Seminar on developing the capacity to produce economic statistics, including national accounts in accordance with the 2008 SNA, in the Asian and Pacific region

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
10 to 13 October 2011
Bangkok, Thailand

REPORT

ORGANIZATION

1. The Seminar on developing the capacity to produce economic statistics, including national accounts in accordance with the 2008 SNA, in the Asian and Pacific region was jointly organized by the Statistics Division of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) from 10 to 13 October 2011 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok; the agenda of the meeting is attached in Annex 1. The Seminar was attended by 44 participants from 25 Asia-Pacific countries and 4 development partner agencies, as well as 15 resource persons and ESCAP staff; the list of participants is attached in Annex 2.

2. The objectives of the seminar were to introduce the global implementation programme for the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics and its implementation tools, and develop an implementation plan for the Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific1 (referred to hereinafter as the “Regional Programme”). The Regional Programme is the main strategy for the improvement of the capacity of countries in the Asian and Pacific region to produce economic statistics of good quality and coverage, including the capacity to produce national accounts in accordance with the System of National Accounts 2008 (2008 SNA). The seminar brought together members of the Steering Group for the Regional Programme on Economic Statistics (SGRPES) and other experts to facilitate a broader consultation on the implementation plan to ensure that it meets priorities and needs of countries in the region.

3. The seminar consisted of two parts:

   Part 1 – which aimed at providing an overview of the global initiatives for the implementation of the 2008 SNA and tools for developing a national

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implementation plan for the 2008 SNA within the framework of improving economic statistics;

Part 2 – which aimed at developing the implementation plan for the Regional Programme.

4. The seminar opened with a session aimed at providing the relevant background to the two parts and explaining the linkages between them. The session provided an overview of the Global 2008 SNA implementation strategy including the basic statistical and institutional environment, principles and tools. The session also provided participants with the background to the regional initiative including introduction of the Core set of economic statistics\(^2\) and the Regional Programme.

5. During the first part of the Seminar participants were provided with an overview of the global initiatives for the implementation of the 2008 SNA and tools for developing a national implementation plan for the 2008 SNA within the framework of improving economic statistics. Specifically, participants learned about and discussed the: main changes in the 2008 SNA including changes relevant to the region; importance of short-term economic statistics for the development of national accounts; 2008 SNA implementation tools including a diagnostic tool to assess the adequacy of the statistical production process to support the compilation of the national accounts; data sources for the compilation of national accounts; and framework for setting goals and actions to reach goals. The first part of the seminar concluded with a group discussion on the application of the presented tools and development of initial national plans.

6. During the second part of the Seminar participants reviewed the draft implementation plan for the Regional Programme and formulated recommendations on its specific components. Specifically participants discussed and formulated recommendations on: outline of the implementation plan for the Regional Programme; constraints and capacity development needs in the region; institutional component of the implementation plan; and the technical component of the implementation plan. During discussions in groups, participants identified and prioritized common constraints that are currently limiting the capacity of national statistical systems in the region to produce the core set of economic statistics. The participants then discussed the suitability of the Regional Programme in view of these constraints and best modalities for its implementation to address the identified capacity development needs.

7. The participants also discussed the overall strategy for the finalization of the regional implementation plan and the role of the Steering Group. In that context members of the Steering Group discussed and agreed on the work plan of the Steering Group.

8. The Seminar concluded with a session on the way forward which brought the results of the two parts together. The participants agreed that the plans for

implementing the 2008 SNA and the Regional Programme are consistent and mutually reinforcing, and implementation plans for the 2008 SNA should be incorporated into the regional implementation plan and national strategies for the development of statistics (NSDS). The participants further recognized that in order for the Regional Programme to have real impact, both regional and national implementation plans need to be developed. During the final session participants also agreed to the immediate next steps for moving forward with the development and execution of the implementation plan for the Regional Programme. These were:

- develop a comprehensive implementation plan for the Regional Programme by early 2012;
- initiate activities in 2012, mainly aimed at raising awareness via advocacy of the importance of economic statistics at the national level as well as the Regional Programme;
- Conduct a comprehensive region-wide assessment results of which, in conjunction with in-country assessments, should be used to develop comprehensive national action plans for the improvement of economic statistics.

SEMINAR CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

9. The conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar focused on the implementation of 2008 SNA in the region as part of the Regional Programme; development of the implementation plan for the Regional Programme; implementation of the Regional Programme; and work plan and organization of work of the Steering Group.

