Asia-Pacific Economic Statistics Week
Bangkok, 2 – 6 May 2016

REPORT
## Contents

Background ............................................................................................................................................... 3

Asia-Pacific Economic Statistics Week (APES) Seminar ......................................................................... 4

I. Introduction ........................................................................................................................................ 4

II. Organization of the meeting ............................................................................................................... 4

III. Salient points from the discussions ............................................................................................... 5

IV. Future Seminars ................................................................................................................................ 11

Annex I. Feedback provided by participants ....................................................................................... 12

Annex II. Programme ............................................................................................................................ 15

Annex III. List of Participants .............................................................................................................. 21

Fifth meeting of the Steering Group for the Regional Programme for Economic Statistics (SGRPES) .... 29

I. Introduction ........................................................................................................................................ 29

II. Organization of the meeting ............................................................................................................... 29

III. Decisions and follow-up actions .................................................................................................... 30

Annex I. Meeting Agenda ..................................................................................................................... 34

Annex II. List of participants ................................................................................................................ 37

Annex III. Results of the meeting evaluation ....................................................................................... 41
Background

The Asia-Pacific Economic Statistics Week: A new regional forum for substantive exchange among practitioners and other experts

The first ever Asia-Pacific Economic Statistics Week (APES) held in May 2016 comprised a three-day seminar, the fifth meeting of the Steering Group for the Regional Programme on Economic Statistics and a series of consultations on collaborative activities to strengthen economic statistics capacity.

APES was conceptualized within the Regional Programme for the improvement of Economic Statistics - a capacity building framework for economic statistics designed by national and international experts and approved by the ESCAP Committee on Statistics in 2010. Since then, member States and development partners have been moving forward this economic statistics development agenda under the guidance of the Steering Group for the Regional Programme on Economic Statistics.

APES is designed to facilitate regional substantive exchanges among countries to support effective and efficient production and dissemination of basic economic statistics, providing a forum for presentation and discussion of normative and analytical products affecting economic statistics production and dissemination by member States and development partners. The selection of topics for the seminar was done with the capacity building priorities of the region in mind, hence linking analytical work more closely with the development of economic statistics.

The present report of the APES 2016 contains the report of the seminar and the report of the Steering Group meeting.

The seminar had five sessions discussing quality of economic statistics with particular focus on data sources, national accounts, prices, data management and classifications and statistical business registers. The seminar report serves as a reference for further research and capacity building initiatives related to these topics. The Steering Group meeting report covers information on the implementation of RPES as well as the way forward for regional collaboration and support for economic statistics, including in light of the 2030 development agenda for sustainable development.

Based on the discussions at the seminar and the feedback from participants, the Steering Group decided to organize the Asia-Pacific Economic Statistics Week on an annual basis and recommended the formation of a Task Force for substantive organization.

The next APES will take place in 2017.
Asia-Pacific Economic Statistics Week (APES) Seminar
2-4 May 2016, Bangkok Thailand

REPORT

I. Introduction

1. The three-day seminar component of the Asia-Pacific Economic Statistics Week (APES) was designed within the Regional Programme on Economic Statistics and held in Bangkok on 2-4 May 2016. The seminar was organized with the objective of generating analysis and practical research on economic statistics in order to improve the quality of economic statistics produced by national statistical systems in the region.

2. The meeting was attended by experts from Afghanistan, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Fiji, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Republic of Korea, Kyrgyz Republic, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam and Hong Kong, China. The meeting was also attended by experts from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DfID), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), United Nations Statistics Division, United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

II. Organization of the meeting

3. ESCAP organized the seminar in collaboration with UNSD, ADB and members of the Steering Group for the Regional Programme on Economic Statistics from Australia, Mongolia and Turkey. The seminar comprised five main sessions and also featured side events on the System of National Accounts 2008 (by UNSD), conclusions of the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts meeting in April 2016 (by UNSD) and FAO’s new macroeconomic statistics (by FAO).


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1 A snapshot of the Regional Programme is available at http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/1.RPES_Brochure_Eng.pdf
3 Annex I contains the programme of the seminar.
4 The present report does not cover the side events.
III. Salient points from the discussions

5. This section highlights issues of particular relevance to ongoing and future initiatives in the region for strengthening economic statistics, i.e. issues that are of common concern for several countries, and of universal importance. The discussion does not intend to exhaustively cover the full range of issues debated during the seminar.

A. Session 1: Improving quality of economic statistics and data sources

6. The characteristics of data sources determine the quality of the resulting statistics to a large extent. The use of administrative data can improve significantly the coverage and the granularity of official statistics in addition to making them more sustainable. In other cases, surveys and censuses are needed to provide newly required data and to comply with up-to-date international compilation standards. This session presented how national statistical systems identify sources of data for producing economic statistics and discussed the impact of choices made on the quality of statistical outputs.

7. Presentations by New Zealand and Australia demonstrated the ideal cases where administrative data sources are of high quality and the legislation and coordination governing the national statistical systems not only allow for but also prioritize the use of administrative data for statistical purposes. In both cases the statistical business registers were used as an example to illustrate the use of administrative data for economic statistics.

8. The requirements of the 2030 development agenda and the sustainable developing goals for more granular data was also highlighted as a push factor for more and better use of administrative data.

9. Practical considerations for quality in using administrative data for statistical purposes:

   i. The statistical unit structure and the structure of the administrative data source have to be aligned, e.g. statistical units in the statistical business registers and legal entities in taxation;

   ii. Surveys can be replaced with administrative data on a gradual basis starting with selected variables and industries especially with a view to increasing frequency of economic variables, e.g. goods and services tax information of good quality can help improve coverage of sales and turnover across industries.

   iii. Administrative data may be the only way for hard-to-survey units, e.g. non-profit organizations. However, surveys may still be needed especially in cases of big companies where having the option to follow-up with respondents for quality assurance after data collection is important. In addition, various data sources are useful for quality assurance through data confrontation, e.g. checking financial accounts of units from administrative sources against sales turnover included in sample surveys.

   iv. When the quality of administrative data is less reliable, its use may be limited to sampling for surveys. In such cases, the latter would be the source of data.

10. Importance of Coordination Mechanisms:
i. It is important to have close relations with administrative data holders at all levels for efficient and effective use of administrative data for statistical purposes. A good practice from the Australian case is to have statisticians out-posted from the national statistical office to the tax administration.

ii. The national statistical office needs to have channels through which statistical requirements can be communicated to and discussed with the administrative data provider, e.g. to influence the scope and coverage of administrative data collection by revising questionnaires, etc. For any type of revision to occur in administrative data collection or processing, there often needs to be an opportunity to influence such modification, e.g. a policy change.

iii. Influencing the administrative data collection in terms of scope and coverage, i.e. questionnaire preparation.

11. Critical role of Legal Frameworks:

   i. The legal frameworks (statistical laws and memoranda of understanding) for both allowing access to administrative data and guaranteeing the confidentiality principles once that access is granted are a fundamental aspect of using administrative data for economic statistics.

   ii. In developed statistical systems, before releasing disaggregated statistics relating to big companies or monopolies the national statistical office is required to check with those companies.

   iii. In addition, the independence of a national statistical office, as in Australia, can be a strong element for trust in official statistics as well as the code of conduct of national statistical offices.

12. User perspective:

   i. User surveys were highlighted as an important source of information on quality such as the relevance of statistical outputs.

   ii. However, for deeper insights, when soliciting views of users on the quality of official statistics, it is important to go further in depth to understand perceived problems and reasons behind them.

