

Agenda 5b: Data Governance in a changing world

I have the privilege and honor to offer my greetings to all the distinguished delegates and participants in this august forum.

It is with immense joy and pride that I am getting this opportunity to speak a few words on **data governance in a changing world**. Data governance can connote different things to different statistical systems and countries based on their state of statistical development and sophistication. For a small country like Bhutan, it means putting in place a statistical system which is able to cater to the data needs of the populace and be able to reflect what the reality on the ground is.

To enable fulfilling the above, the NSB as the apex body with regard to statistical matters in Bhutan is embarking on putting emphasis on administrative data and its quality thereof being produced by different agencies for official statistics. The target here is to rely less and less on surveys which are inherently taxing in terms of financial and human resources. As all the distinguished delegates are aware, quality of administrative data has various dimensions with the important ones being institutional arrangements, quality of input data, quality of data processing and quality of statistical output.

In conjunction with the administrative data and its quality, NSB Bhutan is also enhancing the data base management by putting in place “Bhutan Statistical Database System (BSDS)” wherein a data base system is developed which enables some administrative data producers to directly key in the micro data to the system with data flow and quality checks embedded within the system. The system is designed to enable both NSB as well as the agency HQ to access the data. The system is also able to integrate and is interoperable with the other agencies collecting the data sharing APIs with the NSB to enable data transfer to the BSDS from their information management systems.

NSB is also aware of the statistical systems in some countries adopting “big data” taking advantage of technological advancements. We did conduct some preliminary studies on using the data generated by mobile phone users, electricity users and sales counters. We hope to take these forward in a measured manner keeping in view of statistical standards as well as privacy issues.

Thank you all and Tashi Delek