

OSLO CITY GROUP ON ENERGY STATISTICS
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Some inter-institutional coordination experiences for the generation of information on energy sector in Mexico^{*}

On the light of one of the mandates and goals of the Oslo Group – update and modernize the UN Manuals on Energy Statistics –, some experiences and reflections and general suggestions about the organization and practices for the development of energy statistics are presented in this document.

1. An overview on generation and availability of energy statistics in Mexico in recent years

Until the beginnings of 80's there was institutional dispersion in the production of statistic and geographic information in Mexico. Each ministry or agency produced its own information according to its necessities, conceptual guidelines, methodologies and planning purposes. However, in order to organize and regulate the role and functions of diverse institutions for the production of information under homogeneous standards and national priorities, two important actions were adopted: the approval of the Law of Statistic and Geographic Information (LIEG) in 1980, which was reformed in 1983, and the creation of the National Institute of Statistic, Geography and Informatics (INEGI) in 1983.

A new stage for the production of information among the national institutions started since then. And due to diverse and increasing needs of information, the INEGI devoted more to produce information than coordinate the development of the National Systems of Statistic and Geographic Information. In the energy sector, in 1992 the national oil industry is reorganized by creating a corporative body and four subsidiary companies with the strategic function of operating the oil industry. In 1994, the Ministry of Energy (SENER) was created with the mandate of addressing the national energy policy; in the same year, the entrance of Mexico to the OECD encouraged the alignment of information strategies through statistical questionnaires and development of indicators core sets. Nevertheless, little efforts were done between INEGI and SENER in order to reorganize the information within the energy sector; therefore, no one concern was around the manuals of Energy Statistics.

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An overall balance can be aimed: an increasing gap between supply and demand of statistics, making more difficult the national coordination for the production, integration and systematization of the information according to the national priorities and the required conceptual frameworks and standards.

Meanwhile, what happened about United Nations manuals on energy statistics? The implementation of these guidelines in Mexico has had a marginal use, both by the SENER and INEGI. However, the SENER has been using the guidelines of the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the Organización Latinoamericana de Energía (OLADE).

2. Implementation of a legal, institutional and conceptual infrastructure for the coordination of the national information systems

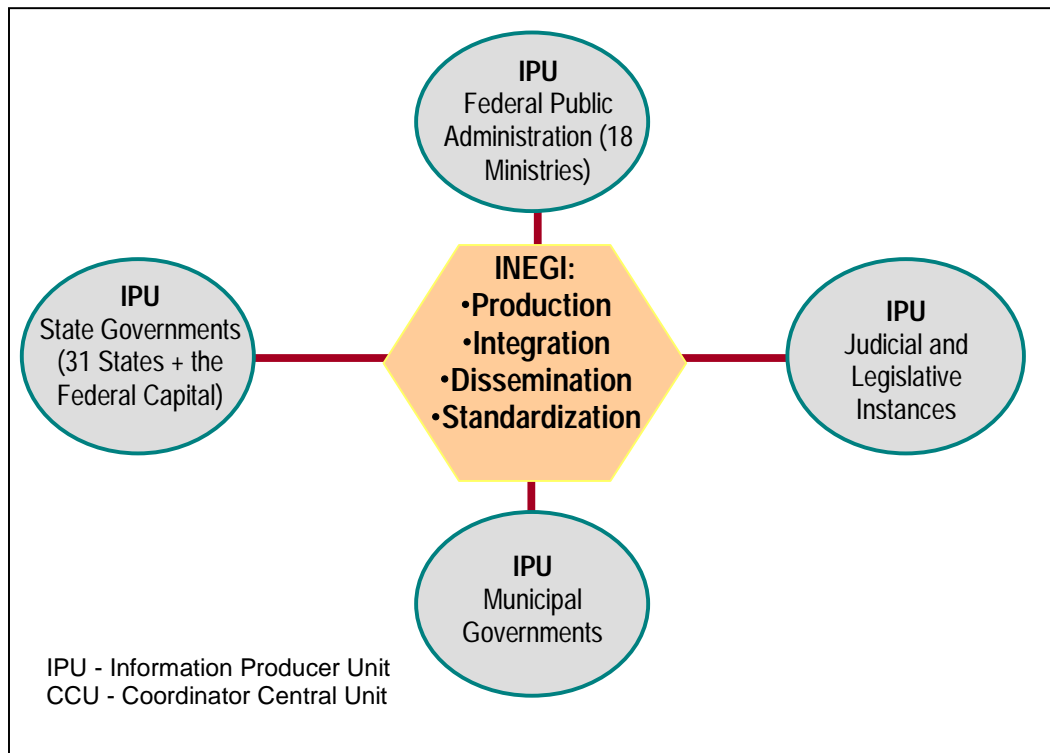
With the arrival of new federal government in December 2000, the SENER was restructured toward a specialization of their two big subsectors: hydrocarbons and electricity, as well as for the design of a new national energy policy. With the idea of modernize the energy sector there was also the intention to open the oil industry to the private sector, which practically was aborted because of a modification of constitutional law was virtually impossible and mainly due to the opposition of most Mexican people.

