

Governance Meetings



9th Technical Advisory Group Meeting Luncheon, Washington, DC (September 25, 2013)

an overall positive outlook on the path ahead. Kaushik Basu, Sr. Vice President and Chief Economist, World Bank hosted a luncheon for the TAG members where he commended their efforts and spoke of his anticipation for the 2011 ICP results.

Computation Task Force Meeting

The Computation Task Force met on September 26, 2013 to harmonize their approaches and methods for computing ICP results. The session was fruitful and led to an agreement on a strict timetable and guidelines for processing the results in time for their publication in December 2013.

59th ISI World Statistics Congress

10th Regional Coordinators' Meeting

The 10th Meeting of the 2011 ICP Regional Coordinators was held from September 23-24, 2013 in Washington, DC. The meeting discussed issues related to: (i) global and regional progress reports; (ii) review of data quality; (iii) review of metadata quality; and (iv) ICP timetable and publishing final results. The meeting discussed remaining issues to be resolved and the actions necessary to ensure the best quality 2011 ICP results.

9th Technical Advisory Group Meeting

The 9th Meeting of the 2011 ICP Technical Advisory Group (TAG) was held from September 25-27, 2013 in Washington, DC. The meeting covered issues related to: (i) preliminary results; (ii) productivity adjustment; (iii) linking the CIS region; (iii) global aggregation; (iv) ICP timetable; and (v) recommendations. The TAG reviewed preliminary 2011 ICP results computed by the experts. Much debate over the details and methodologies resulted in decisions to be implemented and

The 59th the International Statistical Institute (ISI) World Statistics Congress took place in Hong Kong, China from August 25-30, 2013. The session entitled Measuring the real size of the world economy: Methodological and quality improvements of the International Comparison Program (ICP) was organized by Michel Mouyelo-Katoula, ICP Global Manager. Papers were presented by Paul McCarthy, Fred Vogel, Oliver Chinganya, Chellam Palanyandy, Nada Hamadeh, Majed Skaini and Kyung Sam Min on topics including:



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59th ISI cont'd

improved methods to estimate PPPs; enhanced data validation procedures; GDP exhaustiveness, consistency, and methods of estimating GDP expenditures; and improved PPP extrapolation approaches. More information on this session and the papers may be found at <http://www.isi2013.hk/en/index.php>



59th ISI, Hong Kong, China (August 25-30)

ICP Toolkit V5.1

Edition 5.1 of the ICP Toolkit was released during the 10th RC meeting and included enhancements and security features such as summing up availability and importance information provided in the new Quaranta Tables for each country. Other improvements included extended filter functions; reorganization of results tables; optimization of aggregation and index processing methods; assessment of the regional Master Lists in the Setup and Diagnostics module for integrity; and more features to enable optimal utilization of the tool.

Regional Activities

Africa

A regional workshop on national accounts data validation occurred in Nairobi, Kenya from July 15-19, 2013 to ensure that countries completed, finalized and validated the data collected in respect to the national accounts specific surveys. The Africa regional coordination team held a retreat to review computation procedures and draft the outline of the ICP regional report. The regional coordinators will present preliminary results to AfDB management in early November 2013 followed by a press release and a presentation of the final results to NSO Director Generals in December 2013. Publication of the main report, re-

port summary and a user-friendly report titled, "Africa in the World" is planned for April-June 2014.

Asia and the Pacific

The preliminary results of the ICP for Asia-Pacific were discussed at a regional Expert Group meeting from July 31-August 2, 2013. The Regional Advisory Board meeting was held on August 12, 2013 and was followed by a meeting of the Heads of National Implementing Agencies on August 13, 2013 in Manila, Philippines.

Commonwealth of Independent States

A meeting of the CIS ICP Coordination Council on the results of the CIS ICP 2011 will be held in October where they will decide on the set of results to be published. In November-December 2013, the CIS-Stat will publish an electronic version and a hard copy of the regional results, accompanied by a press release. In April 2014, the members of the CIS ICP Coordination Council will determine the dissemination policy for 2011 ICP results, which will contain brief methodological recommendations and result tables. All efforts will be made to disseminate global and regional 2011 ICP results via press conferences, presentations at regional and national users' meetings, and the CIS-Stat website.

Eurostat-OECD

New data are still being collected and validated up to and including November 2013. The final data, including revised 2005 expenditures, will be submitted by the end of November 2013 as previously agreed. Provisionally, Eurostat and OECD will release the 2011 PPP data on December 12, 2013 in the form of a press release and a database release. Consideration is underway for a special joint OECD/Eurostat press release on the day of

the ICP release.

Latin America and the Caribbean

A high-level regional meeting took place in Santiago, Chile from September 9-10, 2013 to discuss preliminary results with member countries. The results will be shown to Heads of NSOs during the meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas in November 2013 in Santiago. Final results will be released in December 2013. ECLAC plans to publish the results before or simultaneous to the release of the global results. Latin America and the Caribbean will have separate press releases and publications of their data, which will contain all of the statistics and methodological details, including an analysis of final results.

