INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS WORKSHOP ON COMPILATION, ANALYSIS, DISSEMINATION, INDICATORS AND USES

OUTCOMES DOCUMENT

1. The Regional Workshop on International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) compilation, analysis, dissemination, indicators and uses was conducted by the Pacific Community (SPC) in collaboration with the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), PACER Plus Implementation Unit (PPIU) and the Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO) from 5 – 10 December 2022 in Nadi Fiji. The workshop brought together trade compilers from National Statistics Offices (NSO), Customs officers and resource persons from SPC member countries. The full list of participants is given in Appendix 1.

2. **Purpose of the workshop**

   The purpose of the workshop was to:

   a. Discuss progress made in the compilation of IMTS in reference to the *outcomes* of the last workshop held on IMTS in November 2012.
   b. Provide training to the many new trade statisticians in the region in the methodology to compile IMTS – a request that was also made by a few PICTs NSOs.
   c. Introduce and discuss new developments made and in-progress at SPC -
      i. Pacific Data Hub Indicator Database (PDH.stat) is in place for the dissemination of data including IMTS.
      ii. SPC has released the trade compilation guide that PICTs can make use of when compiling IMTS.
      iii. The setting up of the Pacific Customs Commodity Trade (PACComtrade) Database is work-in-progress.
   d. Discuss uses of IMTS, of which indicators and analysis are important components, and identify gaps in data that needs to be addressed.

   Agenda is attached as Annex 2.

3. **Expected outcomes from the workshop**

   Different users need different data, ranging from data sets of varying detail by <u>country</u> and <u>commodity</u>. All users need <u>reliable</u> and <u>timely</u> data compiled using <u>internationally recommended methodology</u> so that the data can be compared internationally. The expected outcomes from the workshop were -
   a. To create awareness for the demand of trade data i.e. the role international merchandise trade plays in food security, in food prices particularly in PICTs where most food are imported, in trade policy frameworks, in monitoring NCDs.
   b. To ensure completion of work on the Pacific Customs Commodity Trade Database.
   c. To ensure the use of the recommended methodology for the compilation of IMTS e.g., SPCs International Merchandise Trade Statistics Compilation Guide and UNs IMTS Manual 2010.
   d. To ensure that PACHS 2017 and 2022 are available to all NSOs and customs

administrations without any restriction.

   e. To get NSOs commitment to compile outstanding IMTS tables recommended in the 2012 workshop and to resolve issues still existing with the tables already complied.

   f. For Customs administrations to –

     i. Be clear on the data needs of NSOs for the compilation of IMTS e.g., inputting correct quantity data; identifying goods traded under preferential trade agreements, re-exports and re-imports.

     ii. Support SPC on the PACComtrade database.

     iii. Adopt the Pacific Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System (PACHS) 2022.

     iv. Provide training to brokers in filling out the Single Authoritative Document.

   g. Providers of Technical Assistance like SPC to be clear on how to best provide assistance to NSOs for the compilation of IMTS.

   h. PICTs NSO and Customs administrations to network so that they are able to assist each other. Suggestion is for SPC to be in the loop should IMTS methodology needs verification.

Discussions and recommendations

Session 1: Opening of the workshop and introduction of participants

4. The workshop was opened by the Director of the Statistics for Development Division of SPC. Opening statements were also made by UNSD, PACER Plus and OCO. This was followed by a prayer, introduction of participants and the adoption of the agenda.

Session 2: Workshop overview

5. Session 2 threw light on the progress made in the compilation of IMTS tables[1] since the workshop held by SPC in November 2012. With the help of the monitoring report that SPC maintains issues still existing in the compilation of these tables were highlighted for each country. Each NSO responded to the issues with plans to address them. The presentation highlighted that due to the smallness of the NSOs in many PICTs provision of timely IMTS to users will continue to exist. The purpose of the workshop and the expected outcomes were also highlighted – refer to paras 2 and 3.

Session 3: Introduction to International Trade

Session 3 introduced participants to international trade, IMTS and the users and uses of IMTS.

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[1]

1	Balance of trade - all items
2	Imports by HS
3	Exports by HS
4	Re-exports by HS
5	Total exports by HS
6	Principal exports
7	Principal imports
8	Balance of trade by major partner countries
9	Trade by region
10	Trade by mode of transport
11	Trade by preferential trade agreements
	11.1: MSG_exports
	11.1: MSG_imports
	11.2: PICTA_exports
	11.3: i-IPA_exports
	11.4: SPARTECA_exports
12	Exports by SITC
13	Imports by SITC
14	Retained imports classified by BEC

6. **Introduction to international trade and IMTS**

Discussion on international trade threw clarity on international trade and domestic trade and trade in goods and services. Examples of the components of international trade in goods e.g. origin of imports, cost, insurance and freight were highlighted. It brought out the distinction between exports and re-exports and imports and re-imports. It further clarified that IMTS is the statistics compiled on international trade which users use for a variety of purpose e.g. develop policies related to food security.

