



## **Impact of the new international standards on employment, unemployment and labour underutilization in the measurement of labour statistics: cases of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Western Samoa, and Vietnam**

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For many countries in Asia and the Pacific (AP) region, implementing the new international standards concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization from the 19<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) of October 2013, also called the resolution on work statistics, will certainly have an impact on their current employment statistics, particularly on headline indicators currently used to monitor their labour markets, such as the unemployment rate (UR). The UR taken alone is already facing many difficulties in explaining labour market realities in a number of countries. A particular concern by both the public and policymakers is often on the presumed low levels of statistics published on the UR, which have recently raised heated debates in some AP countries.

This paper evaluates current measurement of work statistics in selected countries in the region, namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Western Samoa, and Viet Nam, and suggests improvements where needed. Using data available from these countries possible changes in key headlines indicators such as the UR, as well as in the main employment characteristics such as main industry, occupation, and status in employment statistics, are presented and analysed. The paper attempts to estimate the new components of labour underutilization, and the data are presented and discussed in order to suggest possible additional headline labour market indicators for these countries, as recommended by the 19<sup>th</sup> ICLS resolution.

Where possible the article presents as well the other forms of work and overall work statistics. These should also be published in line with the 19<sup>th</sup> ICLS recommendations, to rightfully recognize the participation of all women and men of the working age population (WAP) in all forms of work, and their valuable contribution to the national production. The paper concludes by summarising where the impact of the resolution is expected to be the most significant, and by suggesting additional headline indicators of the labour market that could be used by countries in the AP region, instead of or in conjunction with the UR.

**Keywords:** work statistics, labour force, industry, occupation, status in employment.