IFC–Bank Indonesia Satellite Seminar on "Big Data", Bali, 21 March 2017

Opening remarks by Aurel Schubert, Director General Statistics, Statistics Department, European Central Bank, and Vice Chair, IFC Executive

Thank you very much Ms Yati Kurniati and the Bank Indonesia for your hospitality and your kind words. It is my pleasure and honour to supplement these welcoming remarks as one of the two Vice chairs of the IFC Executive and to guide you through today's big data session or pretty big data, as I often call it;

In these days, when in the political debate facts and figures are often ignored, altered or replaced by "alternative facts", our efforts for good data become even more important than ever. The advent and existence of Big Data might create important complementary sources for our work. To take stock in this exploration journey, this is what today's seminar is all about.

This seminar demonstrates the importance of the Irving Fisher Committee on Central Bank Statistics (IFC) as part of getting the central banking community together in exploring the synergies and benefits of using big data for central banking purposes. In this aspect, I would like to thank the coordinators, in particular Bruno Tissot (BIS) and Claudia Huber (from the IFC secretariat) and Per Nymand-Andersen, from the ECB, and to the leaders of the four pilot groups.

You may recall that the IFC launched an online survey on central banks' use of and interest in big data, whereby close to fifty central banks expressed interest to cooperate with other IFC members on "big data" and to contribute to a common roadmap on its usefulness for central banking.

This seminar is indeed an outcome of this ground work and a core milestone as part of the IFC's structured and coordinated journey;

Indeed now several central banks have joined forces working on four different pilot categories – a special thanks to all of them - relating to

1. Administrative data
2. Internet datasets
3. Commercial datasets
4. Financial market data

The concept is laid out whereby all pilots follow a similar structure and approach in managing the work, processes and expected outcome within a certain time frame.

Each group of participating central banks are describing the characteristics of the data and supplier according to a standardised set of key information for each of the five statistical production processes covering;

1. "Input",

2. "Quality assessment",

3. "Production",

4. "Results" and

5. "Assessment"

The idea is to collect these pilot reports and to provide a consolidated IFC publication.

I look forward to learn from these preliminary results which will be presented at today's Seminar and I encourage you to contribute to the discussion.

Let me just swiftly walk you through todays programme; please first be inspired by the opening keynote speaker Mr Agus Sudjianto, Executive Vice President, Head of Corporate Model Risk at Wells Fargo, who will share with us how a large commercial bank performs stress testing with lots of data to evaluate its own safety and soundness.

This will be followed by two sessions presenting the progress of the IFC pilots on using big data for central banks and internet datasets.

Please join me as well for the lunch presentation on "Data science – Some Perspectives" by Vijay Nair, former President of ISI and a good friend of the central banking statistics community.

In the afternoon, I have the pleasure of chairing session three, on the progress with financial, administrative and commercial large datasets. This will be followed by a new subject on central banking communication and a panel discussion on big data governance, and concluding remarks by Katherine Hennings, the other Vice chair of the IFC.

This is a pretty BIG agenda for big data. So, let the seminar begin; Mr Agus Sudjianto, the floor is yours;