1. Implementation of 2008 SNA in the region as part of the Regional Programme

10. The Participants:

a) Reaffirmed that the implementation programme for the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics, adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission, is the overarching framework for formulating their national and regional implementation programmes for the 2008 SNA.

b) Reaffirmed that Regional programme for the improvement of economic statistics in Asia and the Pacific, which uses as its target the core set of economic statistics, as endorsed by ESCAP through Commission resolution 67/10 provides the appropriate framework for improving the capacity of countries in the Asian Pacific region to produce economic statistics including the capacity to produce National Accounts in accordance with 2008 SNA.
c) Agreed that implementation of the 2008 SNA in the Asian and Pacific region should form part of the implementation plan for the Regional Programme.

d) Recognised that the efficient implementation of the 2008 SNA and its supporting economic statistics requires close cooperation between the national statistical offices, central banks and other statistical stakeholders, especially bearing in mind that the responsibility for collection of basic economic statistics and compilation of national accounts is shared between such institutions.

e) Recognized the importance of short-term economic indicators for the early detection of changes in economic trends.

f) Welcomed the proposed implementation tools, the Statistical System Information sheet, the Self Assessment Diagnostic Tool, and the Framework for setting goals and actions to reach the goals for preparing a statement of strategy on national programmes for the implementation of the 2008 and supporting statistics.

g) Welcomed the initiative by the UNSD for establishing a dedicated website to track and support the implementation programme for the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics, as well as the Knowledge Base for economic statistics and macroeconomic standards, and agreed to provide materials on country practices to be housed in this Knowledge Database.

h) Welcomed the update of the SNA implementation milestones, data sets and quality assessment frame for monitoring the scope and detail and quality of national accounts compilation at the country level.

i) Agreed that a statement of strategy taking into account national and regional policy needs and the requirements of the Regional Programme for the improvement of economic statistics in Asia and the Pacific is an important step to establish a national economic statistics action plan including plans for the implementation of the 2008 SNA and that such a plan should be incorporated in the strategic and working programme of the national statistical offices.

j) Agreed that countries could use the self assessment diagnostic tool to assess the current status of the statistical capacity in the country to comply with the requirements to produce the core set of indicators as reflected in the Regional Programme for the improvement of economic statistics in Asia and the Pacific.
2. Development of the implementation plan for the Regional Programme

2.1. Constraints and capacity development needs in the region

11. The participants agreed that the following are the key constraints that are currently limiting the capacity of National Statistical Systems (NSSs) in the region to produce the core set of economic statistics. It has further been agreed that although the degree to which they affect the capacity of NSSs to compile economic statistics in different domains might vary, they are common to the whole of the NSS.

- Coordination (lack of clear division of work across different parts of the NSS and a need for statistical legislature)
- Statistical advocacy/political support (across and beyond NSSs)
- Human resource skills (including lack of on the job-training)
- Statistical infrastructure (in particular quality assurance and business registers)

12. The participants recommended that these constraints should determine the focus of the implementation of the Regional Programme.

2.2. Addressing the constraints/proposed approach for the implementation of the regional programme

13. The participants agreed that the priority/order with which the constraints should be addressed within countries should follow the statistical process, that is:

1) Institutional arrangements
   a. Institutional structure
   b. Statistical law
   c. Enforcement of the statistical law
   d. Coordination and political support

2) Strategic programmes/NSDSs
   a. Strategic programme/NSDS
   b. Approval at the high level
   c. High-level commitment

3) Human Resources
   a. Skills and access to knowledge
   b. Staff turnover and staff retention
   c. Practical experience (staff exchange)
   d. Management/leadership

4) Statistical Infrastructure required for
   a. Collection
b. Processing  
c. Dissemination and communication  

14. The Seminar recommended that this approach be adopted as a basic approach for the implementation of the Regional Programme.

2.3. Strategy for the implementation of the Regional Programme

15. The participants recognized the need for a two track strategy for the implementation of the Regional Programme, recommending that the implementation plan consist of “regional implementation plan” and “country implementation plans”. While ideally the “regional” plan should be developed on the basis of the “national” plans the participants agreed that “regional” plan could be developed within the next couple of months on the basis of the existing information (assessments, etc) and “national” plans should be developed as part of the implementation of the “regional” plan and following detailed in-country assessments.  

2.4. Country implementation plans

16. The participants recommended that the implementation of the Regional Programme be “nationalized” through the development of the country implementation plans which would become an integral part of the implementation strategy. The country plans should be developed based on the relevant assessments (including in-country assessments), should aim to develop national capacity to produce core set, and should be integrated with NSDSs or other national strategic plans. The country plans should also include the implementation of the 2008 SNA. Efforts should be made to align country plans with United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAFs) to leverage long-term support at the national level.

2.4.1. Coordination at the national level

17. Participants agreed that the implementation plan at the national level should be coordinated through a country focal point. The focal point should be responsible for communication with the regional/subregional level as well as promoting the regional programme at the national level. For countries that are members of the Steering Group the country focal point should be the member of the Steering Group. It was however recognized that within some countries the current institutional arrangements are not very clear and in some instances more than one focal point might be necessary.