7. **Trade Statistics in Trade Policy Frameworks and Negotiations**

The Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS) presented on the importance of statistics in the development of national trade policies and preparations for trade negotiations –
   a. Timely statistics are crucial to provide factual information to the policymakers and implementers.
   b. Trade Officials and Trade Ministers need access to timely and accurate data in order to engage in the negotiations and implementation of bilateral, regional and international trade agreement.
   c. Without real and accurate statistics in hand, it becomes challenging for PIFS to facilitate the implementation of an existing trade agreement.

8. **Preferential trade agreements: PACER Plus**

PPIU[2] provided an overview of PACER Plus Trade in Goods and Services and Labour Mobility indicating use of technical support for processes involving data collection, analysis and reporting of quality data. Through the presentation and discussion, the following issues were noted for consideration:
   a. Customs administrations to be encouraged to adopt the Pacific Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System (PACHS) 2022.
   b. PICTs to consider use of common user-defined reports in ASYCUDA World to help with timely reporting of *provisional* trade data.
   c. Training of Customs Brokers to correctly input data required for IMTS compilation - noted the challenges with the collection of quantity data for trade statistics.
   d. Noting the emerging importance of trade in services in the region and the gaps existing in the data, a regional approach to compiling data on trade in services should be looked into.
   e. Regional approach to skilling trade statisticians in information technology so that they are able to work with trade databases using appropriate software packages.
   f. Regional Partners (SPC, OCO, UNSD, PIFS, PPIU) should continue to work together to advocate for increasing harmonisation of systems development, data collation and analysis.
   g. Encouragement and promotion of PICTs in using the Pacific Data Hub (SPC) as a centralised data repository, and commitment to timely reporting, dissemination. Improvements in metadata should be a high priority for PICTs with the Pacific Data Hub providing a logical platform for implementation.

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[2] PACER Plus came into force in December 2020 and the Parties have established the PPIU based in Samoa to facilitate the implementation of the Development and Economic Cooperation Work Programme that will assist PACER Plus Parties to implement the Agreement.

9. **Preferential trade agreements: MSG**

MSG[3] Secretariat provided an overview of the MSG Trade Agreement 2005. To enable policy makers, assess the depth, impact and progress of trade liberalization taking place in the areas of trade in services, investments and labour mobility -
    a. SPC has been requested to look into the viability of assisting PICTs with the compilation of International Trade in Services Statistics for the Pacific region.
    b. Regional collaborations and partnerships need to strengthen capacities of national customs and statistics administrations to provide solutions and share lessons to the region, for instance, the development of the Pacific Commodity Trade Database System, PACCHS2022.

10. **Electronic Commerce**

The presentation on e-commerce was made by Bhikabhai and Company Pte Limited as an enterprise engaged in e-commerce. E-commerce and digital trade are high in the agenda of many policy makers; therefore it necessitates a proper conceptual framework and measurement plan –
    a. IMTS 2010 recommends the inclusion of goods of e-commerce in IMTS
    b. The forthcoming IMTS 2025 (refer to Session 6) will recommend the measurement of e-commerce as separate item.

11. **Historic food and beverage trade data cleaning for improved Policy: The Pacific Food Trade Database**

The Pacific Food Trade Database (PFTD) was introduced to attendees. This introduction included background on the development of the database, some outputs and future plans. Additionally, participating countries, except American Samoa (not included in the database) were given all data (1995-2018) relevant to their countries. Metadata and microdata were presented, and some basic analysis showing imports of unhealthy foods, as an example of how the data can be used to inform country food policies. Dr Brewer is available to assist country representatives in exploring their respective PFTD data, and will stay in communication with countries, including to notify them when the data and dashboard are live on the Pacific Data Hub.

12. **Trade price indexes**

Representatives from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) International Trade Price Indexes delivered targeted training on the construction, purpose and uses of International Trade Price Indexes. The training covered the conceptual framework of a price index, followed by sessions on the practical application using International Merchandise Trade data from Kiribati. This practical application enabled participants to build an understanding of how to compile indexes with requisite levels of quality to create statistical outputs that are fit for purpose.

<u>Countries were encouraged to identify key products to construct low level experimental indexes as a starting point on which to apply the learnings from the workshop</u>. Several countries have commenced reviewing their data and assessing the feasibility of constructing food import price indexes for key commodities. A critical aspect to the creation of food price indexes is quality

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[3] MSG enhances intra-regional trade through free movement of trade in goods and contribute to the deepening of MSG integration. The parties to the MSG Trade Agreement are Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. The new Melanesian Free Trade Agreement (MFTA) awaiting ratification is a comprehensive agreement that covers trade in goods, services, cross border investments and labour mobility with the view of promoting economic growth and sustainable development.

international merchandise data, which supported other areas of the workshop focused on improving reporting on key variables collected on customs declarations (i.e., improved reporting of quantity, classifications).

