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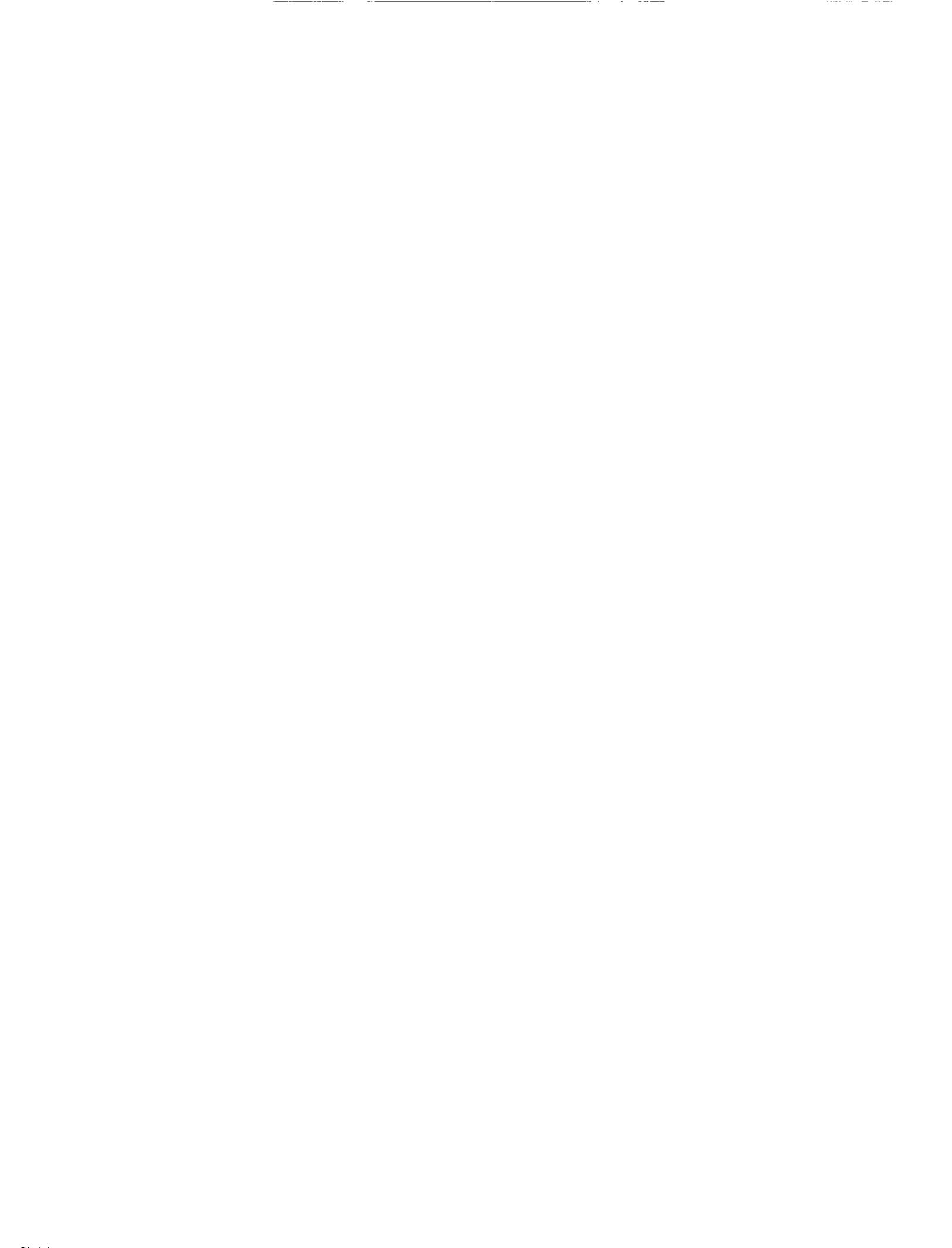
SECRETARY'S CIRCULAR NO. 86/100

To: Members of the Executive Board  
From: The Acting Secretary  
Subject: Report on the Government Finance Statistics Seminar  
held in Zhenjiang, China

Attached for the information of the Executive Directors is a report on the seminar on government finance statistics, held in Zhenjiang, China from May 12 through May 23, 1986.

Att: (1)

Other Distribution:  
Department Heads



INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

Report on Government Finance Statistics Seminar held in Zhenjiang, China 1/

May 12-23, 1986

Prepared by the Bureau of Statistics

(In consultation with the IMF Institute)

Approved by Werner Dannemann and Gérard M. Teyssier

Introduction

A two-week seminar on government finance statistics (GFS) was conducted in Zhenjiang, China, by a Fund mission consisting of Messrs. Bové, Konan and Levin of the Bureau of Statistics at the request of the People's Bank of China and the Ministry of Finance. The seminar was well received both by the participants and by the authorities, who declared that they were pleased with its success and intend to build on the experience gained.

