Corazon Cabigao, Programme Assistant, Statistics Division

Donna Culpepper, Editorial Assistant, Population Division

Arthur de la Cruz, Staff Assistant, Division for Sustainable Development

Roland Mollerus, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, Development Policy and Analysis Division

Julie Pewitt, Editorial Assistant, Division for Social Policy and Development

Friedrich Soltau, Economic Affairs Officer, Division for Sustainable Development

Ninon Thermidor, Staff Assistant, Secretariat of the UN Forum on Forests

The following staff members were promoted in March

Tun Lin Htet, Research Assistant, Financing for Development Office

Goings

The following staff member retired in May:

Mr. Leonides Buencamino, Economic Affairs Officer, Financing for Development Office

Calendar

June

Preparation of Water Accounts in Latin America

Technical Workshop, Santiago, 1-4 June

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/newsletter/globalstat_unsd_calendar.htm

Manufacturing Statistics

Workshop, Santiago, 1-4 June

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/industry/meetings/eclac2009/ac177-2.asp>

The Bonn Climate Change Talks

Bonn, 1-12 June

<http://unfccc.int/2860.php>

Project LINK Spring Meeting

St. Petersburg, 4-6 June

<http://www.un.org/esa/policy/link/index.html>

From Data to Accounts: Measuring Production in National Accounting

International Workshop, Beijing, 8-10 June

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/newsletter/globalstat_unsd_calendar.htm

Latest Information Technologies in Knowledge Transfer

Regional Workshop, Dhaka, 15-18 June

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/newsletter/globalstat_unsd_calendar.htm

Tourism Statistics for South East Asian Countries

Workshop, Vientiane, Laos, 16-19 June

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/tradeserv/Workshops/Vientiane/default.htm>

National Accounts for SADC countries

Workshop, Windhoek, 16-19 June

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/workshops.asp>

UNdata - Data Manager's Meeting

New York, 22-24 June

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/newsletter/globalstat_unsd_calendar.htm

Innovations in Governance and Public Administration for the Achievement of the Development Goals

Expert Group Meeting and Capacity Development Workshop, New York, 23-24 June

<http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/un-dpadm/unpan034580.pdf>

World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development

United Nations Conference, New York, 24-26 June

<http://www.un.org/ga/econcrisissummit/>

UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting

Fourth Meeting, New York, 24-26 June

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/newsletter/globalstat_unsd_calendar.htm

July

Substantive Session of the Economic and Social Council

Geneva, 6-31 July

<http://esango.un.org/event/ecosoc.html?page=calendarList&year=2009#July>

Observances



United Nations Public Service Day and Awards Ceremony 23 June

Public Service Day is commemorated each year on 23 June to celebrate the value and virtue of public service to the community, highlight the contribution of public service in the development process, recognize the work of public servants, and encourage young people to pursue careers in the public sector.

Over 300 participants from around the world are expected to attend this high-level event, including dignitaries, innovative leaders, as well as Ambassadors and delegates from 192 Permanent Missions to the United Nations. The President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs are expected to preside over the opening ceremony. All staff members are invited to take part in the United Nations Public Service Day Celebrations. This event will be held at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, in Conference Room 4 from 10:00 am to 1:15 pm.

This year's winning initiatives – ranging from water quality services to a national registration system – are from public organizations from Egypt, India, Poland,

Republic of Korea, Slovenia, Sweden, Thailand and Zambia. The finalists are Canada, Oman, Republic of Korea and South Africa.

The competition is open to all public organizations and agencies at national or sub-national level, as well as public-private partnerships. Awards are given in three categories: improving transparency, accountability and responsiveness in the public service; improving the delivery of services; and fostering participation in policy-making decisions through innovative mechanisms.

For more information:

<http://www.unpan.org/Events/PublicServiceDayAwards/tabid/92/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

<http://www.un.org/esa/desa/desalert/2009/awards2009.pdf>

DESA News is an insider's look at the United Nations in the area of economic and social development policy. The newsletter is produced by the Communications and Information Management Service of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in collaboration with DESA Divisions. Prior to January 2007, DESA News was issued every other month. It is now issued monthly.

Inquiries should be addressed to esa@un.org.