13. Imports as a driver of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in the small Pacific Island countries

Recognising the risks and opportunities that trade poses for public health and nutrition, and its inextricable links to the burden of NCD across the Pacific region, the need for evidence of the effect of trade agreements on regional food trade and in shaping national food environments is critical. There is a lot of motivation for improving data to better understand the links between trade and NCDs, however without urgent action on rectifying existing data challenges, demonstrating causality and effectively estimating the importance of trade agreement provisions on the region's NCD crisis will remain limited. To develop appropriate and targeted interventions that take into account the trade context, substantial efforts are required, in particular to:
   a. Invest additional resources into improved data collection, particularly capturing and disaggregating data by trade agreements to monitor the trends of imported foods at country level from the perspective of trade agreements; and
   b. Engage and mandate those who input data (Custom brokers) to provide units and quantity of measurement as this is critical to monitor the trends of imported foods shaping national food environments.

14. Data in the trade of Agricultural produce in the Pacific Islands region

Discussions on trade of agricultural produce in the PICTs region reflected on the trade in agriculture supply chains involving mainly fresh produce with the aim to ensure compliance to the scientific data related to the commodity e.g., pest species in the country, damage they cause to the commodity whilst in the field, importing country requirements.   The other issue discussed was to show why data on goods exported and imported need to be accurate when weighing them for the phytosanitary certificate.

15. Import leakage in tourism

The value of imported items directly purchased by tourists represents an import leakage. To measure this an input-output/supply-use table needs to be constructed.

16. Linking trade and business statistics

Discussion on linking trade and business statistics brought out the importance of PICTs setting up business registers to be able to integrate their trade register with their business register and to take steps towards establishing an integrated system of economic statistics for data compilation and analysis.

17. Use of IMTS as inputs into other statistical compilations

Use of IMTS as input in the compilation of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) expenditure approach, balance of payments current account and in the construction of trade to GDP ratios was discussed. The adjustments e.g. valuation adjustments needed between trade on a trade basis and trade on national accounts/balance of payments basis were highlighted.

18. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Participants were shown the various applications of trade data in the measurement of SDGs - both directly (such as SDG 17.11.1 Developing countries' and least developed countries' share of global exports, and 3.5.2 Alcohol per capita consumption (aged 15 years and older) within a calendar year in litres of pure alcohol) and indirectly (such as Weighted average tariffs faced by developing countries, least developed countries and small island developing States). The contribution of trade and customs data to the monitoring of illegal trade across illicit financial flows, arms and human trafficking was also discussed. The presentation and resultant discussion helped participants understand how their work and data contributes positively to wider national commitments on SDG reporting beyond the economic sector.

Session 4: Compilation of International Merchandise Trade Statistics

This session discussed the methodology required to compile IMTS.

19. Legal framework

Discussion on legal framework discussed the legal agreements, relevant laws and regulations that govern data-provision relations and all other aspects of data compilation and dissemination. A sound legal framework in place, such as a Legal Act or a Memorandum of Understanding will ensure -
   a. Availability of, and access to, necessary data sources such as customs records and non-customs sources
   b. Establishment of effective institutional arrangements that define *"official statistics" to avoid confusion* amongst data users in circumstances where the same data are accessible from different agencies, such as NSOs, Customs departments, Ministry of Finance and Central Banks, and where values might be different.
   c. The confidentiality of individual data.

20. Data sources

Discussion on data sources threw light on the two data sources customs and non-customs records used by NSOs for the compilation of IMTS. UNCTAD spoke on the role it played in assisting Customs capture trade data which was followed by 3-minute talks about issues customs officers have with their system and their plans to resolve those issues. OCO ensured Customs representatives that they can be contacted for assistance. The discussions revealed -

   a. Use of Customs records as the main and preferred data source.
   b. Use of non-customs records obtained from other sources e.g., enterprise survey, quarantine datasets to supplement data obtained from Customs records to ensure full coverage of IMTS.
   c. Use of partner country data with valuation adjustments should data from Customs not be available.

Information about the customs procedure applied to individual transactions (or the nature of transaction), in order to facilitate the identification of re-exports and re-imports, but also of other types of trade, such as goods for processing, trade between related parties, goods on consignment etc need to be included in the data provided to NSOs.

21. **Scope and coverage**

Scope and coverage used the learning platform Kahoot for the recommended coverage (scope) and the actual coverage which refers to trade flows actually recorded by PICTs. Shuttle trade was recommended to be sourced from the Quarantine Departments and included in the IMTS. Hands on exercises focussing on inclusions and exclusion in IMTS was conducted. The following came out from the discussions -
    a. PICTs should use the general guideline for reporting IMTS (refer to 21. Trade systems) i.e., IMTS should record all goods which add to or subtract from the stock of material resources of a country by entering (imports) or leaving (exports) its economic territory.
    b. Informal trade takes place in almost all the PICTs therefore PICTs are encouraged to compile estimates on shuttle trade and include them in IMTS.

22. **Time of recording**

The discussion on the time of recording of goods suggested that the time of recording of goods should be the time when they enter or leave the economic territory of a country. In the case of customs-based data-collection systems, this time should be approximated by the date of lodgement of the customs declaration.