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2.4.2. Modalities for development of country implementation plans

18. The participants recommended the following basic steps for development of country implementation plans:

1) In-depth assessment to identify specific data gaps and issues
2) Self-assessment
3) Mapping of data gaps
4) Developing national implementation plans

2.5. “Regional” implementation plan

19. Participants recommended that a “regional” implementation plan be developed to guide the overall implementation of the Regional Programme. The implementation plan should build on the existing initiatives in the Asian and Pacific region and where possible should result in synergies and improved coordination.

2.5.1. Grouping of countries

20. Participants recognized that different countries would participate in different components and activities of the regional implementation plan, according to their needs and priorities; one broad grouping of countries for the full regional implementation plan would therefore not be appropriate. Based on the identified priority constraints, participants foresaw that all countries would be involved in advocacy activities, while needs would differ substantially for technical assistance and training.

21. Participants agreed that where necessary the availability of the core set of economic statistics would be used as a proxy to assess current capacity of countries to produce the core set, and hence their participation in different components and activities of the regional implementation plan. Information obtained from information collected through the “2009 ESCAP region-wide assessment”,4 “2011 Pre-Seminar assessment” and 2011 in-country assessments could be used as a basis for such assessment.

2.5.2. Coordination with other bodies and organizations

22. Participants recognized the “Partnership” as the regional coordination mechanism of all international, regional and sub-regional organizations and bilateral donors concerned with the improvement of statistics in Asia and the Pacific. The participants agreed that the Partnership should be used to better coordinate efforts in the region.

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aimed at the improvement of economic statistics. ESCAP should provide the link between the Partnership and the Steering Group and ensure that both bodies are informed of each other's work.

23. Participants recognized the need for coordination between the Steering Group and the Steering Group for Agricultural Statistics (SGAS) to ensure that there is no significant overlap between the implementation of the Regional Programme and the regional implementation of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics and that the two implementation plans complement each other. The Steering Group further decided that the Co-Chairs should be able to participate in the meetings of the SGAS as observers and that the ESCAP secretariat should ensure that the two bodies are informed of each other's work.

24. Participants recognized the important role of the Working Group on the Coordination of Statistical Training (WGCST) in assessing the current capacity of the region to deliver training and training needs. The participants further agreed that the Steering Group should coordinate closely with the WGCST when developing the implementation plan.

25. Participants agreed that any country-level activities should be closely coordinated with United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) to avoid duplication and ensure consistency with United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs).

2.5.3. Implementation in the Pacific

26. Participants recognized the important role that the Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy 2011-2020 plays in the development of the capacity of the sub-region to produce economic statistics. The participants further recognized the significant synergies between the Pacific Strategy and the Regional Programme and as such recommended that special attention be paid in the implementation plan to ensure coordination with the current activities in the Pacific and avoid any possible duplication.

27. Participants recognized the important role that SPC plays in the implementation of the Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy 2011-2020 and as such recommended that any implementation in the Pacific region (including any assessments) be fully coordinated with the SPC.

2.6. Structure of the implementation plan

28. Based on the draft implementation plan presented by the Steering Group and the subsequent discussions and recommendations, the Steering Group will use the following structure for the full development of the regional implementation plan:
1) Background
2) Governance
3) Proposed approach and strategy
   a. Country implementation plans
   b. Regional implementation plan
4) Objectives and outcomes
5) Components
   a. Assessments
   b. Institutional
   c. Technical
6) Schedule
7) Resources
8) Stakeholder Management
9) Sustainability
10) Risks and assumptions
11) Oversight, monitoring and reporting

12) Annexes
   a. Components of the regional programme
   b. Logical Framework, showing hierarchy of objectives, expected results, reach, performance indicators, indicative targets/timeframe, and assumptions/risk
   c. Work Plan
   d. Budget

2.7. Components of the implementation plan

29. Institutional and technical components – the participants agreed that the implementation plan should consist of two key components: institutional and technical.

30. Institutional component – the aim of the institutional component of the implementation plan is to strengthen the institutional basis of the NSSs. The institutional component mostly covers advocacy and other activities aimed at securing the necessary political support and resources for the implementation of the regional programme (at both national and regional levels).

31. Technical component – the aim of this component is to strengthen the capacity of NSSs to produce the core set through activities aimed at improving human capacity, statistical infrastructure and promoting of knowledge sharing.

