We are pleased to invite papers for the Asia-Pacific Economic Statistics Week 2018 (APES 2018), which will be organized within the theme of **Closing the gaps in economic statistics for sustainable development**.

The theme has been chosen by the Task Force for the APES 2018, which comprises members of the Steering Group for the Regional Programme on Economic Statistics from India, Indonesia, Malaysia (chair), New Zealand, Turkey, UNSD and ESCAP.

Papers should be aligned with the theme of APES 2018 and focus on one of the following topics:

**Topic 1: Inclusive economic statistics for informed decision-making**

Inclusive economic statistics capture the economy in a contemporary and comprehensive manner, including new types of economic entities and transactions and relatively less visible segments of the economy.

The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda has highlighted the need to shift towards demand-driven, output-oriented production and delivery of statistical services that more directly captures and responds to priority needs and concerns of users.

To inform policy makers, accurate, comprehensive, coherent and consistent economic statistics are required to be produced and processed into relevant, timely and accessible statistical products.

Authors may approach the topic from different angles. Papers may focus on measurement issues (and how they are being addressed in practice) related to achieving complete coverage in core statistics within the existing standard frameworks for economic statistics, such as measuring the informal or semi-informal economy, capturing non-profit institutions, producing comprehensive employment and productivity measures, measuring inter-firm transactions in the context of globalisation and the growth of multinational enterprises and capturing the “sharing economy.”

Papers may also challenge existing frameworks and practices, presenting case studies or pilots on how the current frameworks could be extended to capture broader issues like well-being, economic vulnerability, women’s economic empowerment, and the informal economy, etc.

**Topic 2: Use of modern technologies and new data sources for production and dissemination of economic statistics**

Recent infrastructure and data developments call for a collective effort to better understand the use of modern technologies in the production and dissemination of economic statistics. Technological advances and innovations also create a need for new standards and transparency, which would enable others to replicate the results and facilitate interpretability of the statistics by users.

Practices that involve the use of new data sources and the application of modern technologies are emerging. Further examination of such practices, including their impact and potential for contributing to official statistics production would benefit the statistical community going forward.
Also, questions remain on legal and institutional frameworks required to deliver and enforce standards for the use of modern technologies and new data sources, including the appropriateness of existing frameworks.

Authors may approach the topic from various dimensions (legal, institutional, technical, data integration, skills-required, standards required, etc.) and present emerging practices, case studies or pilots on the integration of technologies and new data sources in the production of economic statistics for a broad spectrum of users.

**Topic 3: Communication and use of economic statistics in decision-making**

To facilitate development of evidence-based policies, statisticians have a critical task to be proactive and develop two-way communication with decision-makers. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development presents a prime opportunity for statistical organizations to engage more closely with the policy-making and monitoring process, for example through the development of a national framework for SDGs’ indicators.

There is a need for national statistical systems to be innovative in the communication and delivery of statistical results and other outputs to increase their interpretability and relevance to (economic, social, environmental) policy making processes.

Authors are encouraged to analyze strengths and weaknesses of current approaches to disseminate and explain economic statistics for use in policy development and explore and recommend alternative communication strategies. Papers could address the related topics of inter-institutional (governance) systems and policy, emerging technologies for disseminating statistical information, approaches to systematically evaluate the relevance and use of statistical products, or other angles to highlight challenges and opportunities for more effective use of economic statistics for decision-making.

**Preparation and submission of abstracts**

Authors who would like to submit a paper to APES 2018 should send a brief abstract to stat.unescap@un.org, with copy to chatwanichkul@un.org by 31 January 2018.

Authors of accepted abstracts will be invited to prepare a paper for presentation at the APES 2018. Papers should be submitted by 5 April 2018.

- **Guidelines for abstracts:** Must be written in English; Word limit: 200-350 words
- **Submission of abstracts:** In the cover email, authors should indicate which one of the 3 topics their abstract relates to.
- **Detailed guidelines and templates**
Secretariat contact Requests for additional information and questions can be addressed to Ms Supaporn Chatwanichkul at chatwanichkul@un.org with copy to stat.unescap@un.org, or by phone +66 2288 2492