13. International standards and guidelines to support quality:

   i. Short-term economic statistics, Islamic finance and statistical units were highlighted as areas where currently no standards exist making it difficult for national statistical offices to have quality references. In all these areas international expert groups are currently working towards producing guidance.

   ii. In the absence of international standards, referring to good practices from other countries can be a solution, e.g. Georgia using experiences from the US and Canada in compiling monthly GDP.

B. Session 2: Improving national accounts

14. The 2008 update of the System of National Accounts (SNA) came in response to changes national economies have been undergoing not least under the influence of
intense globalization. This session had three sub-themes studying the implementation of some of the major changes that have been introduced in the 2008 SNA such as the measurement of financial intermediary services indirectly measured (FISIM), the introduction of change of ownership principle and the treatment goods for processing. In addition, the session discussed selected extensions to the central framework relating to application of supply and use framework.

15. **Practical considerations for quality in implementing new/updated methodologies:**

i. Improved measurement of goods for processing is key for the implementation of the economic ownership principle that is one of the major revisions in the 2008 System of National Accounts reflecting the effects of globalization on national economies. This session featured a paper from Hong Kong where most agents are principals and from Malaysia where most agents are contractors concentrated in the electrical and electronics industry and geographically.

ii. As with any major methodological change, back-casting of time series is a challenge. In the case of Hong Kong, proxy indicators such as the ratio of merchanting to exports and ratio of merchanting to imports for back-casting.

iii. It is also important to keep the impact of the economic statistics at hand in perspective. In the case of Malaysia, no back-casting is done for merchanting but this activity constitutes less than one per cent of GDP.

iv. The change in macroeconomic statistical standards may have an impact on the underlying statistics or may require different uses of existing data sources. This is the case of trade statistics due to the change of ownership principle in the 2008 SNA. For instance in measuring goods for processing, Malaysia uses import and export margins to identify potential companies that are involved in processing.

v. Data sharing among principals and contractors involved in goods for processing can increase efficiency and accuracy while reducing response burden.

16. **Benefits and use of the SNA and related extensions:**

i. There are numerous benefits to implementing the revisions in the 2008 SNA and important extensions of the accounts such as satellite accounting, input-output analyses and other applications of supply and use tables.

ii. The implementation of these standards and guidelines allow producing new statistics for innovative economic research on economic shocks, "holiday economics" or to conduct cost-benefit analyses of new policies related to infrastructure projects or proposed changes to policies affecting international trade and investment.

iii. From a quality assurance perspective, these frameworks provide useful means of verification for macroeconomic indicators and facilitate the use of data collected through surveys and censuses for economic research by governments and in academic studies.
17. **User perspective:**

i. In order to communicate changes to users in Hong Kong, major users were visited to explain the benefits of the change ownership principle. In addition, a transitional arrangement was adopted for the convenience of users, i.e. conventional trade in services statistics are still calculated while the newly collected data are being incorporated into balance of payment and national accounts.

C. **Session 3: Improving economic statistics data management and classifications**

18. Modernizing statistical business processes is crucial for the production and dissemination of integrated statistics and to transform national statistical offices from data collectors into information service providers. An important aspect of modernizing statistical information systems is the development of integrated data management platforms which creates the largest benefits while also posing important challenges. This session focused on business processes, statistical infrastructure (the tools to implement business processes such as online surveys, systems for analysis or processing, dissemination of data) and metadata (data and information on how the statistical infrastructure should be understood or used including classifications).

19. **Practical considerations in changing a business process:**

i. In the case of the implementation of the online surveys by the Reserve Bank of India to compile macro financial statistics the existing technologies and the taxonomy of data were taken into account for selecting the solution, XBRL.

ii. A challenge in automated flows is the incorporation of corrections into the initial instruments of data collection, e.g. commercial banks that provide data to the central bank may need to adjust their customer profiles to ensure that errors are not repeated.

iii. Engagement with respondents is important when a change in the business process is introduced, which will lead to improved response rate; ensure trust among respondents and increase accuracy of responses.

20. **Importance of Coordination Mechanisms:**

i. Successful implementation of new business processes and infrastructure are related to good change management process, obtaining management support, and positive engagement with internal stakeholders. In addition, it is crucial to set up effective governance procedures for the business process redesign project or implementation of infrastructure, e.g. establish functioning steering committees and project management teams, which include senior management.

ii. Coordination within national statistical offices and across the national statistical system when changing the business process was emphasized. This includes coordination with local and regional offices for successful redesign of statistical business processes. Often there are capacity shortcomings in sub-national offices that hinder understanding and interpretation of business process concepts. In some cases, these offices
may even have their own statistical business processes challenging the unification and standardization of the overall business process.

21. **Critical role of Legal Frameworks:**
   i. Collaboration and data sharing agreements between agencies are important to ensure business processes can be integrated and functional.

   ii. Levels of authority and access should be clearly set as part of business processes and sensitive data are accessible only by people that have the immediate need to access them while the rest can access only aggregated data.

22. **User perspective:**
   iii. Communication with users was highlighted as a crucial step of updating any business process, infrastructure or classification. Users should be informed of the upcoming changes well in advance.

D. **Session 4: Improving quality of price statistics**

23. Prices constitute a key component of economic statistics enabling valuation of production, consumption and trade. In this session, the methodological strengths and weaknesses of different price indices, including purchasing power parities, were discussed. The session showcased state-of-the-art techniques for collecting price data.

24. **Practical considerations in using price indices:**
   i. The criteria for selection of wholesale price indices (WPI) versus the consumer price index (CPI) are illustrated in the case of India. WPI is based on the volume of transactions but if the monetary policy focuses on welfare of citizens, WPI which is highly susceptible to international commodity price swings should not be used.

   ii. CPI is the internationally recommended measure of inflation. In the case of India, national CPI is calculated through horizontal integration of regional CPIs at the urban and rural levels given the size of the country and the variety of products.

   iii. In the Philippines, CPI for the bottom 30 per cent of the population is an important part of poverty reporting given high incidence of poverty in the country.

25. **Importance of Coordination Mechanisms:**
   iv. Agreements between data providers, compilers and users are essential in the case of price indices as well. In India, the national statistical office and the central bank are both on the Committee on Statistics of Cost of Living where user concerns are reflected.

26. **New data collection technologies:**
   v. An important motivation behind using electronic price data capture technologies is to improve accuracy and timeliness.
vi. Better coverage and further research are needed to understand the relationship between price data that is collected online and those collected through field surveys.

27. **International initiatives:**

vii. International Comparison Programme (ICP) presents an opportunity to improve national price indices, as the structure of ICP focuses on household consumption which makes up 50-70 per cent of consumption in Asian and Pacific countries. The ICP methodology is particularly useful for countries that are interested in developing subnational and spatial price indexes.

**E. Session 5: Statistical Business Registers**

28. Statistical business registers (SBRs) are the backbone of statistical infrastructure in the production of economic statistics. They are crucial in various phases, from providing the sampling frame for economic surveys to giving the source data for business demographics or for analytical extensions through linkages to other administrative data sources. This session was organized in three parts: (i) giving the building blocks of SBRs; (ii) country experiences on establishing and maintaining SBRs and (iii) use of SBRs.