23. **Trade systems**

Trade systems discussed the general and the special (strict and relaxed) trade systems. In PICTs only general trade systems are used. The recommendation coming out of this session was to use the general trade system for both imports and exports. Nevertheless, any deviation to the recommendation should be properly recorded in the metadata.

24. **Commodity classifications**

Commodity classifications discussed classifications used in IMTS for identifying and compiling details of commodities traded in an internationally consistent way for customs, statistical and analytical purposes and trade negotiations. The following were discussed in detail
    a. Importance of classifications and linkages of Harmonised System (HS) to other statistical classifications
    b. PACHS System
    c. Standard International Trade Classification (SITC)
    d. Broad Economic Categories (BEC)

The primary classification to be used for the collection, compilation and dissemination of IMTS by NSOs should be the HS which should be made available without any restriction by OCO to all NSOs and Customs administrations. Secondary classifications used should be the SITC for analysing trade statistics and BEC for retained imports. Use of most current versions of the classifications is recommended -
    a. PACHS 22 which all PICTs need to adopt,
    b. SITC Rev. 4 (work on revision 5 is currently underway by UN)
    c. BEC Rev. 5 which all PICTs need to adopt.

25. **Valuation**

Discussion on valuation centered around recording a statistical value for all goods covered in IMTS whether sold, exchanged or provided without payment/bartered. The statistical value of

a. imported goods to be a CIF-type value - need to have estimates on insurance and - freight.
b. exported goods to be a FOB-type value - include the value of services performed to deliver goods to the border of the exporting country.

As part of the forthcoming revision on IMTS (refer to Session 6 c), it is planned to include valuation based on invoice in addition to CIF-type and FOB-type values. Therefore, PICTs should verify if invoice value is available in customs declarations and if it is part of the data items submitted to NSOs for further processing and validation.

26. Quantity measurement

Discussion on quantity focussed on it being an important dimension of international trade statistics that is critical for various policy and analytical purposes. Standard units of quantity recommended by the World Customs Organization (WCO) are to be used. The group further discussed a possibility to adjust and estimate quantities on the trade database maintained by NSOs in consultation with Customs if needed.

27. Partner country

Discussion on partner country stressed that IMTS by partner countries, both for the total value of trade in goods and for the quantity and value of trade in individual commodities is of significant analytical value. Partner country attributes too were discussed. Breakout Group exercises were also conducted. For IMTS by partner country
a. country of origin for imports is to be used
b. country of last known destination for exports is to be used
c. country of consignment as second partner attribution is recommended.

PICTs are requested to identify the origin of re-exports as part of possible new data item in IMTS 2025.

28. Mode of transport

Discussion under mode of transport focussed on the importance of recording the means of transport used when goods enter or leave the economic territory of a country. The discussions made it very clear that PICTs need to compile and disseminate IMTS by mode of transport at the most detailed commodity level.

29. Importance of data processing and database management

Discussions on the importance of data processing and database management highlighted their importance at both customs and NSOs. At Customs UNCTAD led ASYCUDAWorld project will be used by 15 PICTs by end of 2023. Most NSOs are using MS excel/access and a few others are using different software's e.g., SAS. The discussions pushed for all trade compilers to strengthen their data skills. The discussions were followed by breakout group work.

30. Data quality and metadata

Discussions on data quality and metadata focussed on enhancing the quality of IMTS, the dimensions of quality, quality measures and indicators, cross-country data comparability and metadata. PICTs need to -

    a. assess the quality of their IMTS using a data quality framework mentioned in SPCs IMTS compilation guide.

    b. need to develop metadata as a high priority and disseminate it as an integral part of the dissemination of IMTS.

Session 5: Dissemination

This session discussed the need for IMTS to comply with the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and be made available on an impartial basis to honour the entitlement of citizens to public information, while at the same time ensuring adequate confidentiality of data providers.

31. Dissemination of data and metadata

Data needs to be turned into information for the purposes of dissemination and together with metadata they need to be made available to all users in an impartial basis as per the Advance Release Calendar. PICTs need to report IMTS on a quarterly basis, although monthly would be preferred. Country presentations on their dissemination practice were made by -
    a. French Polynesia which follows all dissemination standards recommended by UN.
    b. Fiji which is the only country that disseminates all IMTS recommended tables.
    c. Federated States of Micronesia which compiles tables for each state and then the national – so while a country compiles one table for imports, FSM compiles 5 tables for imports which is very time consuming.

The presentation on the Pacific Data Hub was a highlight, particularly the dashboard demonstrations. Data in the PDH is entered using .Stat and a user perspective on .Stat was also given.