2.7.1. Institutional component
32. The participants recognized the importance of advocacy as an essential tool for strengthening the national capacity to produce the core set. The following approach/modalities have been proposed for advocacy at country and regional levels:

a) Develop memorandums of understanding between the different parts of NSS  
b) Facilitate discussions among stakeholders at national and supranational levels  
c) Country level meetings of stakeholders  
d) Subregional level meetings of stakeholders  
e) Going beyond the statistical community

33. In-country assessments and consultative meetings – the importance of in-country assessments and consultative meetings was recognized for statistical advocacy at the country level. It was agreed that the in-country assessments provide NSSs with a unique opportunity to have their current capacity assessed by an independent third-party (UN) results of which then can be used to advocate with decision-making for addressing the constraints and priorities identified in the assessment. The Consultative meetings offer an opportunity to bring different national stakeholders to a table and facilitate an open discussion between data providers, producers and providers of statistics and users. The Participants strongly recommended the Consultative meetings and in-country assessments as a key modality for statistical advocacy at the country level.

34. Joint advocacy events - the participants recommended that joint advocacy materials and events be developed and implemented as soon as possible (early 2012). The participants further recommended that joint regional and national advocacy workshops be organized through the “Partnership” as well as in direct collaboration with partner organizations such as ADB, ASEAN, IMF and SPC. It was further recognized that UN country teams could play a key role in the organization of national advocacy workshops.

35. Advocacy component in other activities – the participants recommended that where possible international organizations include an advocacy component in their on-going country and regional activities in the Asian and Pacific region. Such advocacy components should focus on raising the awareness of the importance of economic statistics for decision-making and monitoring. Where possible standard tools and materials should be developed and used.

2.7.2. Technical component

Human resources

36. Development of training programme – the training programme developed under the implementation plan needs to take account of the training needs (as discussed below) and has to provide a clear strategy for the development of skills that are required by
countries to produce the core set of economic statistics. As such there is a need to map-out the skills that are required for the production of the core set.

37. National and regional/subregional programmes - the training programme should be delivered at both national and regional/subregional level. The training programme at the national level should be mainly delivered by the countries themselves and as such the focus of the regional programme should be on strengthening country training capacity. At the regional/subregional level the focus of the training activities should be on the training of trainers which has the highest multiplier effect and will lead to strengthening of national capacity. The training programme at the regional/subregional level should also focus on new methods (SNA 2008, IRIIP 2010, BPM6) and other specialized training areas (business registers, quality assurance, etc) for which countries at present lack knowledge and experience. In addition the implementation plan should focus on promoting exchanges of staff, knowledge and experience (with focus on the on-job training) and facilitating south-south cooperation.

38. Target countries – the participants agreed that not all countries need all the training. As such information about training needs should be used to guide the development of training programmes as different countries might have different needs in different areas.

39. NSS – the training programme needs to target all parts of the NSSs and not just the National Statistical Offices (NSOs). NSOs should play an important role in coordination of training at the national level and ensure that training is available and delivered to relevant line ministries and other parts of the NSS.

40. Training needs – the participants agreed that sufficient information is currently available to guide the development and execution of training programme for the improvement of capacity of countries to produce core set of economic statistics. Results of SIAP training needs survey\(^5\) combined with information collected through the “2009 ESCAP region-wide assessment”, “2011 Pre-Seminar assessment” and “2011 in-country assessments” can be used to guide the development of the implementation plan including training programme. At the country level the training programme should be based on an internal country assessment.

41. Core Skills Framework (CSF)\(^6\) – the participants recognized the usefulness of SIAP CSF and as such agreed that it should be incorporated into the implementation plan to guide staff development at the national and regional level. However it has been noted that the CSF needs to be operationalized before it can be used, therefore there is a need for the implementation plan to clearly spell out how the CSF will be used.

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\(^{6}\) More information available at [http://www.unsiap.or.jp/about_siap/coreskill.php](http://www.unsiap.or.jp/about_siap/coreskill.php)
42. Improvement of statistical infrastructure – the participants recognized the importance of Component 4 of the Regional Programme and fully supported all of its 4 sub-components. In particular the participants emphasized the importance of sub-components aimed at development of business registers and adoption of internationally recognized quality assessment frameworks.

43. Development of business registers – the participants recognized the need for development and improvement of business registers in the region. The possibility of a regional forum on business registers was discussed and supported by the participants. The regional forum on business registers could be used to facilitate sharing of knowledge and experiences between countries and linking business registers experts from different countries further facilitating south-south cooperation.

44. Adoption of internationally recognized quality assessment frameworks – participants agreed that part of the focus of the implementation plan should be on encouraging countries to adopt internationally recognized quality assessment frameworks such as IMF’s DQAF. It was further agreed that although measuring quality is difficult the implementation plan should seek to regularly assess the quality of the core set of statistics to monitor progress.

