

**7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts, 23-25 April 2012, New York**

**Agenda item : V**

**: The development of training material on the SNA**

**SIAP Training initiatives**



## **SIAP Training initiatives**

### **SIAP's Participation in the AEG Initiative on Training**

SIAP is keen to participate and benefit from the initiative of the Advisory Experts Group (AEG) in improving the quality and content of training on SNA. It is committed to conduct training courses on economic statistics in general and SNA in particular to support ESCAP's *Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific*.

SIAP participation in this initiative could include: joining relevant expert groups; assisting in drafting and reviewing the handbooks; preparing standardized sets of training materials; and designing and conducting training using the standardized training materials.

SIAP is also actively involved in supporting the Working Group on the Regional Coordination of Statistical Training. The working group was constituted by the ESCAP Committee on Statistics for preparing a proposal on the strategy for the coordination of statistical training programmes in Asia-Pacific, with the objective of improving the impact of a demand-driven statistical training system.

### **SIAP Training Courses on Economic Statistics and National Accounts**

#### **Regular (2-4 month duration) courses of SIAP**

SIAP covers diverse topics of economic statistics in its different courses. These include:

- (i) 2008 SNA,
- (ii) Survey, census and administrative sources for Industrial Statistics, distributive trade and services statistics
- (iii) Business registers
- (iv) Price statistics
- (v) Environment Statistics – including SEEA
- (vi) Classifications,

SIAP has fairly standardised sets of training materials on all the above topics, suitably structured for different skills levels of the course participants.

In particular, system of national accounts (SNA) is included in the following regular training courses of SIAP:

<b>Training course</b>	<b>Target Group</b>	<b>Course level of SNA</b>
Group Training Course in Production and Development of Official Statistics – 4 months duration [conducted every year]	Statistical assistants & Junior level statisticians	Basic concepts and general idea of the 2008 SNA framework.
Group Training Course in Analysis, Interpretation and Use of Official Economic Statistics – 2 months duration [conducted once in two years]	Middle level statisticians	Advanced (provides a comprehensive coverage of the 2008 SNA framework, compilation issues – sources and methods)
Integrated Economic Statistics, Including SNA, for Central Asian Countries [conducted every year till 2012]	Middle level statisticians	Advanced (same as above)

### **Short-term Regional Courses on 2008 SNA**

During 2011, SIAP conducted two regional courses focused on the changes in 2008 SNA, each of 5 days duration. The main objective of the regional courses was to strengthen the capacity of national statistical offices in implementing the recommendations of 2008 SNA and reviewing the current compilation practices for improving the quality and coverage of national accounts statistics of the respective countries.

The course consisted of lectures, group work sessions and group discussions. The content of all these were mainly issues relating to the changes made in the 2008 SNA. The following is a brief description of the course content:

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Contents</b>
1. Overview of the Changes in the 2008 SNA	(i) A logically cohesive description of the changes (ii) Newly introduced concepts and consequent revision of definitions and boundaries (iii) Re-sectoring / reclassification for analytical purposes (iv) Recommended treatments – (a) on new economic aspects and (b) clarifications
2. Use of National Accounts Statistics	(i) For economic planning and policy formulation (ii) For monitoring development programmes
3. An overview of SNA – a brief recap	(i) Introduction (ii) Who? – the actors in an economy – Institutional units & sectors – Establishments

Topic	Contents
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(iii) What? – flows and stocks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Economic flows</li> <li>– Boundaries</li> <li>– SNA aggregates</li> </ul> </li> <li>(iv) How? – framework and accounting rules <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Framework</li> <li>– Identities</li> <li>– Sequence of accounts</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
4. Sectors and Sub-sectors of Domestic Economy and RoW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Concept of economic ownership</li> <li>(ii) Domestic Economy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Centre of predominant economic interest</li> <li>– Residency</li> <li>– Notional institutional unit</li> <li>– Branch and Multi-territory institutional units</li> </ul> </li> <li>(iii) Institutional Units &amp; Institutional Sectors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Special purpose entities (SPEs) – artificial subsidiaries</li> <li>– Captive financial institutions – holding companies</li> <li>– Public corporations</li> <li>– Restructuring agencies</li> </ul> </li> <li>(iv) Transactions with RoW <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Merchanting and</li> <li>– Goods for processing</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
5. Transactions in Products and Distributive Transactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Definition of output;</li> <li>(ii) Principle of recording transactions and its implications;</li> <li>(iii) Type of output;</li> <li>(iv) Measuring output;</li> <li>(v) Extensions of Production boundary</li> <li>(vi) Extensions of the asset boundary – their implications on capital formation</li> <li>(vii) Classification of Non-financial Assets - Modifications</li> <li>(viii) Other changes in 2008 SNA relating to Distribution of Income Accounts</li> </ul>
6. Transaction in Financial Assets and Liabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Main Changes in the 2008 SNA</li> <li>(ii) Financial Sector</li> <li>(iii) Financial Transactions</li> <li>(iv) Classification of Financial Assets &amp; Liabilities</li> <li>(v) Financial Services other than Insurance &amp; Pension <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Financial intermediation</li> <li>– Acquisition and disposal of financial assets &amp; liabilities</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Topic	Contents
	(vi) Insurance and Pension schemes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Life, Non-life Insurances and Re-insurances</li> <li>– Social Security: pension and non-pension schemes</li> <li>– Standardised Guarantee</li> </ul>

The materials on the 2008 SNA drew on different source materials like:

- (i) Lecture notes of UNSD on the changes in 2008 SNA
- (ii) UNSD's *Knowledge Base on Economic Statistics – Methods and Country Practises*
- (iii) ECE's materials on specific issues of compilation

Excerpts from the EUROSTAT Handbook: *Essential SNA: Building the basics* were circulated as reading materials to the participants of the first regional course.

### **e-learning Course on the 2008 SNA**

SIAP recently (November-December 2011) conducted a well-structured Internet-based e-learning course on SNA that was complete with lecture notes, power point presentations, exercises and tests for evaluation. This covered a big group of participants, spread over a wide geographical area. The participants, nominated by their respective NSOs, were given access to all the materials through out the period within which they had to complete the course by taking an on-line evaluation test. SIAP has received encouraging feedback on the course.