

## ISI BRIEFING SEMINAR FOR CHIEF STATISTICIANS

Marcel Van den Broecke, Director ISI, The Netherlands

At present, there is no formal educational service available to address the specific requirements of chief statisticians of National Statistical Offices. Yet, the efficient functioning of a chief statistician requires, among many other things, an insight into the complexities of the international statistical system. In the past, the ISI has played an important role in providing links and establishing contacts in the international functioning of National Statistical Offices, culminating in the establishment of the ISI Section “International Association for Official Statistics” in 1985. More recently, the ISI has organised Briefing Seminars for Chief Statisticians, beginning in 1993. Most participants typically come from developing and transition countries.

The aims of these briefing seminars may be summarised as follows: to prepare chief statisticians and those who may be expected to occupy such a position in the near future for some of the requirements of their job. In the course of about two and a half days, the following subjects are covered to meet this aim:

1. An overview of the key components of the international statistical system by discussing their status and their interrelations;
2. Establishment and development of international statistical relations in a country;
3. The role of the OECD in Official Statistics;
4. The role of the ILO bureau of Statistics;
5. International statistical organisations in action: current programs and arrangements for co-operation regarding European activities;
6. Statistical activities of the European Union: organisations, priorities, legal aspects, assistance and training;
7. Developments in the UNESCO division of Statistics;
8. Relations with international users of national data and public relations;
9. The electronic revolution and international statistics: technologies, prospects and assistance needs;
10. Technical Co-operation in Statistics.

All subjects are presented by chiefs or senior statisticians of the agencies involved, such as ISI, OECD, EUROSTAT, UNESCO, ILO and Statistics Netherlands. Each presentation is followed by open discussion with the participants. A profile of the participants, topics which attract particular attention, future needs, problem areas, results and evaluative experiences will be discussed in the presentation.