



UNITED NATIONS, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND
THE PACIFIC, STATISTICAL INSTITUTE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

UNITED NATIONS, DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS,
STATISTICS DIVISION

Regional Course on Statistical Business Registers

**11-14 March 2024
Chiba, Japan**

I. Background & Rationale

Statistical Business Registers (SBRs) are often described as the backbone of economic statistics, as they provide the core infrastructure to support the collection of economic data and the production of economic statistics. They provide a coherent set of units and classifications to collect and compile data across all domains, and a consistent set of rules to maintain this set of units over time. SBRs are considered as the backbone for producing economic statistics that meet the increasing demand for better integrated, coherent and comparable statistics across countries and statistical domains. Inclusive and exhaustive SBRs are becoming an increasingly more important element of the statistical infrastructure for maintaining the relevance, responsiveness and quality of economic statistics in order to measure the structure and dynamics of economic activity.



The SBR is also a critical element in the transformation of the national statistical system in adopting a responsive, efficient and cost-effective data collection strategy with a response burden as low as possible. This means efforts must be made to modernize the production processes, to use administrative data to reduce survey burden, to redesign survey systems, to harmonize surveys and variables, to comprehensively link administrative data and survey sources, and to cooperate more closely with administrative authorities on a continuous basis to improve the quality of the SBR. Better consistency between the various statistical areas at national and international level has also become a much more important goal than it was in the past, when economic development was less affected by international dependencies, and globalization of production and markets was at a lower level. Therefore, SBRs play a key role to address current and future needs for economic and business statistics.

To reflect the importance of SBRs, the UN Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics established the Task Team on SBR¹ with the broad objectives to address challenges in developing exhaustive business registers and develop tools to help countries in strengthening the Statistical Business Registers. The task team will focus on further collaborating the elements of the Maturity Model for Statistical Business Registers which provides a framework for evaluating the stages of maturity of the Statistical Business Registers in the seven dimensions that characterize SBRs. These include: Legal and institutional framework; Data sources for the SBR; Maintenance and update of the SBR; Coverage of the SBR; Use of SBR; IT Environment; and Interoperability.

¹ See the TOR of TT-SBR at https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/statcom/session_54/documents/BG-3f-ToR-TT-SBR-E.pdf



II. Main Objectives

Expanding upon the workshops and trainings on SBRs conducted in the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) region by the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) and United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) from 2015 to 2017, and foundational e-learning course on Statistical Business Registers developed jointly by SIAP, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and UNSD in 2021, this regional course aims to help participants acquire knowledge and skills to deepens their understanding on the principles and methodology on statistical business registers. The course will review international recommendations and standards on Statistical Business Registers and provide guidance on the implementation of the Maturity Model for Statistical Business Registers. Furthermore, it will address new developments, including the global assessment questionnaire, the implementation of the revised industrial classification systems), the integration of geospatial information, integration of business and trade, and the global initiative on unique identifiers for businesses. Additionally, the course aims to create a platform that encourages participants engage in peer learning and share country experiences in the establishment and maintenance of Statistical Business Registers, main challenges encountered by countries, and new developments in this area.

III. About the Course

This course is organized by the United Nations, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Statistical Institute for the Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD). The 4-day, in-person training will be held from 11 to 14 March 2024, in Chiba, Japan. It will be conducted in English without interpretation.



IV. Target Audience

The course is designed for mid-level statisticians from national statistical offices whose main responsibilities include the development and maintenance of SBRs; preparation and use of sampling frames for business surveys; or production of statistics from SBRs.

V. Target Countries (by invitation only):

The provisional list of proposed funded countries is as follows: Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Fiji, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Lao PDR, Nepal, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey and Viet Nam.

VI. Learning Outcomes

By the end of the foundational course, participants will be able to:

- a) Describe the main concepts of SBRs and the important role of SBRs for producing economic statistics
- b) Identify data sources, investigate other potential data sources, and understand the importance of the legal framework around the access to administrative data
- c) Recognize the challenges in developing procedures for the update and maintenance of SBRs
- d) Use the SBR Maturity Model to assess the stage of implementation of SBRs in the country and identify possible areas for improvement
- e) Share country practices on SBRs and understand new emerging topics related to SBRs
- f) Recognize the importance and benefits of profiling and Group/global Register

- g) Assess new developments in SBRs
- h) Gain insights into collaborating with colleagues from national statistics office to enhance the country's SBRs.

VII. Course Design and Content

The course is comprised of eight modules, country presentations, discussions and group work to address issues relevant for developing and maintaining the statistical business registers and to assist countries to identify areas for improvements for their SBRs.

Module	Coverage
1. Statistical Business Register- Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is a Statistical Business Register (SBR) • Users of SBRs • Requirements of SBRs
2. Roles of SBR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of a SBR as a live register • The role of a SBR as a coordinator of surveys • Statistics and research • Other roles of SBRs
3. Coverage of the SBR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entities recorded in a SBR • Types of units included in a SBR • Special cases of economic activities • Summary of coverage recommendations • The characteristics of SBR units

4. Data Sources, maintenance, and update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data sources of an SBR • Maintenance of an SBR • Quality assessment and improvement
5. Legal framework, Organizational, and IT considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of legal frameworks • Organizational considerations of a SBR • IT considerations
6. SBR Maturity Model (SBRMM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Characteristics and requirements of the SBRMM • Use of SBRMM to identify areas for improvement
7. New developments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-assessment and global assessment questionnaires • Integration of geospatial information in SBRs • Industrial Classification System • Global initiative on unique identifiers for businesses
8. Profiling and Global/Regional Registers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance and benefits of profiling • How profiling is performed • Profiling in the global context



VIII. Source Material

This course draws upon a number of reference materials, including the United Nations *Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers (2020)* and the draft manual on the Statistical Business Register Maturity Model for Statistical Business Registers (2022); the Eurostat *European business statistics methodological manual for statistical business registers — 2021 edition*; the ADB *User Guide for ADB Statistical Business Register December 2018*; the *Statistical Business Register Maturity Model* (United Nations Task Team of Exhaustive Business Registers and Task Team Capacity Building, 2020); the Eurostat *European business profiling — Recommendations manual — 2020 edition*; and Global Group Register – Experimental Release User Guide (18 December 2020).