29. **Practical considerations in establishing SBRs:**

   i. The main purposes of SBRs are to provide the frame for business surveys and to provide information on the variables of business demographics and business relationships in an economy. In developing and maintaining SBRs, it is important to avoid “overloading” content of SBRs beyond what is needed to meet these purposes.

   ii. There may be a possible “production bias” in compiling data for SBRs, i.e. a disproportionate focus on value-added. It has to be kept in mind that value-added is not the variable for surveys on finance, balance sheets, foreign investment surveys.

   iii. When establishing SBRs, countries need to weigh out the benefits versus costs of aiming for comprehensiveness by collating numerous data sources. A starting point could be to focus on the units that cover the majority of the economic activity and ensure good updating of this information rather than strive for having all units covered.

   iv. SBRs should be linked with other economic databases (including agricultural registers) to increase analytical power and scope.

30. **Importance of Coordination Mechanisms:**

   i. A memorandum of understanding is the first step in ensuring that data providers, maintainers and users of SBRs have clear roles and responsibilities. The Malaysian case illustrates a good practice where there is a board that oversees the SBR.
IV. Future Seminars

31. As part of the evaluation for the seminar (refer to Annex I for details), participants were asked to provide their suggestions for topics to be considered in future seminars. The top five topics based on the evaluations are the following:

- National accounts (Supply and Use tables and Input-Output tables)
- Business statistics
- Administrative data
- IT and other infrastructure for data collection
- Price statistics

32. Participants were also asked to indicate their preferred frequency of future seminars should they wish for the event to be regularized. A large majority of participants indicated that they would like the event to be repeated and of those, a large majority indicated a preference for an annual event.

33. Following the seminar, the Steering Group for the Regional Programme on Economic Statistics, at its fifth meeting, discussed future seminars and their frequency, bearing in mind the feedback provided. The outcome of this discussion is included in the report of the Steering Group meeting.5

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Annex I. Feedback provided by participants

I. Organization of seminar:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too short</th>
<th>Adequate</th>
<th>Too long</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Duration of the seminar</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Logistics of the seminar (travel, hotel arrangements)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

II. Content of seminar:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Improving quality of economic statistics</th>
<th>Improving national accounts</th>
<th>Improving economic statistics data management and classifications</th>
<th>Improving quality of price statistics</th>
<th>Statistical Business Registers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Are you able to apply knowledge gained from the session below?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Improving quality of economic statistics</th>
<th>Improving national accounts</th>
<th>Improving economic statistics data management and classifications</th>
<th>Improving quality of price statistics</th>
<th>Statistical BusinessRegisters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Would you like to see this seminar organized regularly?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>56</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If yes, how often would it be appropriate?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Annual</th>
<th>Biennial</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For future seminars: Are there any research topics you would like to hear about, or hear more about?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Counts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National accounts (to include SUT and IO table)</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business statistics</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative data</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT Infrastructure and other means of Infrastructure for collecting data</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Price statistics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDG</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBRs</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions for the improvement of this seminar?

- Accommodation & transportation to/from airport to be organized by organizers.
- The further detailed elaboration and time given to the presenters should be expanded.
- The seminar should come up with issues and challenges of economic statistics implementation and discussion for solutions which could be a lesson learnt of other developing countries, but successful statistics implementations also important.
- Q&A sessions were good as it allowed countries to discuss issues of practical relevance.
- Some meeting logistics, e.g. writing pad and pen should be supplied.
- Very effective and well organized. Congratulations and many thanks. Perhaps a panel discussion with panelists to discuss 2 or 3 issues/questions pertaining to their session? If time permits, have a theme-based day delivering technical training.
- It is a unique opportunity for statistical organization and users to come together and share experiences. The time for each presentation can be expanded to 20 minutes. Following some international meeting, questions can be sent to participating members, in addition to the paper presenters, on specific topics issues related to the presentation/sessions to have a wider group discussion/knowledge sharing.
- Tables could be provided for all participants.
- Minimum stationary could be provided - a writing pad/pen. Else participants maybe informed to bring their own stuff.
- Having improved user understanding about the developments in the field of official statistics, driven by global entities and with support from country statisticians, the policy analysis will benefit.
- Very good event. The only weakness, in my opinion, was that panel discussion were not really panel discussions, but rather individual questions. Next time, facilitations should try to identify common themes/issues across presentations and encourage an interactive debate between presenters.
- ESCAP to provide transport (to and from hotels) in Bangkok.
- Some papers are rather broad and difficult to understand the implications. The higher details of the paper about the countries' experiences are highly appreciated. The broad concept or plans were not so useful.
- I would like to know if there is a call for paper for social statistics in the future.
- Invite additional participants from related agencies within the country.
- Should there be funds the composition of participants from the pacific should increase.
- Identifying needs of the countries (problems/issues) and analyze it by the organization before this commencement meeting and to have a session provide expert advice.
- Please set up the seminar at suitable season. Today Bangkok is very hot.
- This seminar was very interesting and flow very well. The ESCAP secretariat has done very good job. Thank you.
- If you take different topics from different countries, not two or three topics from one country, it will be better.
### III. ESCAP statistical products and services:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Publications</th>
<th>6. Are you aware of the publication below?</th>
<th>7. Have you ever used it as reference?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Statistical online database</td>
<td>Yes            32</td>
<td>No            19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific 2015</td>
<td>Yes            35</td>
<td>No            17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Statistical Newsletter</td>
<td>Yes            35</td>
<td>No            16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Stats Brief</td>
<td>Yes            24</td>
<td>No            26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. SD Working Paper Series</td>
<td>Yes            19</td>
<td>No            30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Annex II. Programme

Seminar Component of
Asia-Pacific Economic Statistics Week

2 – 4 MAY 2016

PROGRAMME

UNCC, CONFERENCE ROOM 4

Monday, 2 May 2016

08:00 - 09:00  Registration

09:00 - 09:30  Opening and introductions

09:30 – 12:30  Session 1: Improving quality of economic statistics

Session Organizer: Ms Aycan Özek, Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey

The characteristics of data sources determine the quality of the resulting statistics to an undeniable extent. The use of administrative data can improve significantly the coverage and the granularity of official statistics in addition to making them more sustainable. In other cases, surveys and censuses are needed to provide newly required data and to comply with up-to-date international compilation standards. This session will present how national statistical systems identify sources of data for producing economic statistics and discuss the impact of choices made on the quality of statistical outputs.

Papers to be discussed:

- **Making greater use of administrative data in economic statistics**
  Mr Jeff Cope, Statistics New Zealand

- **Monthly flash estimates of economic growth in Georgia**
  Mr Levan Gogoberishvili, National Statistical Office of Georgia

- **The collection of financial services activities statistics in Malaysia**
  Mr Badrul Hisham Md Khalid, Department of Statistics Malaysia

- **Statistical units: theory and practice**
  Mr Jonathon Khoo, Australian Bureau of Statistics

- **How to measure and improve the quality of economic statistics**
  Mr Ahmet Firat, Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey

12:30 – 14:00  Lunch

14:00 – 17:30  Session 2: Improving national accounts

Session Organizer: Mr Benson Sim, United Nations Statistics Division

The 2008 update of the System of National Accounts (SNA) came in response to changes national
economies have been undergoing not least under the influence of intense globalization. This session has three sub-themes studying the implementation of some of the major changes that have been introduced in the 2008 SNA such as the measurement of financial intermediary services indirectly measured (FISIM), the introduction of change of ownership principle and the treatment goods for processing. In addition, the session discusses selected extensions to the central framework on the basis of the application of supply and use framework.