Session 6: The way forward

32. The session on the way forward other than stressing on using the recommended methodology for the compilation of IMTS and meeting different user needs focussed on three priority areas -

    a. Pacific Customs commodity trade database, which is high priority as this is the only solution to meeting different user needs by country and commodity, is work in progress and the target is to have this released by June 2023. The data will to be sourced from the Customs Administrations using a DLA with support from the OCO. PACComtrade database will provide users relevant and timely information on 'commodities' that are imported and exported. The data will we stored in the Pacific Data Hub Indicator database here: https://stats.pacificdata.org/ and content will be harvested and displayed in the Pacific Data Hub main catalogue here: https://pacificdata.org/. A dashboard to better visualise the data will be developed down the track as well.

    b. Regional publication – tentatively titled *trade in the Pacific* will be an analytical publication led by SPC and supported by SPC member PICTs on their trade. PICTs endorsed their support towards this publication.

    c. IMTS 2025 – PICTs were made aware of the new trade manual led by UN to be released in 2025. There will be a global consultation to the compilers of IMTS in 2023, and PICTs are invited to provide feedback.

33. Workshop evaluation results

Thirty-five participants completed the evaluation forms.

    a. Overall Assessment -
       97% said they acquired knowledge on producing and analysing statistical data. 94% said
       they acquired knowledge on disseminating statistical data.

    b. Content and conduct of the workshop graded as good to excellent –
       Quality of materials 94%, quality of presentations 100%, sufficient time given for discussion
       and participation 89%, balance between topics 92%, usefulness of session 2 on the
       workshop overview showing the progress made since 2012 and the expected outcomes of
       this workshop 94%, usefulness of session 3 on the introduction to international trade, IMTS
       and the users and uses of IMTS 97%, usefulness of session 4 on the compilation of IMTS
       using the recommended methodology 97%, usefulness of session 5 on dissemination of
       IMTS on an impartial basis to honour the entitlement of citizens to public information, while
       also ensuring adequate confidentiality of data providers 97%, usefulness of session 6 on the
       way forward in preparation of the changes expected in the international trade space 91%,
       clarity of conclusions reached after each session 89%, extent to which workshop objectives
       were achieved 94% and overall value of the workshop 91%.

    c. Organization of the workshop graded as good to excellent –
       Timeliness of distribution of invitation/agenda/materials 91%, satisfaction and timeliness of
       travel/DSA arrangements 89%, duration of workshop 80%, quality of workshop facilities 91%
       and overall planning and organization of the workshop 89%.

    Refer to Annex 3 for full results.

34. Closing and award of certificates

The workshop concluded with the
    a. Award of participation certificates to all who participated in the workshop. Mr Markie
       Muryawan gave away the certificates to the UN sponsored delegates, Ms Laisiana Tugaga to
       PACER Plus sponsored delegates, Mr John Sam to OCO sponsored delegates and Mr Sioeli
       Tonga to SPC sponsored delegates and resource persons. Mr Luke Marston graciously took
       photographs of each recipient of the certificate.
    b. Concluding remarks were made by each participant and resource person. The workshop was
       declared closed by Ms Nilima Lal of SPC.

Annex 1

List of Attendees

Name of Country	Name of Person	Name of Organisation
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS		
American Samoa	Ms Mine H Timoteo	Department of Commerce
	Ms Sialasa Hunkin	ASG Department of Treasury, Customs Division
Cook Islands	Mr Tuaine Junior	Cook Islands Statistics Office
Federated States of Micronesia	Mr John Jr. Adolph	Department of Resources & Development
Fiji Islands	Mr Abdul Sahib	Fiji Islands Bureau of Statistics
	Ms Shayal Somika Prasad	
	Mr Anasa Matakece	Fiji Revenue & Customs Services
French Polynesia	Mr Mathieu Bolduc	Institut de la Statistique
Kiribati	Ms Niibo Iaruru	Kiribati National Statistics Office
	Ms Ririere Tekabu	
	Mr Tabuaka Naititi	Kiribati Customs
Marshall Islands	Mr Junior Peter	Economic Policy, Planning & Statistics Office
Nauru	Ms Trixi Thoma	Finance Department
Niue	Mr Kimray Vaha	Finance
Palau	Mr Aidan Benhart	Planning and Statistics Office, Ministry of Finance
	Mr Chandler K. Ngirmeriil	
Papua New Guinea	Ms Dorothy A Sapalojang	National Statistics Office
	Mr David Riu	PNG Customs
Samoa	Ms Abute Ioasa Alaiula	Samoa Bureau of Statistics
	Mr Semo Rarotonga Fepuleai	Ministry for Revenue and Customs
Solomon Islands	Mr Henry Risoni	Ministry of Finance and Treasury_Statistics
	Mr Doudan Vunagi	Ministry of Finance and Treasury_Customs
Tokelau	Ms Celine Valelia Iose-Sapatu	Tokelau National Statistics Office
Tonga	Ms Ana Malia Kama	Statistics Department
	Ms Fisiíahi Teuila Polutele	Customs Department / Ministry of Revenue
Tuvalu	Ms Grace Alapati	Central Statistics Division
Vanuatu	Mrs Anna Tavoa	Statistics / Ministry of Finance & Economic
	Mr Kalory Sope	Customs & Inland Revenue
RESOURCE PERSONS		
	Ms Irma Daphney Stone	Oceania Customs Organization
	Mr John Sam	
	Mr Noah Kouback	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
	Mr Anuragh Narayan	
	Mr Samisoni Tapu Makaafi	Statistics New Zealand
	Ms Kathryn Watt	Australian Bureau of Statistics
	Mr Dick Page	
	Mr Markie Muryawan	United Nations Statistics Division
	Ms Laisiana Tugaga	PACER Plus Implementation Unit
	Mr Luke Benjamin Marston	
	Mrs Sovaia Marawa	Melanesian Spearhead Group Secretariat