45. Improvement of metadata – the participants recognized an urgent need for improvement of metadata in the region and proposed that regional metadata storage website/facility be considered.

46. Migrations to SDDS or GDDS - the participants agreed that the implementation plan should encourage countries to take steps towards migrating to GDDS and SDDS. The migration to SDDS or GDDS will force countries to adopt quality assessment frameworks as well as improve their metadata.

47. Training – at present most of the sub-components of the statistical infrastructure component have some sort of training activities included in them. The implementation plan should aim to separate the training from the statistical infrastructure component and instead incorporate the training activities in the training programme.

2.8. Milestones

48. Milestones - the participants supported the proposal of having three milestones (end of 2014, 2017 and 2020) to permit setting medium-term goals and objectives for the implementation plan.

2.9. Governance

49. Participants reaffirmed that the Steering Group constitutes the governance mechanism for the implementation of the Regional Programme.
3. Implementation of the Regional Programme

50. The participants agreed that the implementation of the Regional Programme should start during the first half of 2012. It was recommended that the initial phase (experimental) should focus on advocacy, securing country commitments and conducting a comprehensive region-wide assessment and could be initiated while the implementation plan is being finalized.

4. Work plan and organization of work of the Steering Group

51. The Steering Group decided on the following work plan:

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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>From</th>
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<tr>
<td>Form sub-groups to guide the development of the implementation plan</td>
<td>Nov 2011</td>
<td>Dec 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guide the development of the implementation plan</td>
<td>Dec 2011</td>
<td>Mar 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ensure the integration of the implementation plan for the Regional Programme with the regional implementation plan for the Global Strategy to improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics</td>
<td>Jun 2012</td>
<td>Aug 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Approve the regional implementation plan</td>
<td>Aug 2012</td>
<td>Aug 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provide advice/guide country and region-wide assessments, including the use of the 2008 SNA implementation tools such as the self assessment tool</td>
<td>Apr 2012</td>
<td>Aug 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provide advice on (and if possible assist with) resource mobilization and execution of regional implementation plan</td>
<td>Apr 2012</td>
<td>Sep 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assist with the development of country action plans, including the 2008 SNA implementation plans</td>
<td>Aug 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Begin implementation</td>
<td>Apr 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Securing support of the Countries for the implementation plan</td>
<td>Sep 2012</td>
<td>Oct 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Endorsement by the Committee on Statistics</td>
<td>Dec 2012</td>
<td>Dec 2012</td>
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52. Subgroups - the Steering Group decided to establish subgroups to guide the development of the implementation plan. The subgroups will be responsible for development of the different components of the implementation plan.

53. Modality of work - the Steering Group agreed that most of the work will be conducted electronically.
ANNEX 1: AGENDA

Final Agenda

Seminar on developing the capacity to produce economic statistics, including national accounts in accordance with the 2008 SNA, in the Asian and Pacific region

Jointly organized by:
United Nations Statistics Division
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

10 to 13 October 2011
Bangkok, Thailand

Monday, 10 October 2011

09:00-9:45 Agenda item 1 - Opening of the meeting: Objectives, organization, and administrative matters
Chair: Ms Rikke Munk Hansen, ESCAP
Welcome remarks
- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific [Ms Haishan Fu, ESCAP]
- United Nations Statistics Division [Mr Herman Smith, UNSD]
Introduction of participants
Adoption of the agenda

9:45-10:15 Coffee break

10:15-11:15 Agenda item 2 - Setting the framework
Chair: Ms Haishan Fu, ESCAP

Global 2008 SNA implementation strategy

- Presentation: United Nations Statistical Commission mandate, global initiative, scope widened to include basic statistics and institutional environment, principles (strategic planning, coordination and implementation), elements (modalities). ISWGNA to develop tools such as Knowledge Base (KB) on normative standards and country practices and KB on training and capacity building, website on 2008 SNA implementation
programme, compilation guidance, outreach tools by milestone [Mr Herman Smith, UNSD]

Strategy for improving the capacity to produce economic statistics in the region

- Presentation: Background to the regional initiative [Mr Michael Smedes, Co-Chair of the Steering Group]

Objective: To provide participants with the necessary background information, including on:
- Core set of economic statistics including ESCAP resolution 67/10 on the core set (including a discussion about synergies with the short-term economic statistics data template)
- Regional programme for the improvement of economic statistics in Asia and the Pacific (henceforth referred to as “the Regional Programme”)


11:15-12:30 **Agenda item 3 - Overview of main changes in the 2008 SNA including changes relevant to the region**

Chair: ESCAP representative

- Presentation [Mr Benson Sim, UNSD]
- Discussion

12:30-14:00 *Lunch break*

14:00-15:30 **Agenda item 4 – Short-term economic statistics for the development of the national accounts**

