

Foreword by the IFC Chair

This volume of the IFC Bulletin contains the proceedings of a series of three workshops organised by the IFC on “The use of surveys by central banks”. The main focus of these workshops was on methodological issues and challenges faced by central banks in conducting surveys.

The first workshop took place from 27 to 29 June 2007 in cooperation with SEACEN (the South East Asian Central Banks Research and Training Centre) and was co-sponsored by the Reserve Bank of India. The second workshop was held from 11 to 13 December 2007 in Buenos Aires, in cooperation with the Centre for Latin American Monetary Studies (CEMLA) and the Central Bank of the Republic of Argentina. The third and final workshop was presented in cooperation with the Austrian National Bank at the Joint Vienna Institute from 18 to 20 March 2008. The workshops were attended by a total of 90 participants from 51 central banks.

Mr Paul Van den Bergh and Mr Christian Dembiermont from the IFC Secretariat at the BIS acted as workshop directors. They were assisted by Mr Chatwaruth Musigchai, a survey expert from the Bank of Thailand who also provided support in preparing the background material to the workshops. This material was put together on the basis of information provided by a large number of IFC member institutions regarding their statistical data collection exercises, including surveys. Representatives from the European Central Bank, the Federal Reserve System as well as the central banks of Austria, Belgium, Canada, France, Italy, Spain and Turkey shared their experiences with participants by delivering detailed case study presentations. Various participants also contributed country presentations to the workshops. A warm thank you to all these experts, the local organisers, the country presenters and participants for contributing towards the success of the workshops.

Since all three workshops were run on the same structure and with the same programme, the Bulletin groups the contributions by session/topic as it appeared on the programme rather than by separate event. The Bulletin concludes with a summary of the panel discussions that took place at the end of the workshops. This provides a useful summary of best practices for the conduct of surveys identified by workshop participants.

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