Papers to be discussed:

- **Measurement of FISIM in Malaysia**  
  Mr Fazrul Azlan Othman, Department of Statistics Malaysia

- **Other services accounts in Iran**  
  Ms Banafsheh Najafi, Statistical Centre of Iran

- **Change of ownership principle in the context of 2008 SNA**  
  Ms Clora Chan, Census and Statistics Department, Hong Kong, China

- **Measuring goods for processing and manufacturing services in Malaysia**  
  Mr Fazrul Azlan Othman, Department of Statistics Malaysia

- **Using input-output analysis framework to improve key economic statistics**  
  Mr Joseph Mariasingham, Asian Development Bank

- **Fiji’s tourism satellite accounts**  
  Mr Bimlesh Krishna, Fiji Bureau of Statistics

- **Regional GDP compilation**  
  Ms Batjargal Badamtsetseg, National Registration and Statistics Office Mongolia
Session 3: Improving economic statistics data management and classifications

Session Organizer: Mr Jonathon Khoo, Australian Bureau of Statistics

Modernizing statistical business processes is crucial for the production and dissemination of integrated statistics and to transform national statistical offices from data collectors into information service providers. An important aspect of modernizing statistical information systems is the development of integrated data management platforms which creates the largest benefits while also posing important challenges. This session will illustrate examples of data management platform development from the region. The session will shed light on the role of classifications in the production of integrated economic statistics and showcase innovative approaches in updating them.

Papers to be discussed:

- The establishment of statistical business process in China
  Mr Zhi Li, National Bureau of Statistics of China

- From data to information and from information to policy making – the story of the integrated company and industry analysis platform
  Mr Murat Çakır, Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey

- National data centre and financial statistics office: a conceptual design for public data management
  Mr Murat Çakır, Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey

- Collection of macro financial statistics for central banking – evolution of information acquisition and management technology
  Mr Ajit Joshi, Reserve Bank of India

- Enormous success of monthly manufacturing online survey through NEWSS
  Mr Sabri Omar, Department of Statistics Malaysia

- Comparison between the results obtained by old and new activity classification for the identification of key sectors of Iran’s economy
  Mr Hojjat Akbarian, Statistical Centre of Iran

- Size classification in compilation of performance indicators of private corporate sector
  Ms Shaoni Nandi, Reserve Bank of India
12:30 – 13:30  Lunch

13:30 – 14:15  Side event
  The 2008 SNA, its impact on GDP and implementation status
  Mr Benson Sim, United Nations Statistics Division

14:15 – 17:00  Session 4: Improving quality of price statistics

  Session Organizer: Ms Batjargal Badamtsetseg, NRSO Mongolia

  Prices constitute a key component of economic statistics enabling valuation of production, consumption and trade. In this session, the methodological strengths and weaknesses of different price indices, including purchasing power parities, will be discussed. The session will also showcase state-of-the-art techniques for collecting price data.

Papers to be discussed:

- Comparison of consumer and wholesale price indices in India
  Mr Asish Thomas George, Reserve Bank of India

- Comparison of consumer price index basket between current base year and new base year in Myanmar
  Ms Nyaung Tai, Central Statistical Organization Myanmar

- Monitoring consumer price trend using daily price data of online grocery stores in India
  Mr Anirban Sanyal, Reserve Bank of India

- Use of latest technology in data capture for consumer prices: Philippine experience
  Mr Romeo Recide, Philippine Statistics Authority

- Across time and space prices: why it matters for national and international comparison programs
  Ms Eileen Capilit, Asian Development Bank
### Recap of Day 2

**Session 5: Statistical Business Registers**

**Session Organizers:** Mr Joseph Mariasingham and Ms Eileen Capilit, *Asian Development Bank*

Statistical business registers (SBRs) are the backbone of statistical infrastructure in the production of economic statistics. They are crucial in various phases, from providing the sampling frame for economic surveys to giving the source data for business demographics or for analytical extensions through linkages to other administrative data sources. This session will be organized in three parts: (i) giving the building blocks of SBRs; (ii) country experiences on establishing and maintaining SBRs and (iii) use of SBRs.

#### Papers to be discussed:

**SBR Fundamentals:**

- **An integrated approach to establishing the statistical business registers in Asia**  
  Ms Eileen Capilit, *Asian Development Bank*

- **Adoption of standard business register in the Pacific**  
  Ms Nilima Lal, *Secretariat of the Pacific Community*

**Country case studies:**

- **Harmonization and integration of internal data sources in constructing statistical business register (SBR) initial data in BPS – Statistics Indonesia**  
  Ms Lien Suharni, BPS - Statistics Indonesia

- **Development of business register: data sources and complications**  
  Mr Bahrawar Jan, *Pakistan Bureau of Statistics*

- **Strategic planning for improving the statistical register systems of manufacturing industries in Iran**  
  Mr Saeed Fayyaz, *Statistical Centre of Iran*

- **Statistical business register in Mongolia**  
  Ms Bayarmaa Baatarsuren, *National Registration and Statistics Office Mongolia*

- **Business registers data used for official statistics – case study in Viet Nam**  
  Mr Quang Vinh Pham, *General Statistics Office Viet Nam*

### 12:30 – 14:00

**Lunch side event (Public foyer)**  
FAO’s new macro-economic statistics: Agricultural Capital Stock and Agro-Industry Measurement  
Ms Sangita Dubey, *Food and Agriculture Organization*
14:00 – 14:50  Session 5 (continued)

Use of SBRs:
- Malaysia statistical business register (MSBR) innovates new insight for Malaysia’s trade statistics
  Ms Nur Aziha Mansor, Department of Statistics Malaysia

- Special presentation: The use of SBRs - business demography statistics
  Mr Marko Javorsek, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

- Special presentation: The potential of statistical business registries to inform policy
  Dr Natalie Chun, Asian Development Bank

14:50 – 15:20  Closing of the seminar

15:40 - 16:40  Side event

Outcomes of the Tenth Meeting of the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts
Mr Benson Sim, United Nations Statistics Division
Annex III. List of Participants

MEMBERS

AFGHANISTAN

Mr Sher Mohammad Jamizada, President General, Central Statistics Organization, Kabul

AUSTRALIA

Mr Jonathon Khoo, Director, Public Finance, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Belconnen, Australia

AZERBAIJAN

Mr Toghrul Ajalov, Deputy Head of Coordination of Statistical Works and Strategy Planning Department, The State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Baku

BANGLADESH

Mr Mohammad Abdul Wazed, Director General, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Dhaka

BHUTAN

Mr Sonam Laendup, Statistical Officer, National Statistics Bureau, Thimphu

CAMBODIA

Mr Sovorlak Khin, Deputy Director General, National Institute of Statistics, Phnom Penh

Mr Chettra Keo, Director, National Accounts Department, National Institute of Statistics, Phnom Penh

CHINA

Mr Zhi Li, Principal Program Office, National Bureau of Statistics, Beijing

FIJI

Mr Bimlesh Krishna, Divisional Manager, Economic Statistics Division, Fiji Bureau of Statistics, Suva

GEORGIA

Mr Levan Gogoberishvili, Head of National Accounts Division, National Statistics Office, Tbilisi

INDIA

Ms Shaoni Nandi, Research Officer, Reserve Bank of India, Mumbai
Ms Praggya Das, Director, Reserve Bank of India, Mumbai

Mr Asish Thomas George, Assistant Adviser, Reserve Bank of India, Mumbai

Mr Ajit Ratnakar Joshi, Adviser, Dept. of Statistics and Information Management, Reserve Bank of India, Mumbai