Pacific Islands

A fourth and final data validation workshop was held in Brisbane, Australia in June 2013 and all countries were asked to formally sign off on their data by September 13, 2013. The Pacific expects to deliver a final dataset of prices, importance indicators and (proxy) expenditure weights, together with updated metadata questionnaires, to the Global Office in October 2013. The final report will likely include the results of the current round, lessons learned, and plans for ensuring that the Pacific is able to participate more fully in the future. With the data and metadata nearly close to final, the region intends to convene a round of meetings with key stakeholders to discuss outreach/communication issues and other issues associated with the publication of results.

Western Asia

The region had a mission to Kuwait to review data in the beginning of July and in August they had a meeting on 2005 and 2011 national



National Accounts workshop, Nairobi, Kenya (July 12 – 19, 2013)

Regional Activities cont'd

accounts with the expectation of submitting regional results for the directors of NSOs' clearance in October or November. Publication of final results and a press release is planned for the end of November 2013.

A formal working session with the 2011 ICP Global Office was held in Washington, DC from September 16-20 to produce preliminary regional results for Western Asia and prepare for the ICP regional workshop in Western Asia to be held October 7-10, 2013.

Singleton Countries - Georgia

A final meeting was held from July 16-19, 2013 in Tbilisi, Georgia to finalize the report on the results of the bilateral exercise. The bilateral comparison between Georgia and Armenia has since been completed and finalized. The proposed text and four tables to be included in the report have been sent to the Global Office. Two of the tables cover, with some additions and omissions, the standard ICP analytical categories while the others cover goods and services by type and provide a breakdown of final consumption expenditure. The report still needs to be approved by senior management in Geostat and Armstat. Publication is expected to be towards the end of the third quarter of 2013. Dissemination will be through the Geostat and Armstat websites.

Singleton Countries - Iran

The final Bilateral Meeting between the Central Bank of The Islamic Republic of Iran and the ICP Global Office took place in Istanbul, Turkey from July 1-5, 2013. The purpose of the meeting was to: (a) review Iran's status of the implementation of the ICP; (b) discuss issues related to the linking of Iran with the rest of the world in the global comparison; (c) finalize Iran's household consumption data; (d) validate data related to other ICP areas; and (e) assess and improve the quality of their ICP National Accounts data.

International Comparison Program (ICP)

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Special Interview with Angus Deaton, Dwight D Eisenhower Professor, Princeton University and member of the ICP TAG



Q1. What is your role as a member of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) of the 2011 ICP round?

My role is to be part of a group where the total is a lot more than the parts. One of the reasons I love the TAG is that no one understands everything that is going on - except perhaps Alan Heston - but together, we are a terrific problem solving unit. And it is an amazing privilege to be with such a diverse group of skills, statisticians, managers, economists, country experts, and academics and practitioners.

Q2. How long have you been working with PPP data and how do you use them concretely in your research?

Not quite sure, but about 15 years, when I first became interested in the problem of measuring global poverty, where the measures depend on PPP calculations. Since then, I have become much more interested in the general issues, and have worked on PPPs more broadly, for example in my paper with Alan Heston in the American Economic Journal Macro in 2010.

I also made heavy use of PPP numbers in my new book *The Great Escape: health, wealth, and the origins of inequality*, that was just published. Here I look at global poverty and global inequality—both crucially dependent on PPPs—and I spend quite some time (in Chapter Six) explaining PPPs in layman's terms. I make heavy use of the essential British good, Marmite. Further information on the book is available at

<http://press.princeton.edu/titles/10054.html>

Q3. How do you see the improvements made to the PPP computation and quality over the years?

Huge, just enormous. The move of the ICP to the World Bank, and the housing of the Global Office at the Bank marked an enormous improvement in professionalism and in the quality of the work. In 1993, the last round before 2005, there were many problems, enough to threaten the viability of the project. But the 2005 round put it back on a professional basis, with high quality results, and a well-designed management and advisory system.

Q4. What are your expectations from the 2011 ICP?

2011 is, in a sense, the full fruition of the 2005 project, with two rounds under fully professional and expert guidance. 2011 will establish the project for the future, providing not only a benchmark, but a set of comparisons between two years. I think that 2011, together with 2005, will set the ICP on a well-founded, sustainable, and useful path.

2013-2014 Milestones and Activities

October 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission of final 2011 price data for the GCL, expenditures, regional PPPs and metadata • Status report and preliminary results confidentially circulated to the Executive Board • 9th Executive Board meeting • Submission of final 2005 expenditures and metadata
November 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary results computed by Computation Task Force • Computation Task Force meeting • Submission of final regional results • Final results circulated to the ICP review group
December 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Release of 2011 ICP Global Results • Report to the 45th session of the UNSC
March 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication of 2011 ICP Final Report