Another important fact was the role assumed by the new administration of the INEGI since 2001: less emphasis has been given to the production and integration of “all” information of the country; some of these functions are being decentralized and delegated to the provincial governments and ministries; to exert a technical role among the different information producer units for the implementation of norms and standards; and to produce those statistics of national interest under the idea to strengthen the National System of Statistical and Geographical Information. These activities have implied to:

- reconstruct the technical organization of the INEGI and reinforce some strategic areas related to production of statistics and geographical information for the national interest;
- establish mechanisms of coordination between information producers units and INEGI as secretary of norms in order to improve, increase and spread the use of statistics and indicators, by adopting technical committees and working groups (as shown in Figure 1, INEGI is the Central Coordinator Unit of National Information Systems, and also participates as technical secretary of standards within the sectoral technical committee of each sector);
- review and adapt not only legal and institutional mechanisms but also the technical-conceptual and methodological infrastructure for the generation and integration of information;
- elaborate a National Program of Statistical and Geographical Information intended to address the strategies of information development among the different activity sectors of public administration under guidelines homogeneous;

- participate in the development of the program on statistical and geographical information for each sector or ministry, including the energy sector one, intended to conduct and systematize the generation of information activities.

Fig. 1 - Framework for regulating the elaboration and compilation of statistical and geographic information

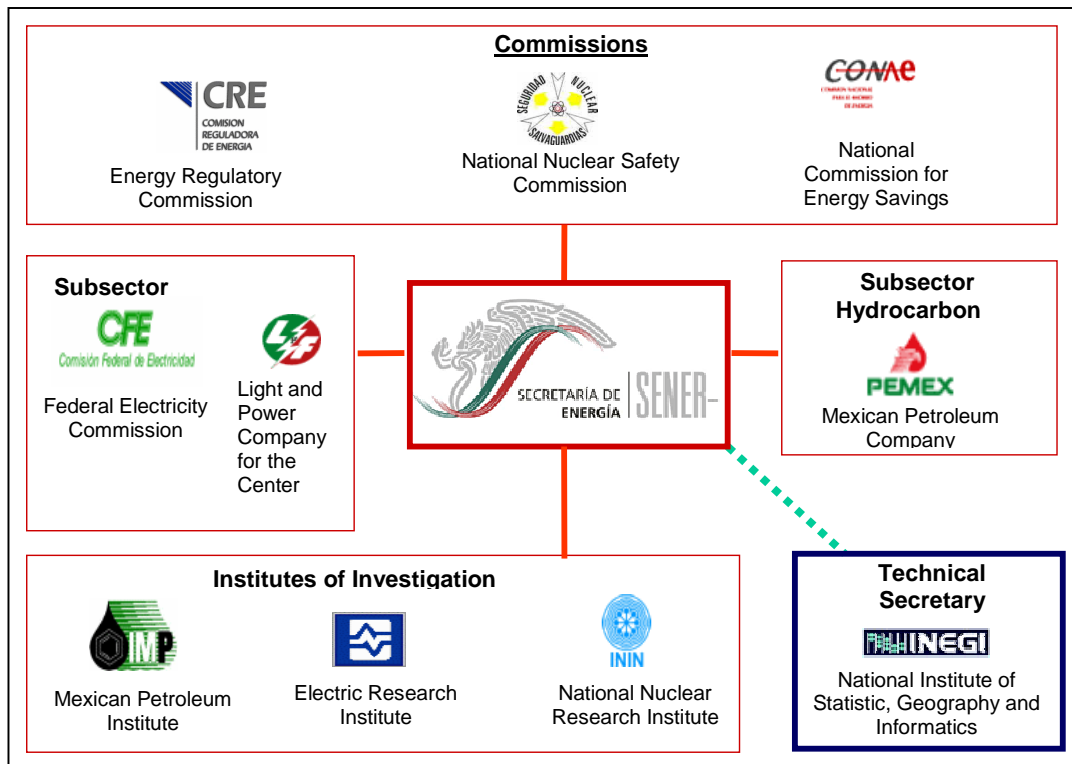


Regarding the specific energy sector, important progresses has been achieved:

- i) A Sectoral Technical Committee on Statistic and Geographic Information was created in 2001, made up by the energy sector agencies (which define the priorities and strategies for the development of its own information) and the INEGI (with the function of technical secretary of standards), and its main objective is to coordinate the design, organization and development of statistic and geographic information of the energy sector, specially the Energy Information System, which was launched in 2005 (Figure 2); several topics related to information's collection, technical, methodological, conceptual, and quality are conducted through working groups.
- ii) With the aim to order and regulate the activities of Mexico's energy information in 2006 was issued the Program for Development of Statistic and Geographic Information of the Energy Sector (in accordance with the National Program of Statistical and Geographical Information and the Energy Sectoral Program 2001-2006). Its main strategies are to: continue producing, updating and improving the energy information, and apply to the norms and current methodologies for the generation, integration and dissemination of information.

