

**Supplementary Information on**  
**FCR(2009-10)8 : 59<sup>th</sup> World Statistics Congress**  
**for the Finance Committee Meeting on 30 April 2010**

As requested by the Chairman of Finance Committee at the pre-meeting briefing with the Administration on 28 April 2010, supplementary information on the above FCai is appended below.

**Background of International Statistical Institute**

2. Founded in London in 1885, the International Statistical Institute (ISI) is a prestigious professional body with over 120 years of history. The ISI Permanent Office is now based in Hague, Netherlands. Over the years, the ISI has actively strove to meet the increasing needs for professional statistical information in a complex and dynamic society, and leads the development of statistical methods and their applications. It is a non-governmental organisation with membership open to both governmental and non-governmental entities or individuals and representing more than 130 countries worldwide.

3. Since 1887, ISI has been holding biennial Sessions which are regarded as the Olympiad of the international statistical community. ISI prefers the hosting of the event to be well spread over different regions in a balanced manner. For Asia, Tokyo held the 46th ISI Session in the 1980's, Beijing held the 50th ISI Session in the 1990's and Seoul held the 53rd ISI Session in the 2000's. To follow the past practice, ISI wishes to have a Session held in a renowned Asian city in the 2010's and therefore it extended an invitation to Hong Kong in 2006. We understand that another potential hosting city in India was also invited. Our bid was finally accepted by ISI in June 2007. The ISI Session will be formally renamed as World Statistics Congress (WSC) starting from the coming Session to be held in Ireland in 2011.

**Reduced budget of the 59<sup>th</sup> World Statistics Congress**

4. A contingency margin of 10% has already been allowed in the

budget. We believe that the reduced budget would be adequate and that supplementary provision would not be required.

### **Expected benefits to Hong Kong**

5. Recent ISI Sessions attracted a turnout of over 2 000 participants each time. We broadly estimate that hosting the 59<sup>th</sup> WSC in Hong Kong will bring about 2 700 incoming visitors, contributing approximately \$27 million to the tourist receipts of Hong Kong. In addition to the tangible economic benefits, we anticipate that the hosting of the 59th ISI Session will benefit Hong Kong in general by raising our international profile. It will provide an excellent opportunity to showcase our infrastructural achievements in communications, hospitality and transportation as well as to uphold our position as Asia's world city and the capital for exhibitions and conventions, thus helping to attract future internationally renowned events and other business opportunities to Hong Kong.

6. On top of the main ISI Session, satellite meetings are usually held before or after the main Session by the eight Sections under the ISI<sup>1</sup>. Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) can take the opportunity of the 59<sup>th</sup> WSC to organize satellite meetings in collaboration with local academic/professional institutes and also nearby cities in the Mainland China and neighbouring countries. This will provide a valuable platform for cross-fertilisation of statistical expertise and promoting statistical development in the Asian region, including the Mainland China. As a result, Hong Kong's status in the international arena of statistics could be further enhanced. The satellite meetings would not have any financial implications to C&SD as their costs would be totally borne by the organisers of the meetings.

Census and Statistics Department  
30 April 2010

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<sup>1</sup> The ISI has eight Sections each with its own membership for a specific field of statistics. These include Bernoulli Society for Mathematical Statistics and Probability, International Association for Statistical Computing, International Association for Official Statistics, International Association of Survey Statisticians, International Association for Statistical Education, International Society for Business and Industrial Statistics, Irving Fisher Committee on Central Bank Statistics and International Environmetrics Society. These associations have the capacity to organise their own international conferences. When the ISI holds its biennial conferences, they often take the opportunity to organise their conferences (referred to as satellite meetings in such context) before or after the ISI conference in cities neighbouring the one where the ISI conference is held so that their members can benefit from attending both the ISI conference and their own conference.