Mr Anirban Sanyal, Research Officer, Reserve Bank of India, Mumbai

INDONESIA

Ms Lien Suharni, Head of Subdirectorate Development of Standardization and Classification Statistics, Statistics Indonesia-BPS, Jakarta

Ms Ratih Putri Pertiwi, Staff of Subdirectorate Development of Standardization and Classification Statistics, Statistics Indonesia-BPS, Jakarta

Ms Tri Listianingrum, Staff of Subdirectorate Development of Standardization and Classification Statistics, Statistics Indonesia-BPS, Jakarta

IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)

Mr Saeed Fayyaz, Expert on Industrial Statistics, Statistical Centre of Iran, Tehran

Ms Banafsheh Najafi, Expert on Services Accounts, Statistical Centre of Iran, Tehran

Mr Hojjat Akbarian, Expert on price index, Statistical Centre of Iran, Tehran

JAPAN

Mr Makoto Shimizu, Director-General, Statistical Research and Training Institute, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Tokyo

KYRGYZSTAN

Ms Aida Edilbekova, Leading Specialist of Economic Statistics and National Accounts Department, National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic, Bishkek

LAO PEOPLE’S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Mr Thipsavanh Intharack, Acting Director General, Department of Economic Statistics, Lao Statistics Bureau, Vientiane

MALAYSIA
Mr Fazrul Azlan Othman, Senior Deputy Director, National Accounts Statistical Division, Department of Statistics Malaysia, Putrajaya

Mr Sabri Omar, Senior Director, Information Management Division, Department of Statistics Malaysia, Putrajaya

Mr Badrul Hisham Md Khalid, Statistician, Services Statistics Division, Department of Statistics Malaysia, Putrajaya

Ms Nur Aziha Mansor, Assistant Director, Methodology & Research Division, Department of Statistics Malaysia, Putrajaya

MALDIVES

Ms Aishath Shahuda, Chief Statistician, National Bureau of Statistics, Male

MONGOLIA

Ms Badamtsetseg Batjargal, Director of Integrated Policy and Cooperation Department, National Registration and Statistics Office, Ulaanbaatar

Ms Bayarmaa Baatarsuren, Director of National Account Division, National Registration and Statistics Office, Ulaanbaatar

MYANMAR

Ms Nyaung Tai, Staff Officer, Central Statistical Organization, Nay Pyi Taw

NEPAL

Mr Mahesh Chand Pradhan, Director, Economic Census Section, Central Bureau of Statistics, Kathmandu

NEW ZEALAND

Mr Jeff Cope, Principal Economic Statistician, Statistics New Zealand, Christchurch

PAKISTAN

Mr Bahrawar Jan, Deputy Director General, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Islamabad

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Mr Henao Kari, Acting Deputy National Statistician, National Statistical Office, Port Moresby

Mr Hebou Segore, Statistician, National Statistical Office, Port Moresby
Mr Roko Koloma Vanua, National Statistician, National Statistical Office, Port Moresby

Mr Taunao Vai, Consultant, National Statistical Office, Port Moresby

PHILIPPINES

Mr Reynor Imperial, Director, Philippine Statistics Authority, Quezon City

Mr Romeo Recide, Deputy National Statistician, Philippine Statistics Authority, Quezon City

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Mr Kwon Soon Moon, Director, Statistics Korea, Daejeon

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Mr Andrey Tatarinov, Director, Department of National Accounts, Federal State Statistics Service (Rosstat), Moscow

Mr Ilya Matyushev, Deputy Director, Department of Foreign Statistics and International Cooperation, Federal State Statistics Service (Rosstat), Moscow

SAMOA

Mr Aliielua Salani, Assistant Chief Executive Officer, Samoa Bureau of Statistics, Apia

SINGAPORE

Ms Suzanne Sook Han Wong, Deputy Director, Economic Accounts Division, Singapore Department of Statistics, Singapore

SRI LANKA

Dr Amarajeewa Satharasinghe, Director General, Department of Census and Statistics, Colombo

Ms Darshi Munasinghe, Statistician, Department of Census and Statistics, Colombo

TAJIKISTAN

Mr Firdavsi Asmatbekov, Head of Department Trade and Services Statistics, Agency on Statistics under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, Dushanbe

THAILAND

Ms Nitidao Ratanapaitoon, Division Chief, Monetary and Financial Markets Statistics Division, Statistics and Information Systems Department, Bank of Thailand, Bangkok
Ms Khwanreon Loedsalak, Senior Analyst, Statistics and Information Systems Department, Bank of Thailand, Bangkok

Ms Pornpen Powattanasatien, Team Executive, Monetary & Financial Statistics Team, Bank of Thailand, Bangkok

Ms Yuwawan Boonyaleephan, Team Executive, Statistics and Information Systems Department, Bank of Thailand, Bangkok

Mr Boonsit Suttinoon, Statistician, National Statistical Office, Bangkok

Ms Nantachavee Hongnuson, Statistician, National Statistical Office, Bangkok

Ms Supitcha Vudhichativanich, Statistician, National Statistical Office, Bangkok

Mr Wichanun Niwatjinda, Director, Trade Policy and Strategy Office, Ministry of Commerce, Nonthaburi

Ms Thipkasem Mekjaroon, Trade Officer, Division of Trade Information and Economic Indices, Trade Policy And Strategy Office, Ministry of Commerce, Nonthaburi, Thailand

Mr Nat Tharnpanich, Trade Officer, Division of Competitiveness Strategy, Trade Policy and Strategy Office, Ministry of Commerce, Nonthaburi, Thailand

Ms Pathamaporn Duangboonma, Trade Officer, Division of Trade Information and Economic Indices, Trade Policy and Strategy Office, Ministry of Commerce, Nonthaburi, Thailand

Mr Akgavat Thanaprasitpattana, Trade Officer, Trade Policy and Strategy Office, Ministry of Commerce, Nonthaburi

Mr Wirot Nararak, Director, National Account Office, National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB), Bangkok

Ms Natsuda Phetchoon, Policy and Plan Analyst, Senior Professional Level, National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB), Bangkok

Ms Phennapa Sintrakul, Policy and Plan Analyst, National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB), Bangkok

Mr Chamadanai Marknual, Policy and Plan Analyst, National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB), Bangkok

TURKEY

Mr Murat Cakir, Expert, Real Sector Data Division, Statistics Department, Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey, Ankara
Ms Aycan Ozek, Senior Expert, Monetary and Financial Statistics Division, Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey, Ankara

Mr Ahmet T. Firat, Specialist, Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey, Ankara

TUVALU

Mr Oudom Wang, Permanent Representative of Tuvalu to ESCAP, Bangkok

Ms Yuechen Zhou, Assistant to Tuvalu's Permanent Representative to ESCAP, Bangkok

UZBEKISTAN

Mr Agzam Ikramov, Head of department, State committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Statistics, Tashkent

VIET NAM

Mr Quang Vinh Pham, Deputy Director General, General Statistics Office of Viet Nam, Hanoi

Mr Hung Tran Tuan, Director, Department of Statistical Standards, Methodology and IT, General Statistics Office of Viet Nam, Hanoi

ASSOCIATE MEMBER

HONG KONG, CHINA

Mr Parmod K Sharma, Senior Statistician (Sectoral Economic 1), Census and Statistics Department, Hong Kong

Ms Clora Chan, Senior Statistician, National Income Branch (2), Census and Statistics Department, Hong Kong

UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (DESA)

Mr Benson Sim, United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), DESA, New York

UNITED NATIONS BODY

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)

Mr Felix Schmieding, Statistics Specialist, UNDP, Yangon
SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO)