Participation was at the invitation of the Chinese authorities. There were 75 participants, representing a broad cross-section primarily of compilers, but in some cases users, of government finance statistics (Appendix I). The majority were mid-level civil servants in the Finance Departments and Bureaus of the provinces, municipalities and cities (67 participants) and in the Finance Ministry of the Central Government (8 participants). There was 1 participant from the People's Bank of China. In addition, the academic community was represented by 2 teachers from the Economics and Statistics Departments of the Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, which operates under the Ministry of Finance.

The seminar was conducted through consecutive interpretation by 4 persons provided by the authorities. The level of interpretation, which necessarily absorbed a considerable amount of time in both plenary sessions and in discussions between Fund staff and the working groups, contributed effectively to the success of the seminar.

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1/ This seminar was conducted as part of the Fund's external training program coordinated by the IMF Institute.



### Materials used

All documentation for the seminar was prepared by the Government Finance Division of the Bureau of Statistics and translated by the Bureau of Language Services. A considerable amount of material was sent to China ahead of the seminar and was distributed in advance to participants (Appendix II). Among these materials were abstracts from the Government Finance Statistics Manual, the Government Finance Statistics Yearbook, Finance and Development, and the IMF Survey. During the seminar participants received materials needed for working group activities (GFS Unified Case Study, Inter-country Comparisons--Use of World Tables and Ratios), and, following staff presentations, reproductions of some 100 charts. Charts (in Chinese) were used extensively and effectively in all presentations, both as a teaching aid and as a means of improving the accuracy of the interpreters.

### Organization of the seminar

The program of the seminar is shown in Appendix III. The seminar was organized around the GFS Unified Case Study, a slightly modified version of the case study previously presented by Bureau of Statistics staff in seminars in some 40 countries. It consisted of three parts--coverage of government, derivation of GFS aggregates, and application and analysis of the statistics--each of which was preceded by lectures on concepts, methodology and procedures. Thus the staff team lectured, in turn, on the government finance statistics system, coverage, institutional tables, data preparation and derivation, data sources and principles of accounting, financing and debt, and macroeconomic concepts. A presentation was also made on the organization and functioning of the IMF. 1/

As in previous seminars, the participants were divided into working groups of five or six persons--14 groups in all--arranged so as to achieve heterogeneity as regards age, region and province, and sex. It was the task of each working group to solve the case study through group discussion, and solutions were reported by group leaders--a rotating position--at regular intervals in plenary sessions. Though participants volunteered few questions or comments during lectures and plenary discussion sessions, their response to working group activity was enthusiastic. As a result, continuous consultation with working groups by the staff team was crucially important to the success of the seminar.

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1/ In addition, in response to requests by the organizing authorities and participants, two special presentations on (1) fiscal policies in industrial countries, and (2) relations between central and other levels of government were given towards the end of the seminar.



Whereas the Unified Case Study is based on a hypothetical country situation, elements of actual country performance were introduced in the seminar by way of a hands-on working group exercise using World Tables data published in the 1985 Government Finance Statistics Yearbook. Also, while no government finance data for China were utilized in the seminar, working groups were given the task of drawing up for the Chinese public sector the set of five institutional tables presented for other countries in the Government Finance Statistics Yearbook.

### Conclusion

A number of elements may be said to have contributed significantly to the seminar's effectiveness. (1) Use of the practical case study methodology, technical in nature and suited to the technical orientation of the participants; (2) organization in small groups, stimulating active discussion, particularly in the absence of extensive volunteered queries and comments in plenary sessions; (3) prior preparation of a large volume of relevant documentation in Chinese; (4) continuous use of large, legible Chinese flip charts holding participants' visual attention during lectures; (5) technically oriented participants prepared to take on challenging technical assignments; (6) the comfortable setting and devoted efforts of Chinese organizing staff, freeing participants of other concerns; (7) the ample translation services provided; and (8) adequate Fund staffing, permitting some gap between lecture assignments and the opportunity for consultations with all working groups.

September 1986



China Seminar - May 12-23, 1986

List of Participants

1. Central Government (Ministry of Finance)

Ms. Lin Yan  
Mr. Yao Feng  
Ms. Zhang Lili  
Ms. Zhang Suhua  
Mr. Zhou Jianhui

2. Provincial Government

Mr. Cao Dun Zou (Jiang Xi)  
Ms. Chang Shu Ling (Xin Jiang)  
Ms. Chang Su Qin (Gui Zhou)  
Ms. Chang Xiao Hui (Hu Bei)  
Ms. Chang Yan Xia (Liao Nin)  
Ms. Chen Qi (Jiang Su)  
Ms. Chen Shu Qin (Gang Su)  
Mr. Chen Wei Xi (Fu Jian)  
Ms. Chen Ying (He Bei)  
Mr. Cui Jia Bing (Hei Long Jiang)  
Ms. Gu Qing Zi (Shan Xi)  
Ms. Hua Jin Xian (Jiang Su)  
Ms. Huang Pin Zheng (An Hui)  
Mr. Huo Yu Xing (Zhe Jiang)  
Mr. Li Liang Qing (Ji Lin)  
Mr. Li He Ping (He Nan)  
Mr. Li Ming (Guang Xi)  
Mr. Li Xian Rong (Nui Meng Gu)  
Mr. Li Yiu Fei (Yun Nan)  
Mr. Liang Zhu Wen (Guang Dong)  
Mr. Pan Guang Long (Shan Dong)  
Mr. Ren Zhi Yie (Shan Xi)  
Mr. Shen Ya Yu (Guang Dong)  
Mr. Wang Zhen Xi (Jiang Su)  
Mr. Xiang Ji Wu (Hu Nan)  
Ms. Xus Yue Fei (Jiang Su)  
Mr. Yi De He (Si Chuan)  
Ms. Yian Lun Fang (Gin Hai)  
Ms. Zho Gui Fen (Hei Long Jiang)  
Mr. Zhou Yu (Liao Nin)



China Seminar - May 12-23, 1986

List of Participants (Cont.)