Chair: Country representative

- Presentation: The use of short-term economic statistics for the development of the national accounts [Mr Herman Smith, UNSD]
- Presentation: Introduction of the short-term economic statistics data template [Mr Herman Smith, UNSD]
- Discussion

15:30-16:00 *Coffee break*
16:00-17:30 Agenda item 5 - 2008 SNA implementation tools
Chair: Country representative
- Presentation: Overview of the available tools for developing national implementation programmes for the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics [Mr Herman Smith, UNSD]
- Discussion

Tuesday, 11 October 2011

09:00-10:30 Agenda item 6 - Diagnostic tool to assess the adequacy of the statistical production process to support the compilation of the national accounts
Chair: Country representative
- Presentation: A system wide diagnostic and vision for the implementation programme with well developed coordination mechanism covering the domains of the classification of statistical activities namely, (1) economic statistics, (2) environment and multi functional statistics, (3) methodology of data collection, processing and dissemination, (4) and institutional strategy. [Mr Benson Sim, UNSD]
- Discussion

10:30-11:00 Coffee break

11:00-12:30 Agenda item 7 - Data sources for the compilation of national accounts
Chair: Country representative
Presentation:
- Use of household (income and expenditure and labour force surveys, case of 1 2 Survey) and enterprise surveys (case of industrial statistics collections: benchmark, annual and infra annual frequency, informal sector coverage, etc.) [Mr Benson Sim, UNSD]
- Data integration, linkages, editing, imputations (use of statistical techniques, data validation) [Mr Benson Sim, UNSD]
- Discussion

12:30-14:00 Lunch break
14:00-15:30  **Agenda item 8 - Framework for setting goals and actions to reach goals**  
Chair: Country representative  
- Presentation: An outline for setting goals and actions to reach these goals following a strategic approach for developing a national implementation programme for the implementation of the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics. [Mr Herman Smith, UNSD]  
- Discussion

15:30-16:00  *Coffee break*

16:00-17:30  **Agenda item 9 - Group discussion on the application of the presented tools/development of initial national plans**  
Chair: Country representative  
- Discussion in groups

**Wednesday, 12 October 2011**

*Part II – Developing the implementation plan for the Regional programme for the improvement of economic statistics in Asia and the Pacific*

09:00-10:15  **Agenda item 10 - Developing the implementation plan for the Regional Programme – overview**  
Chair: Ms Estela T. de Guzman, Co-Chair of the Steering Group  
- Presentation: Outline of the draft implementation plan [Mr Michael Smedes, Co-Chair of the Steering Group]  
- Presentation: Overview of the Pacific Strategy 2020 [Mr Alick Nyasulu, SPC]  
- Presentation: Overview of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics [Mr Jairo Castano, FAO RAP]

Objective: To give participants an understanding of the objective of the implementation plan, present the draft outline and inform them of other closely related initiatives

All participants of the Seminar are cordially invited by the ESCAP Executive Secretary to the Launch of the Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific, 2011. The Statistical Yearbook is a leading statistical regional reference on Asia and the Pacific. During the event, issues related to availability of statistics in the region (including economic statistics) and statistical needs of the policy-makers will be discussed. Refreshments will be available.

11:15-12:30 Agenda item 11 - Shaping the implementation plan: constraints and capacity development needs in the region

Chair: Mr Michael Smedes, Co-Chair of the Steering Group

- Presentation: Findings of ESCAP needs assessments of the capacity of National Statistical Systems in Asia and the Pacific to produce basic economic statistics [Mr Artur Andrysiak, ESCAP]

- Discussion

Objective: To present the findings of the assessments and discuss the constraints limiting the capacity of countries to produce economic statistics and capacity development needs

12:30-14:00 Lunch break

14:00-15:30 Agenda item 12 - Group discussion: developing the implementation plan for the Regional Programme

- Discussion in groups

Objective: To discuss (in light of the preceding discussion) the implementation plan outline

15:30-15:45 Coffee break

15:45-17:30 Agenda item 13 - Reports on the discussion of the four groups

Chair: Mr Jeff Cope, New Zealand

- Presentation Group 1
- Presentation Group 2
- Presentation Group 3
- Presentation Group 4
Objective: To summarize the discussion and recommendations of each of the groups

Thursday, 13 October 2011

9:00-9:10  - Summary of Wednesday’s discussion and introduction of today’s programme

9:10-10:45 Agenda item 15 – Implementation plan - institutional component
Chair: Mr Herman Smith, UNSD
- Presentation: Partnership for Statistics Development in Asia-Pacific [Mr Habibur Rahman Khan, ESCAP]
- Presentation: Coordination of statistical training activities in the ESCAP region [Ms Jillian Campbell, ESCAP]
- Discussion