In spite of this progress, the UN energy statistics manuals have not had a true application in Mexico for the development of the energy information.

Fig. 2 - The Technical Committee of Statistic and Geographic Information of Energy Sector



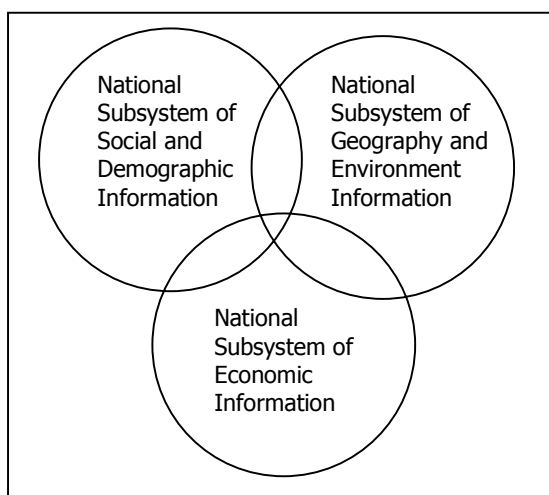
3. INEGI's autonomy and challenges for the development of energy information

There are optimistic expectations about two facts in Mexico: a) the entrance in force of the INEGI's autonomy, decreed in 2006, and b) shortly (autumn of 2007) the adoption of a new Law of Statistic and Geographic Information Systems, which establishes three national information subsystems involving economic, demographic and social facts and its relationships with environment and territory. (Figure 3). This legal frame will imply important consequences able to strengthen the reliability of Mexico's information systems. Three important changes are expected:

- ❖ redesign of the institutional work and the reinforcement the implementation of best practices regarding the current and new activities;
- ❖ revision and update of the methodological and conceptual infrastructure, as well as the activities and processes; and

- ❖ more integration and geo-referenced information systems.

Fig. 3 – The 3 National Information Subsystems of the New Law of Statistic and Geographic Information



What about the Energy Statistics Manuals?

Considering the objectives above mentioned, as well as the interest of the Oslo Group to reformulate a new manual on energy statistics in order to have consistent and coherent statistics with the energy balances and national accounts system, and the pollutant emissions inventory, the Mexican institutions participating in the Oslo Group are interested in the creation of a national working group for contributing to development of a new manual on energy statistics. This initiative is actually in process of consultation and authorization. The main benefits of this work for Mexico would be to:

- reduce or avoid the institutional dispersion in the production, compilation and systematization of energy statistics;
- provide more homogeneity in the application of conceptual framework and methodologies, not only interlinking energy with economy, society and environment, but also improving the congruency, quality and comparability of information; and
- strengthen the Energy Information System in order to construct a sound indicators core set enable to provide tendencies on energy sector at national and international level.

4. Some general ideas for re-elaborating a new Manual

«Energy statistics is often not included in the traditional work of statistical offices. In the majority of countries, energy ministries, agencies specialized in one fuel type or in one

particular flow, or sometimes large energy companies, are responsible for energy statistics. Country energy data is often produced outside the system of official statistics.»

Mr. Paul Cheung, Director, UNSD. Opening speech in the Ad-hoc Energy Group Meeting (New York, 23-25 May 2005).

In order to redesign and elaborate a new Manual on Energy Statistics, some general ideas can be useful:

1. A questionnaire among countries on best practices – the state of the art – related to the production and compilation of energy statistics should be implemented, as well as the needs of this information. The National Statistical Office, together with the Energy Ministry should participate, because of this synergy can improve the supply and quality of energy information.
2. A review on some UN's surveys experiences in the environmental field in order to replicate its methods and institutional coordination for gathering data from countries and know its linkages with other matters would be necessary, for example: (i) the UN Questionnaire on Environment Statistics, which has been applied between 1999 and 2006, and (ii) the questionnaire for a Global Assessment on Environment Statistics and Environmental-Economic Accounting, promoted by the UN Committee of Experts on EEA (UNCREEA).
3. Link and bridge energy statistics with environment statistics and/or sustainable development indicators. The experience of IAEA for the elaboration of Indicators for Sustainable Energy Development can be used.
4. Mexico can contribute its experience for the activities of the Oslo Group: on one hand, its work experiences on the matter and with LAC countries can be useful in the context of the regional agency, OLADE; by the other hand, actually (June 2007), the SENER and INEGI have agreed to create a working group within the Technical Committee on Statistic and Geographic Information of Energy Sector, in order to cooperate with the Oslo Group in improving the Energy Statistics manual, among other activities.
5. There is a need about best practices in terms of designing and conducting surveys on the energy consumption of some important economic sectors. Energy efficiency policies and energy savings programmes must have in place proper indicators to assess the situation and monitor progress. This can not be achieved without better data on energy consumption, including socio-economic data which is associated with consumption.