

Ministry of Science & Technology (MoST) Plans for STI Data Collection

Dr. Samir Raouf
Ministry of Science and Technology
Baghdad – Iraq
November 2009

Why STI Data Are Badly Needed in Iraq?

The role of STI indicators in the development of any country cannot be overestimated. However, the need is more compelling in Iraq:

1. Long period of war(s) and economic sanctions for more than two decades where no real development plans were implemented.
2. Iraq is an economy in transition from centrally governed state with almost total government control over economy to a democratic federal state with a strong private sector.

Awareness of The Importance of STI

- ◉ Importance of science and technology in the socio-economic development.
- ◉ Importance of science and technology in the transition to knowledge-based societies.
- ◉ Increasing awareness at the highest government levels of the importance of having state-wide STI policies.
- ◉ Importance of STI indicators in the assessment of science and technology status and as a means of measuring the impact of different projects and policies on this sector.

What Is The Status of STI Data Collection In Iraq?

Statistical data in Iraq are collected mainly by:

- A. National Bureau of Statistics (Ministry of Planning and Development cooperation).
- B. Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research + Ministry of Education (Education and Research indicators).

What Is The Quality of The STI Statistics In Iraq?

1. Very few STI indicators are evaluated.
2. Data collection is not done at the national level.
3. It is not done according to internationally accepted standards (for STI related data).
4. It is not done at regular intervals.

What are MoST Actions & Plans?

- A. In Sept., 2008 MoST signed MOU with UNCTAD to carry jointly STI Policy review of Iraq. (National project)
- B. A new project is being developed with UNESCO STI-development plan 2011-2015.
- C. A mandate in the proposed law of MoST to collect and process STI statistical data at the national level.
- D. Actively cooperating with MoHESR and MoPDC and Kurdistan region (KRG) to work jointly in collecting and processing STI data.
- E. Capacity building (Organizational and human resources) for collection and processing STI data according to international standards.

What Kind of Help is Needed?

- Success stories - A role model.
- Capacity building for STI data collection and processing according to international standards.
- Capacity building of policy makers and planners in making use of STI indicators in planning and assessment.

Conclusions

1. Iraq badly needs STI statistics.
2. There is an increasing awareness at the policy and economic planning levels of the importance of STI statistics in the socioeconomic development, but still much less than that in developed countries.
3. There is a need of a role model.
4. Capacity building is critical to the success of STI statistics plans and the help of the international community is highly important.