Objective: To discuss the components (advocacy and political support) of the regional programme aimed at strengthening the institutional basis of the NSSs and reach a consensus on priorities and activities

10:45-11:00  Coffee break

11:00-12:30 Agenda item 16 – Implementation plan - technical component
Chair: Mr Artur Andrysiak, ESCAP
- Discussion

Objective: To discuss the technical component (human resources, infrastructure, knowledge sharing) of the regional programme and reach a consensus on priorities and activities

12:30-14:00 Lunch break

14:00-15:30 Agenda item 17 - Next Steps: Implementation plan
Chair: Mr Michael Smedes, Co-Chair of the Steering Group
- Discussion
Objective: To firm up an outline of the implementation plan incorporating the recommendations from the group discussions and preceding sessions

15:30-15:45 Coffee break

15:45-16:30 Agenda item 18 – Next Steps: Steering Group
   Chair: Mr Michael Smedes, Co-Chair of the Steering Group
   - Discussion

   Objective: To reach a consensus on the way the Steering Group will guide the development of the implementation plan

16:30-17:00 Agenda item 19 - Discussion on the way forward
   Chair: Ms Rikke Munk Hansen, ESCAP
   - Presentation: Summary and recommendations [Mr Herman Smith, UNSD]
   - Discussion

   Objective: To discuss the outcomes of the Seminar and focus on any outstanding issues

17:00-17:30 Agenda item 20 - Closing session
   - Evaluation of the Meeting
   - Closing of the Meeting [Mr Herman Smith, UNSD and Ms Rikke Munk Hansen, ESCAP]
### ANNEX II: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Organization and Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr Mohammad Ibrahim Naimi</td>
<td>Head, National Account and Price Statistics</td>
<td>Central Statistics Organization, Kabul, AFGHANISTAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Michael Smedes</td>
<td>Director, National Income and Production</td>
<td>Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra, AUSTRALIA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Yusif Yusifov</td>
<td>Head, Division</td>
<td>State Statistical Committee, Baku, AZERBAIJAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Sangay Bida</td>
<td>Deputy Chief Statistical Officer</td>
<td>National Accounts Division, National Statistics Bureau, Thimphu, BHUTAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Chettra Keo</td>
<td>Director, National Accounts Department</td>
<td>National Institute of Statistics, Phnom Penh, CAMBODIA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Gurucharan Manna</td>
<td>Deputy Director-General</td>
<td>Central Statistics Office, New Delhi, INDIA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Suhariyanto</td>
<td>Director, Statistics Analysis and Development</td>
<td>BPS-Statistics Indonesia, Jakarta, INDONESIA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Bahareh Akhavan</td>
<td>Senior Expert on National Accounts (Product Approach)</td>
<td>Statistical Centre of Iran (SCI), Tehran, IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Seiji Takata</td>
<td>Director, Input-Output Tables and Statistical Classifications</td>
<td>Office of Director-General for Policy Planning on Statistical Standards, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Tokyo, JAPAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Phetsamone Sone</td>
<td>Deputy Director-General</td>
<td>Lao Department of Statistics, Vientiane, LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Aishath Laila,</td>
<td>Assistant Director</td>
<td>Department of National Planning, Male, MALDIVES</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Badamtsetseg Batjargal,</td>
<td>Director, Macro Economic Statistics Department</td>
<td>Mongolia National Statistical Office, Ulaanbaatar, MONGOLIA</td>
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</table>
Seminar on developing the capacity to produce economic statistics, including Report national accounts in accordance with the 2008 SNA, in the Asian and Pacific region