Ms Sangita Dubey, Senior Statistician, Economic Statistics, FAO, Rome

Mr Mukesh Srivastava, Senior Statistician, FAO, Bangkok

UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (UNIDO)

Ms Bounlutai Syviengnguen, UNIDO,

Mr Yang Pamah, UNIDO,

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB)

Mr Mahinthan Joseph Mariasingham, Statistician and Project Officer, ADB, Manila

Ms Eileen Capilit, Economics and Statistics Officer, ADB, Manila

Dr Natalie Chun, Economist, ADB, Manila

PACIFIC COMMUNITY (SPC)

Ms Nilima Lal, Economic Statistician, Statistics for Development Division, SPC, Noumea

Mr Rens Hendriks, Economic Statistician, Statistics for Development Division, SPC, Noumea

OTHER ENTITY

DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (DFID)

Mr Craig Irwin, Statistician, United Kingdom Department for International Development, DfID, Dhaka

SECRETARIAT

Ms Margarita Guerrero Director, Statistics Division (SD)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position and Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ms Rikke Munk Hansen</td>
<td>Chief, Economic and Environment Statistics Section (EES), SD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Yanhong Zhang</td>
<td>Chief, Population and Social Statistics Section (PSS), SD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Christopher Ryan</td>
<td>Regional Advisor on Statistics, Office of the Chief, SD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Eric Hermouet</td>
<td>Statistician, Statistical Data Management Unit, Office of the Chief, SD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Zeynep Orhun</td>
<td>Statistician, EES, SD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Daniel Clarke</td>
<td>Statistician, EES, SD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Marko Javorsek</td>
<td>Associate Statistician, EES, SD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Christopher Sean Lovell</td>
<td>Associate Statistician, PSS, SD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Olga Shipina</td>
<td>Consultant, EES, SD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Nixie Mabanag Abaguez</td>
<td>Statistics Assistant, EES, SD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Jingyi Xie</td>
<td>Team Assistant, EES, SD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Giorgia Menta</td>
<td>Intern, EES, SD</td>
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**STATISTICAL INSTITUTE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (SIAP)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position and Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr Alick Mjuma Nyasulu</td>
<td>Statistician/Lecturer, SIAP, Chiba, Japan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Fifth meeting of the Steering Group for the Regional Programme for Economic Statistics (SGRPES)
5-6 May 2016, Bangkok, Thailand

REPORT

I. Introduction

1. The fifth meeting of the Steering Group for the Regional Programme on Economic Statistics was held in Bangkok on 5-6 May 2016. The following Steering Group members were represented at the meeting: Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Russian Federation, Samoa, Singapore, Turkey, Viet Nam, the Asia-Pacific Regional Steering Committee of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics, ADB, ILO, and SPC. FAO and UNSD participated as observers.6

2. Mr Jeff Cope (Chair) and Ms Badamsetseg Batjargal (Co-chair) chaired the fifth meeting.

3. All meeting documents are accessible at http://www.unescap.org/events/fifth-meeting-steering-group-regional-programme-economic-statistics-rpes.

4. Feed-back on the meeting as provided by participants is reported in Annex III of this report.

II. Organization of the meeting

5. The objectives of the meeting were the following:

   A. Review the implementation and monitoring of the Regional Programme on Economics Statistics (RPES) and the work programme:
      - Contribution of the Asia-Pacific Economic Statistics Week to RPES implementation
      - National and regional reports on the progress made and priorities for economic statistics development
      - Capacity screening II (2017)
      - Progress report from SGRPES to the fifth session of the Committee on Statistics

   B. Review of the role, responsibilities and functioning of the Steering Group

6. The provisional programme for the meeting was adopted.7

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6 Please see Annex II for the complete list of participants.
7 Please see Annex I for the programme of the meeting.
III. Decisions and follow-up actions

**Asia-Pacific Economic Statistics Week (APES)**

**Decisions**

7. There was unanimous support for organizing the APES seminars on a regular basis (either annually or biennially); the Steering Group noted that among evaluations by participants, a clear majority had preferred APES as an annual event.

8. It was agreed that Steering Group members should take a leading role in organizing future seminars given the positive experience in the first APES seminar where four out of five sessions were organized by Steering Group members (Turkey, Mongolia, Australia and ADB) and seven members presented papers (India, Mongolia, New Zealand, Viet Nam, ADB and SPC).

**Follow-up actions**

9. A task force to be established for the organization of the next APES seminar with support from the secretariat;

10. The leadership of the Steering Group\(^8\) to decide on the frequency of future APES meetings based on the recommendation by the task force;

11. The task force to consider organizing the meeting of the Steering Group before the seminar in future APES.

**Substantive priorities for the implementation of RPES**

**Highlights on national economic statistics development**

12. The following substantive focus areas were highlighted (in no particular order) in reports by countries on progress made and priorities for economic statistics development:

   A. National accounts: GDP rebasing, e.g. use data collected through economic censuses, integrated national accounts, institutional sector accounts, quarterly national accounts, SUTs
   
   B. Measurement of natural resources
   
   C. Labour/employment statistics
   
   D. Short-term economic statistics
   
   E. Statistical Business Registers
   
   F. Metadata frameworks
   
   G. Quality assurance frameworks

13. Some Steering Group members, in their country report, highlighted training courses, training materials and related quality assurance, as important to address capacity barriers. In reference to that, the meeting was informed by the secretariat of the

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\(^8\) Please see section on “Leadership and functioning of the Steering Group” for decisions on the future leadership of the Steering Group.
Network for Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific,\(^9\) and encouraged to work with a through the Network to take related activities forward.

**Decision**

14. The Steering Group agreed that the members’ involvement as substantive expert reviewers of national study proposals submitted to the secretariat has worked well and should be continued within the “Resource Facility.”\(^{10}\)

**Follow-up actions**

15. Based on the above highlights and bearing in mind that the work programme of the Steering Group would comprise the combined work programmes of a series of topical Task Forces (please see Leadership and functioning of the Steering Group below) ; the leadership of the Steering Group to decide which substantive task forces are to be created.

16. The leadership of the Steering Group, supported by the secretariat, to prepare draft terms of reference for each of the proposed task forces for circulation to the wider Steering Group.

**Second round of the Capacity Screening exercise (2017)**

**Decisions**

17. Steering Group agreed to the recommendations by the task force that reviewed the Capacity Screening tool.

18. For the statistical infrastructure section of the questionnaire, the Steering Group recommended that questions should be added to determine if related surveys are financed by the government or by other sources.

**Follow-up actions**

19. A task force to be formed to oversee the implementation of the Capacity Screening in 2017, including the preparation of the screening questionnaire.

**Economic Statistics and SDGs**

**Decisions**

20. The Steering Group agreed that links between SDGs and RPES should be demonstrated in order to leverage the 2030 Agenda for advocacy and resource mobilization for economic statistics. The indicative mapping of the Core Set elements to the global list of SDG indicators presented by the secretariat as well as the work of the Trade Focal Area were noted in this regard.

**Follow-up actions**

\(^9\) [http://www.unsiap.or.jp/tnetwork/index.html](http://www.unsiap.or.jp/tnetwork/index.html)

\(^{10}\) The Resource Facility is a mechanism being put in place by the secretariat to support national statistical systems to conduct analytical and methodological studies for developing their economic statistics. The Resource Facility is scheduled to be launched in August 2016.
21. Steering Group members to read the background documents and provide more comments to the secretariat.