Name of Country	Name of Person	Name of Organisation
	Mr Jayvee Santos	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
	Dr Tom Brewer	University of Wollongong
	Mr Viraaj Lad	Bhikhabhai and Company Pte Limited
	Mr Peter Ellis	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
	Dr Amerita Ravuvu	
	Mr Viliami Kami	
	Ms Alison Culpin	
	Mr Sioeli Tonga	
	Ms Nilima Lal	
SUPPORT STAFF		
	Mrs Sandra Gianini	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
	Ms Gaelle Le Gall	
	Ms Elodie Lionnet	
	Mr Thomas Tilak	
	Mr Sumeet Kumar	

Annex 2
Agenda

Day 1: Monday 05 December

Time	What's on	By whom	Chair
8.00 am – 8.30	Registration of participants	Alison and Nilima	
	Session 1: Opening of the workshop and introduction of participants		Nilima
8.30 - 9.00	Opening speech by SPC Statements by - UNSD PACER Plus OCO	Mr Peter Ellis Mr Markie Muryawan Mr Luke B Marston Mr John Sam	
9.00 – 9.05	Prayer	Ms Fisiíahi T Polutele	
9.05 – 9.50	Introduction of participants	Round the table	
9.50 – 10.00	Adoption of the Agenda	Ms Nilima Lal, SPC	
10.00 – 10.30	Morning Tea Group Photograph		
	Session 2: Workshop overview		
10.30 – 11.00	Progress made in the compilation of IMTS since the Workshop held by SPC in November 2012: 2012 Outcome document and the **Monitoring report** maintained by SDD for PICTs will be used. Current workshop overview and expected outcomes	Ms Nilima Lal, SPC	
11.00 – 12.00	**Each NSO in not more than 3 minutes responds to the issues raised in the monitoring report** to talk about its plans to resolve those issues		
	• American Samoa	Ms Mine H Timoteo	
	• Cook Islands	Mr Tuaine Junior	
	• Federated States of Micronesia	Mr John Jr. Adolph	
	• Fiji	Ms Shayal S Prasad	
	• French Polynesia	Mr Mathieu Bolduc	
	• Kiribati	Ms Niibo Iaruru	
	• Marshall Islands	Mr Peter Junior	
	• Nauru	Ms Trixi Thoma	
	• Niue	Mr Kimray Vaha	
	• Palau	Mr Aidan Benhart	
	• Papua New Guinea	Ms Dorothy A Sapalojang	
	• Samoa	Ms Abute I Alaiula	
	• Solomon Islands	Mr Henry Risoni	
	• Tokelau	Ms Celine V Iose-Sapatu	
	• Tonga	Ms Ana Malia Kama	
	• Tuvalu	Ms Grace Alapati	
	• Vanuatu	Ms Anna W Tavoa	
	Session 3: Introduction to International Trade This session will introduce participants to international trade, the international merchandise trade statistics (IMTS) and the **users and uses of IMTS**		Alison
12.00 – 12.30 pm	Introduction to international trade and IMTS	Ms Nilima Lal, SPC	
12.30 – 1.30	Lunch		
1.30 – 2.00	Trade Statistics in Trade Policy Frameworks and Negotiations	Mr Noah Kouback, PIFS	

Time	What's on	By whom	Chair
2.00 – 2.30	Preferential trade agreements: PACER Plus	Ms Laisiana Tugaga	
2.30 – 3.00	Preferential trade agreements: MSG	Mrs Sovaia Marawa	
3.00 – 3.15	Afternoon Tea		
3.15 – 3.45	Electronic Commerce	Mr Viraaj Lad	
3.45 – 4.30	Historic food and beverage trade data cleaning for improved Policy: The Pacific Food Trade Database	Dr Tom Brewer, UOW	
5.30 – 6.30	Cocktail		

Day 2: Tuesday 06 December

Time	What's on	By whom	Chair
8.00 am – 8.30	**Summary of Day 1**	**Nilima and Alison**	**Alison**
8.30 - 4.30 [tea 10 to 10.15 lunch 12.30 pm to 1.30 tea 3.00 to 3.15]	**Trade Indices**		
	Construction of food import unit value index This session will be dedicated to the construction of the International Trade Price Index: what Australia does and recommendations on what 'small' Pacific Island countries and territories can do. The session will include hands on exercises using Breakout Groups.	Mr Dick Page and Ms Kathryn Watt of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)	ABS