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ms Kyi Kyi Win</td>
<td>Deputy Director, Planning Department, Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, Nay Pyi Taw, MYANMAR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Uttam Narayan Malla</td>
<td>Director General, Central Bureau of Statistics, Kathmandu, NEPAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Jeff Cope</td>
<td>Principal Economic Statistician, Statistics New Zealand, Christchurch, NEW ZEALAND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Shaukat Zaman</td>
<td>Director, Federal Bureau of Statistics, Islamabad, PAKISTAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Estela T. de Guzman</td>
<td>Director, Industry and Trade Statistics Department, National Statistics Office, Manila, PHILIPPINES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Andrey Tatarinov</td>
<td>Director, National Accounts Department, Federal State Statistics Service (Rosstat), Moscow, RUSSIAN FEDERATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Poh Cheem Neo</td>
<td>Deputy Director, Department of Statistics, SINGAPORE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr W. W. M. A. S. Premakumara</td>
<td>Director, Department of Census and Statistics, Sample Surveys Division, Colombo, SRI LANKA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Patcharin Srinopnikom</td>
<td>Policy and Plan Analyst - Acting Expert, Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB), Bangkok, THAILAND</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Somsajee Siksamat</td>
<td>Director, Statistics and Information Systems Department, Bank of Thailand, Bangkok, THAILAND</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Lourenço Soares</td>
<td>Staff, Statistics Economy, Statistics Timor Leste, Dili, TIMOR-LESTE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr 'Ata' Ata Manuetoafa Finau</td>
<td>Government Statistician, Statistics Department, Nuku’alofa, TONGA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Lam Nguyen</td>
<td>Deputy Director-General, General Statistics Office of Viet Nam, Hanoi, VIET NAM</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr Agus Sutanto</td>
<td>Senior Officer Statistics, ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Kaushal Joshi</td>
<td>Senior Statistician, ERD/ERDI, ADB, Manila</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Jairo Castaño</td>
<td>Senior Statistician, Economic, Social and Policy Assistance Group (ESP), FAO, Bangkok</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Alick Mjuma Nyasulu</td>
<td>Economic Statistician, SPC, Noumea Cedex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Herman Smith</td>
<td>United Nations Secretariat, Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNSD/DESA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Benson Sim</td>
<td>United Nations Secretariat, Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNSD/DESA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Haishan Fu</td>
<td>Chief, Statistics Division (SD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Jan Smit</td>
<td>Chief, Statistical Development and Analysis Section (SDAS), SD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Rikke Munk Hansen</td>
<td>Chief, Statistical Information Services Section (SISS), SD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Margarita Guerrero</td>
<td>Regional Adviser on Statistics, SD</td>
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<td>Mr Yanhong Zhang</td>
<td>Statistician, SDAS, SD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Andres Montes</td>
<td>Statistician, SDAS, SD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Harumi Shibata</td>
<td>Associate Statistician, SDAS, SD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Arman Bidar Bakhtnia</td>
<td>Associate Statistician, SDAS, SD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Artur Andrysiak</td>
<td>Statistician, SISS, SD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Eric Hermouet</td>
<td>Statistical Information Systems Officer, SISS, SD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Jillian Campbell</td>
<td>Statistician, SISS, SD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Sharita Serrao</td>
<td>Associate Statistician, SISS, SD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Habibur Rahman Khan</td>
<td>Associate Statistician, SDAS, SD</td>
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### Annex III: Membership of the Steering Group for the Regional Programme on Economic Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Member</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Mr. Michael Smedes, Director, National Income and Production, Australian Bureau of Statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azerbaijan</td>
<td>Mr. Yusif Yusifov, Head of the Industry, Transport and Communication Statistics Division, State Statistical Committee of Azerbaijan Republic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>Mr. Ziauddin Ahmed, Deputy Director, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhutan</td>
<td>Mr. Sonam Tenzin, Chief Statistical Officer, National Accounts &amp; Price Division, National Statistics Bureau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>Mr. G. C. Manna, DDG, ESD, Central Statistics Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>Mr. Sasmito Wibowo, Director for Price Statistics, BPS Statistics Indonesia</td>
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<td>Iran</td>
<td>Ms. Bahareh Akhavan, Senior Expert on National Accounts (product approach), Statistical Centre of Iran / Economic Accounts Department</td>
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<td>Mr. Seiji Takata, Director for Input-Output Tables and Statistical Classifications, Office of Director-General for Policy Planning on Statistical Standards, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>Ms. Estela T. de Guzman, Director, Industry and Trade Statistics Department, National Statistics Office (NSO); and Mr. Raymundo J. Talento, Director, Economic Statistics Office, National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) (taking turns)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mongolia</td>
<td>Ms. B. Badamtsetseg, Director of Macro Economics Department, National Statistical Office of Mongolia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Participant</td>
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<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>Mr. Jeffrey Cope, Principal Economic Statistician, Statistics New Zealand</td>
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<td>Singapore</td>
<td>Mr. Neo Poh Cheem, Deputy Director, Singapore Department of Statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tonga</td>
<td>Mr. Ata'ata M. Finau, Government Statistician</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADB</td>
<td>Ms Chellam Palanyandy, Lead Professional (Statistics &amp; Statistical Capacity Building), Economics and Research Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASEAN Secretariat</td>
<td>Mr. Agus Sutanto, Macroeconomic, Finance and Surveillance Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eurostat</td>
<td>Mr James Whitworth, Head of Unit, International Statistical Cooperation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAO– Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific</td>
<td>Mr Jairo Castano, Senior Statistician, Economic, Social and Policy Assistance Group (ESP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMF</td>
<td>Mr Kimberly (Kim) Zieschang, Chief, Real Sector Division, Statistics Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPC</td>
<td>Mr. Alick Nyasulu, Economic Statistician, Secretariat of the Pacific Community</td>
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