22. The leadership of the Steering Group to consider establishing an SDG-related task force.

**Steering Group’s report to the ESCAP Committee on Statistics, fifth session**

23. The Steering Group agreed to the suggested outline of the report prepared by the secretariat with the following comments:

A. Progress overview: Rather than launching a progress data collection exercise before the 2017 round of Capacity Screening, it was decided that the secretariat would organize the country reports presented at the fifth meeting in a matrix format and include it in the progress report as an illustration of the different national initiatives. As feasible, information on the Pacific from SPC should be added.

B. Issues for the attention of the Committee on Statistics:
   - Advocacy for legislation to enable economic statistics development should be emphasized in the report. Showcasing examples of countries that were able to link their national strategies for the development of statistics with RPES implementation may be a good strategy.
   - Coordination among development partners in terms of programme scope and technical cooperation should also be discussed in the report.
   - Based on the experiences shared at the APES seminar, the report should acknowledge the need to make great use of administrative data for economic statistics. Statistical business registers have a central role to play in integrating data from various sources and this should be highlighted in the report.
   - Establishment of Task Forces and respective work plans that together comprise the overall work plan of the Steering Group.

C. Issues for action by the Committee on Statistics: Based on their discussion on economic statistics and the SDGs, the Steering Group pointed to the need for further investigation, illustration and communication of statistics capacity as a basis for monitoring progress towards SDGs indicators. This is an important issue for action by the leaders of national statistical systems, i.e. the members of the Committee on Statistics, towards leveraging the 2030 Agenda for increased attention to and investment in official statistics.

**Follow-up actions**

24. The secretariat to seek contribution from SPC in drafting the report.

25. The secretariat to circulate the draft report to the Steering Group for comments prior to finalization by early September 2016.

**Leadership and functioning of the Steering Group**

**Decisions**
26. The Steering Group selected five co-Chairs from Australia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Pakistan and Singapore, respectively,\(^1\) to constitute the collective leadership of the SGRPES.

27. Each co-Chair will lead a task force going forward. The title and terms of reference of each task force to be finally decided by the collective leadership of the Steering Group, taking into due account discussions and decisions made at the fifth meeting of the Steering Group, as captured in the present report.

28. The work plans proposed by the different task forces will be the basis for the work programme for the Steering Group until its sixth meeting (tentatively scheduled to be held in May 2017).

29. The effectiveness of the leadership arrangement described in the above paragraphs would be reviewed by the Steering Group at its sixth meeting, for decision to be made on its continuation.

30. The Steering Group expressed its appreciation to the firm and visionary leadership provided by the outgoing Chair, Mr. Jeff Cope.

**Follow-up actions**

31. The secretariat to organize and facilitate virtual discussions with the Co-chairs to establish the task forces.

\[^1\] The updated list of SGRPES members is available at http://www.unescap.org/resources/members-steering-group-regional-programme-economic-statistics
Annex I. Meeting Agenda

**FIFTH MEETING OF THE STEERING GROUP FOR THE REGIONAL PROGRAMME ON ECONOMIC STATISTICS**

**Bangkok, 5-6 May 2016**
**UNCC Meeting Room A**
**Provisional Agenda**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Presenter/Facilitator</th>
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</table>
| 13:15 – 13:25 | Opening remarks                                                       | Mr Jeff Cope  
Principal Economic Statistician, Statistics New Zealand  
Chair of SGRPES  
Ms Margarita Guerrero  
Director  
Statistics Division, ESCAP |
| 13:25 – 13:35 | Agenda and the expected outcomes of the fifth meeting of SGRPES      | Ms Badamtsetseg Batjargal  
Senior Vice Chairperson, National Statistical Office of Mongolia  
Co-Chair of SGRPES |
|              | Background documents: Concept note and the annotated programme for the fifth meeting and the report of the fourth meeting of the SGRPES |                                                                                      |
Senior Vice Chairperson, National Statistical Office of Mongolia  
Co-Chair of SGRPES |
<p>|              | Discussion by Steering Group members                                  |                                                                                      |</p>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Presenter/Facilitator</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13:55 – 15:30</td>
<td>Review implementation of the RPES at the national level</td>
<td>Maldives, Cambodia and Russian Federation (TBD)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a) Selected country presentations on RPES implementation</td>
<td>All other SGRPES members (Each country will be given not more than 10 minutes on the floor).</td>
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<td></td>
<td>b) Tour de table</td>
<td>Chaired by Mr Jeff Cope</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Background documents: Country Questions to gather national implementation information</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:30 – 15:50</td>
<td>Group photo, Coffee/Tea break</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:50 – 17:30</td>
<td>Review implementation of the RPES at the national level</td>
<td>All other SGRPES members (Each country will be given not more than 10 minutes on the floor).</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tour de table continuation</td>
<td>Chaired by Mr Jeff Cope</td>
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FRIDAY, 6 May 2016

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Presenter/Facilitator</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09:00 – 10:00</td>
<td>Proposed improvements to the Capacity Screening tool</td>
<td>Ms Suzanne Wong&lt;br&gt;Deputy Director, Economic Accounts Division, Department of Statistics, Singapore</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Presentation and discussion by Steering Group members</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Background document: Capacity Screening review done by the Task Force composed of New Zealand, Pakistan, Singapore and SPC</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 – 10:45</td>
<td>Review of economic statistics development priorities in Asia-Pacific</td>
<td>ADB, DFID, ESCAP, FAO&lt;br&gt;Chaired by Ms Badamtsetseg Batjargal</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Updates by the development partners</td>
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<td>10:45 – 11:00</td>
<td>Coffee/Tea break</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 – 11:45</td>
<td>Review of economic statistics development priorities in Asia-Pacific</td>
<td>ILO, SPC, UNSD&lt;br&gt;Chaired by Ms Badamtsetseg Batjargal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Updates by the development partners</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:45 – 13:00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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Economic statistics development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13:00 – 13:30</td>
<td>Report of the Trade Focal Area on International Trade and Economic</td>
<td>Ms Mia Mikic</td>
<td>Chief, Trade Policy and Analysis Section, ESCAP Trade, Investment and</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Globalization Statistics in Asia and the Pacific</td>
<td></td>
<td>Innovation Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:30 – 14:00</td>
<td>The linkages between economic statistics development and SDG</td>
<td>Ms Rikke Munk Hansen</td>
<td>Chief, Economic and Environment Statistics Section, ESCAP Statistics</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>monitoring in Asia-Pacific</td>
<td></td>
<td>Division</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:00 – 14:30</td>
<td>Report of the SGRPES to the fifth session of the Committee on</td>
<td>Ms Badamtsetseg Batjargal</td>
<td>Senior Vice Chairperson, National Statistical Office of Mongolia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Statistics</td>
<td></td>
<td>Co-Chair of SGRPES</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:30 – 14:45</td>
<td>Coffee/Tea break</td>
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<tr>
<td>Functioning of the Steering Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:45 – 15:45</td>
<td>- Roles and responsibilities of SGRPES</td>
<td>Mr Jeff Cope</td>
<td>Principal Economic Statistician, Statistics New Zealand</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Review of the SGRPES membership due to changes in representation</td>
<td></td>
<td>Co-Chair of SGRPES</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:45 – 15:55</td>
<td>Closing remarks</td>
<td>Ms Rikke Munk Hansen</td>
<td>Chief, Economic and Environment Statistics Section, ESCAP Statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Division</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Annex II. List of participants

MEMBERS

AUSTRALIA

Mr Jonathon Khoo, Director, Public Finance, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Belconnen,