Day 3: Wednesday 07 December

Time	What's on	By whom	Chair
8.00 am – 8.15	**Summary of Day 2**	**Dick and Kathryn**	**Alison**
8.15 – 8.45	Imports as a driver of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in the small Pacific Island countries	Dr Amerita Ravuvu, SPC	
8.45 – 9.15	Data in the trade of Agricultural produce in the Pacific Islands region	Mr Viliami Kami, SPC	
9.15- 9.30	Import leakage in tourism	Mr Samisoni Makaafi, Stats NZ	
9.30 – 9.45	Linking trade and business statistics	Mr Samisoni Makaafi, Stats NZ	
9.45 – 10.00	Use of IMTS as inputs into other statistical compilations	Ms Nilima Lal, SPC	
10.00 – 10.15	Morning Tea		
10.15 – 11.00	Sustainable Development Goals	Ms Alison Culpin, SPC	
	Session 4: Compilation of International Merchandise Trade Statistics This session will discuss the methodology required to compile the IMTS		Samisoni
11.00 -11.15	**Legal framework** This session will discuss legal agreements, relevant laws and regulations that govern data-provision relations and all other aspects of data compilation and dissemination.	Nilima Lal, SPC	
	Data sources Discussion on data sources will throw light on the two data sources (customs records, and/or non-customs records) used by NSOs for the compilation of IMTS		
11.15 – 11.30	• Customs record	Nilima Lal, SPC	
11.30 - 12.15 pm	• UNCTAD's role in assisting Customs capture trade data followed by *not more than* **3 minutes** by Custom administrations to highlight issues they face and their plans to resolve those issues.	Mr Jayvee Santos, UNCTAD	

Time	What's on	By whom	Chair
12.15 – 12.45	• **Each Custom Administration in not more than 3 minutes** talks about issues they have with their system and their plans to resolve those issues		
	✓ American Samoa	Ms Sialasa Hunkin	
	✓ Fiji	Mr **Anasa Matakece**	
	✓ Kiribati	Mr Tabuaka Naititi	
	✓ Papua New Guinea	Mr David Riu	
	✓ Samoa	Mr Semo R Fepuleai	
	✓ Solomon Islands	Mr Doudan Vunagi	
	✓ Tonga	Ms Fisiíahi T Polutele	
	✓ Tuvalu	Mrs Leilani Melei	
	✓ Vanuatu	Mr Kalory Sope	
12.45 – 1.30	Lunch		
1.30 – 2.00	o Assistance provided by Oceania Customs Organisation to Customs administrations	Mr John Sam, OCO	
2.00 – 2.15	• Non-customs records	Ms Nilima Lal, SPC	
2.15 – 3.00	**Scope and coverage** This session is going to talk about the recommended coverage (scope) and the actual coverage which is the trade flows actually recorded by countries or territories.	Mr Markie Muryawan, UN	
3.00 – 3.15	Afternoon Tea		
3.15 – 3.30	• Shuttle trade	Ms Nilima Lal, SPC	
3.30 – 4.30	Breakout Group hands on exercises Inclusions and exclusion in IMTS	Mr Markie Muryawan, UN assisted by Nilima	

Day 4 Thursday 08 December

Time	What's on	By whom	Chair
8.00 am – 8.30	**Summary of Day 3**	**Nilima and Alison**	**Samisoni**
8.30 – 8.45	**Time of recording** This session is going to throw light on the time of recording of goods to be approximated by the date of lodgement of the customs declaration.	Ms Nilima Lal, SPC	Markie
8.45 – 9.15	**Trade systems** This session is going to discuss, depending on what parts of the economic territory are included in the statistical territory, the trade data compilation system adopted by a country (its trade system) which may be referred to as general or special.	Mr Markie Muryawan, UN	
	Commodity classifications This session will discuss commodity classifications used for identifying and compiling details of commodities in an internationally consistent way for customs, statistical and analytical purposes and trade negotiations.		
9.15 - 9.45	• Importance of classification and linkages of HS to other statistical classifications	Ms Nilima Lal, SPC	
9.45 – 10.00	• Standard International Trade Classification	Mr Markie Muryawan, UN	
10.00 – 10.15	Morning Tea		
10.00 – 10.15	• Broad Economic Categories	Mr Markie Muryawan, UN	
10.15 – 11.00	• PACHS System	Mr John Sam, OCO	
11.00 – 11.30	**Valuation**	Mr Markie Muryawan, UN	

Time	What's on	By whom	Chair
	This session will talk about recording a statistical value for all goods covered in IMTS whether sold, exchanged or provided without payment.		
11.30 – 12.30 pm	Breakout Group exercises Valuation of goods	Mr Markie Muryawan, UN assisted by Nilima	
12.30 – 1.30	Lunch		
1.30 – 2.00	**Quantity measurement** This session will talk about quantity being an important dimension of international trade statistics that is critical for various policy and analytical purposes.	Ms Nilima Lal, SPC	
2.00 – 3.00	**Partner country** This session will talk about trade statistics by partner countries, both for the total value of trade in goods and for the quantity and value of trade in individual commodities being of significant analytical value.	Mr Markie Muryawan, UN	
3.00 – 3.15	Afternoon tea		
3.15 – 4.30	Breakout Group exercises Partner country attributes	Mr Markie Muryawan, UN assisted by Nilima	