3. Local Government

Mr. Cui Jin Du (Tian Jing)  
Ms. Gao Feng Ling (Kun Ming)  
Mr. Gwo Ping (Xian)  
Ms. Hu Ming (Shanghai)  
Ms. Hua Rong-Shen (Nan Jing)  
Ms. Hua Zheng Sen (Uxi)  
Ms. Huang Qiang (Shang Hai)  
Mr. Huang Renshao (Bei Hai)  
Mr. Hou Xikun (Anyang)  
Ms. Jin Lei (Suzhou)  
Ms. Li Xian Hong (Shen Yang)  
Mr. Liang Hua Ping (Xu Zho)  
Mr. Liang Zhenping (Tai Yuan)  
Mr. Liu Cun Yan (Jin De Zheng)  
Ms. Liu Weiqing (San Ming)  
Ms. Liu Yu Fen (Tang Shan)  
Mr. Ren Qing Min (Hang Zhou)  
Mr. Shao Guo Zheng (Shen Yang)  
Ms. Shen Jin Yan (Guang Zhou)  
Mr. Shu Ming (Wu Han)  
Mr. Tan Diqiang (Zu Zhou)  
Ms. Tan Fu Sheng (Nin Xia)  
Mr. Tang Yuan Chang (Nian Tong)  
Mr. Wan wen Yuan (Tai Zhou)  
Mr. Wang Jun Dong (Yang Zhou)  
Ms. Wang Yi (Qin Dao)  
Ms. Wu Suyun (Wu Hu)  
Ms. Xie Lifen (Ji Lin)  
Ms. Yang Jie (Da Lian)  
Ms. Yang Yuru (Bao Ton)  
Ms. Yu Yue Hua (Bei Jing)  
Mr. Zhang Ji Min (Lan Zhou)  
Mr. Zhang Yanlin (Haerbing)  
Mr. Zheng Genping (Juluang)  
Mr. Zhou Lixian (Zhou Lixian)  
Mr. Zhu Shoudong (Haerbing)  
Mr. Zu Jan Dong (Leng Xu)



China Seminar - May 12-23, 1986

List of Participants (Concl.)

4. People's Bank of China

Ms. Zheng Hong

5. Shanghai University of Economics and Finance

Ms. Li Zhi Cheng

Ms. Lu Jen Shen

Interpreters

Mr. Deng Haibin, People's Bank of China

Mr. Tien Tien, Shanghai University of Economics and Finance

Mr. Tien Zichen, Shanghai University of Economics and Finance

Mr. Wen Duanyu, Ministry of Finance



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Documentation for Participants 1/

- Government Finance Statistics Manual - Glossary
- Government Finance Statistics Manual - Chapter I, Coverage
- Government Finance Statistics Yearbook Country Pamphlet  
(containing front matter, world tables, and presentations for Australia and U.S.)
- "GFS Intercountry Comparisons - The Use of World Tables and Ratios (text, and working tables)
- "New Tools for Measuring Government" from Finance and Development (Text by J. Levin)
- "New Fund Data Show Government Outlays Declining in 1983-84 as a percentage of GDP" from IMF Survey, January 20, 1986
- Text and charts of all flip charts presented at the seminar (about 100)
- "Unified Case Study" (text, appendices, and answer sheets, blank, with latent image answers, and solved)

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1/ All documents distributed to participants were translated into Chinese by the Bureau of Language Services.



List of Lecture Topics, Case Study, and Workshops

- I. Introduction  
Opening Ceremony and Presentation of Seminar
- II. Lectures on Government Finance Statistics  
The Government Finance Statistics System  
Coverage of the Public Sector  
Institutional Tables of the Public Sector  
Preparation of Data and Derivation of Government Finance Statistics  
Sources of Data and Principles of Accounting  
Financing and Debt, Concepts and Classification
- III. Lectures on Other Topics  
The International Monetary Fund  
Macroeconomic Concepts  
Fiscal Policies in Industrial Countries  
Relations Between Central and Other Levels of Government
- IV. Government Finance Statistics Unified Case Study  
Coverage (4 sessions)  
Derivation of Government Finance Statistics (8 sessions)  
Application and Analysis (7 sessions)
- V. Workshops  
Institutional Tables for China (3 sessions)  
Intercountry Comparisons--Use of World Tables and Ratios (2 sessions)  
Benefits of Application of Government Finance Statistics System  
in China (2 sessions)
- VI. Conclusion  
Evaluation and Closing Ceremony