BANGLADESH

Mr Mohammad Abdul Wazed, Director General, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Dhaka

CAMBODIA

Mr Sovorlak Khin, Deputy Director General, National Institute of Statistics, Phnom Penh
Mr Chettra Keo, Director, National Accounts Department, National Institute of Statistics, Phnom Penh

CHINA

Ms Ping Wang, Director, Division of Statistical Methodology, National Bureau of Statistics, Beijing

INDIA

Mr Rajesh Sharma, Director, Economic Statistics Division, Central Statistics Office, New Delhi
Mr Ajit Ratnakar Joshi, Adviser, Dept. of Statistics and Information Management, Reserve Bank of India, Mumbai

INDONESIA

Mr Adi Lumaksono, Deputy Chief Statistician for Production Statistics, Statistics Indonesia-BPS, Jakarta

JAPAN

Mr Makoto Shimizu, Director-General, Statistical Research and Training Institute, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Tokyo

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Mr Thipsavanh Intharack, Acting Director General, Department of Economic Statistics, Lao Statistics Bureau, Vientiane

MALAYSIA

Mr Fazrul Azlan Othman, Senior Deputy Director, National Accounts Statistical Division, Department of Statistics Malaysia, Putrajaya

MALDIVES

Ms Aishath Shahuda, Chief Statistician, National Bureau of Statistics, Male

MONGOLIA
Ms Badamtsetseg Batjargal, Director of Integrated Policy and Cooperation Department, National Registration and Statistics Office, Ulaanbaatar

Ms Bayarmaa Baatarsuren, Director of National Account Division, National Registration and Statistics Office, Ulaanbaatar

NEW ZEALAND
Mr Jeff Cope, Principal Economic Statistician, Statistics New Zealand, Christchurch

PAKISTAN
Mr Bahrawar Jan, Deputy Director General, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Islamabad

PAPUA NEW GUINEA
Mr Roko Koloma Vanua, National Statistician, National Statistical Office, Port Moresby
Mr Tony Waisa, Head Economic Statistics Division, National Statistical Office, Port Moresby
Mr Taunao Vai, Consultant, National Statistical Office, Port Moresby

PHILIPPINES
Mr Reynor Imperial, Director, Philippine Statistics Authority, Quezon City
Mr Romeo Recide, Deputy National Statistician, Philippine Statistics Authority, Quezon City

REPUBLIC OF KOREA
Mr Kwon Soon Moon, Director, Statistics Korea, Daejeon

RUSSIAN FEDERATION
Mr Andrey Tatarinov, Director, Department of National Accounts, Federal State Statistics Service (Rosstat), Moscow
Mr Ilya Matyushev, Deputy Director, Department of Foreign Statistics and International Cooperation, Federal State Statistics Service (Rosstat), Moscow

SAMOA
Mr Aliielua Salani, Assistant Chief Executive Officer, Samoa Bureau of Statistics, Apia

SINGAPORE
Ms Suzanne Sook Han Wong, Deputy Director, Economic Accounts Division, Singapore Department of Statistics, Singapore

TURKEY
Ms Aycan Ozek, Senior Expert, Monetary and Financial Statistics Division, Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey, Ankara

VIET NAM

Mr Quang Vinh Pham, Deputy Director General, General Statistics Office of Viet Nam, Hanoi

ASSOCIATE MEMBER

HONG KONG, CHINA

Mr Parmod K Sharma, Senior Statistician, Sectoral Economic Statistics Branch (1), Census and Statistics Department, Hong Kong

Ms Clora Chan, Senior Statistician, National Income Branch (2), Census and Statistics Department, Hong Kong

UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (DESA)

Mr Benson Sim, United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), DESA, New York

SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO)

Ms Sangita Dubey, Senior Statistician, Economic Statistics, FAO, Rome

Mr Mukesh Srivastava, Senior Statistician, FAO, Bangkok

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION (ILO)

Mr Tite Habiyakare, Senior Statistician, ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, ILO, Bangkok

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB)

Mr Mahinthan Joseph Mariasingham, Statistician and Project Officer, ADB, Manila

PACIFIC COMMUNITY (SPC)

Ms Nilima Lal, Economic Statistician, Statistics for Development Division, SPC, Noumea

Mr Rens Hendriks, Economic Statistician, Statistics for Development Division, SPC, Noumea

OTHER ENTITY

DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (DFID)
Mr Craig Irwin, Statistician, United Kingdom Department for International Development, DfID, Dhaka

SECRETARIAT

Ms Margarita Guerrero  Director, Statistics Division (SD)
Ms Rikke Munk Hansen  Chief, Economic and Environment Statistics Section (EES), SD
Mr Yanhong Zhang  Chief, Population and Social Statistics Section (PSS), SD
Mr Christopher Ryan  Regional Advisor on Statistics, Office of the Chief, SD
Mr Eric Hermouet  Statistician, Statistical Data Management Unit, Office of the Chief, SD
Ms Zeynep Orhun  Statistician, EES, SD
Mr Marko Javorsek  Associate Statistician, EES, SD
Ms Olga Shipina  Consultant, EES, SD
Ms Nixie Mabanag Abaguez  Statistics Assistant, EES, SD
Ms Jingyi Xie  Team Assistant, EES, SD
Ms Giorgia Menta  Intern, EES, SD
Ms Mia Mikic  Chief, Trade Policy and Analysis Section, Trade and Investment Division

STATISTICAL INSTITUTE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (SIAP)

Mr Alick Mjuma Nyasulu  Statistician/Lecturer, SIAP, Chiba, Japan
### Annex III. Results of the meeting evaluation

#### FIFTH MEETING OF THE STEERING GROUP FOR THE REGIONAL PROGRAMME ON ECONOMIC STATISTICS

**BANGKOK 5-6 MAY 2016**

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**EVALUATION FORM**

To help us assess the effectiveness of this meeting and improve in the future, please complete and return this questionnaire. Thank you.

### I. Organization of meeting:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Duration of the meeting</th>
<th>Too short</th>
<th>Adequate</th>
<th>Too long</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### II. Content of the meeting:

#### 3. Did the meeting achieve its objectives? **(Please select as many as applicable)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Please provide your comments</strong></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The contribution of future Asia-Pacific Economic Statistics (APES) Week to RPES implementation</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharing countries’ experiences, information and perspective is good. It is vital for the validation of the practices observed in countries, as well as encouraging or inspiring.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review implementation of the RPES at the national level – including the Tour de Table</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The review done by countries provided updates on where countries are now in terms of the RPES implementation.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposed improvements to the Capacity Screening tool</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This is important to update countries’ progress.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review of economic statistics development priorities in Asia-Pacific</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Useful and comprehensive updates from development partners.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report of the Trade Focal Area on International Trade and Economic Globalization Statistics in Asia and the Pacific</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The linkages between economic statistics development and SDG monitoring in Asia-Pacific</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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<td>---</td>
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<tr>
<td>Report of the SGRPES to the fifth session of the Committee of Statistics</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roles and responsibilities of SGRPES/Review of the SGRPES membership due to changes in representation</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 4. Are you able to apply the knowledge gained from the meeting when you are back to your respective offices? 22.
- The country experiences and inputs from the development partners including ESCAP are useful. With that in mind, will review priorities and inform government.

### 5. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions for the improvement of this meeting?
- Encourage participants to submit presentations earlier on so others can come well-prepared.
- The meeting duration should be made longer.
- Senior level management should be made focal point in the Steering Group, if possible.
- Add 2 or 3 small Pacific island states in the Steering Group.