Day 5: Friday 09 December

Time	What's on	By whom	Chair
8.00 am – 8.30	**Summary of Day 4**	**Nilima and Markie**	**Markie**
8.30 – 9.00	**Mode of transport** This session will discuss the importance of recording the means of transport used when goods enter or leave the economic territory of a country.	Ms Nilima Lal, SPC	John
9.00 – 10.00	**Importance of data processing and database management** This session will throw light on the importance of data processing and database management which are important to both customs and NSOs.	Mr Markie Muryawan, UN	
10.00 – 10.15	Morning Tea		
10.15 – 11.30	Breakout Group discussion and presentation of results of Systems used at NSOs	Mr Markie Muryawan, UN assisted by Nilima	
11.30 – 12.30 pm	**Data quality and metadata** This session will discuss the multidimensional concept of quality focussing on enhancing the quality of IMTS, the dimensions of quality, quality measures and indicators, cross-country data comparability and metadata.	Ms Nilima Lal, SPC	
12.30 – 1.30	Lunch		Laisiana
	Session 5: Dissemination This session will discuss the need for IMTS to comply with the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and be made available on an impartial basis to honour the entitlement of citizens to public information, while at the same time ensuring adequate confidentiality of data providers.		
1.30 – 2.30	United Nations best practices in IMTS data and metadata dissemination.	Mr Markie Muryawan, UN	
	Selected country presentations		
2.30 – 3.00	• French Polynesia	Mr Mathieu Bolduc	
3.00 – 3.15	Afternoon tea		
3.15 – 3.45	• Fiji	Mr Abdul Sahib	
3.45 – 4.15	• Federated States of Micronesia	Mr John Jr. Adolph	

Day 6: Saturday 10 December

Time	What's on	By whom	Chair
8.00 am – 8.30	**Summary of Day 5**	**Nilima and Markie**	**Markie**
8.30 – 9.00	Using .Stat	Ms Alison Culpin, SPC	Laisiana
9.00 am – 10.00	Pacific Data Hub	Mr Sioeli Tonga	
10.00 – 10.15	Morning Tea		
10.15 – 10.30	Turning data into information	Ms Nilima Lal, SPC	
	Session 6: The way forward This session will look at what's to come		Alison
10.30 – 11.00	Pacific Customs commodity trade database	Ms Nilima Lal, SPC	
11.00 – 11.30 pm	IMTS 2025	Mr Markie Muryawan	
11.30 – 12.00	Open forum on the way forward 🞂 Regional publication – trade in the Pacific	Discussion led by Nilima and Markie	
12.30 pm – 1.30	Lunch		
1.30 – 2.00	Completion of Evaluation forms	Alison	
2.00 – 3.00	Closing and award of certificates	UN, PACER Plus, OCO and SPC	
3.00 – 3.15	Afternoon tea		

Annex 3
Workshop evaluation results

Workshop evaluation									
[%]									
A. Overall Assessment									
1) Did you acquire at this workshop any substantive knowledge involving techniques on how:									
			Yes		No	Invalid			Total
	a. to produce statistical data?		97		0	3			100
	b. to analyse statistical data?		97		0	3			100
	c. to disseminate statistical data?		94		3	3			100
Please evaluate the following:									
B. Content and conduct of the workshop									
		Excellent	Good	Adequate	Poor	Very poor	Not applicable	Invalid	
2) Quality of materials		63	31	6	0	0	0	0	100
3) Quality of presentations		60	40	0	0	0	0	0	100
4) Sufficient time for discussion and participation		46	43	11	0	0	0	0	100
5) Balance between topics		43	49	9	0	0	0	0	100
6) Usefulness of the following sessions:									
	Session 2 on the workshop overview showing the progress made since 2012 and the expected outcomes of this workshop	60	34	6	0	0	0	0	100
	Session 3 on the *introduction to international trade,* IMTS and the users and uses of IMTS	71	26	3	0	0	0	0	100
	Session 4 on the compilation of IMTS using the recommended methodology.	71	26	3	0	0	0	0	100
	Session 5 on dissemination of IMTS on an impartial basis to honour the entitlement of citizens to public information, while also ensuring adequate confidentiality of data providers.	63	34	3	0	0	0	0	100
	Session 6 on the way forward in preparation of the changes expected in the international trade space.	54	37	9	0	0	0	0	100
7) Clarity of conclusions reached after each session		49	40	6	0	0	0	6	100
8) Extent to which workshop objectives were achieved		60	34	3	0	0	0	3	100
9) Overall value of the workshop		71	20	0	0	0	0	9	100
C. Organization of the workshop									
12) Timeliness of distribution of invitation/agenda/materials		54	37	9	0	0	0	0	100
13) Satisfaction and timeliness of travel/DSA arrangements		63	26	3	6	0	0	3	100
14) Duration of workshop		37	43	17	0	3	0	0	100
15) Quality of workshop facilities		60	31	9	0	0	0	0	100
16) Overall planning and organization of the workshop		63	26	11	0	0	0	0	100

Invalid = question not answered

Annex 4

Group photograph