



System of
Environmental
Economic
Accounting

Regional Training Workshop on the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting

16-18 November 2015

Shanghai, China



United Nations



CONCEPT NOTE

I. Background

1. The System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) Central Framework was adopted as the international statistical standard on environmental-economic accounts by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its 43rd session in March 2012. It provides the related concepts, definitions, classifications, accounting system and methodology to guide the data collection, compilation, and analysis for the measurement and a better understanding of environmental-economic interactions. The SEEA has been identified as one of the useful frameworks for the purpose of monitoring and reporting for the UN post-2015 development agenda in support of an inclusive and people-centred sustainable development.
2. Adoption and implementation of the SEEA in Asia-Pacific will require significant capacity building efforts, including training of statistician and non-statistical professional in the National Statistical Systems. This training workshop is organized as a part of a series of events under the project on strengthening statistical capacity development in China and other developing countries in Asia Pacific funded by the Chinese Government. The workshop aimed to enhance the capacity of National Statistical Offices of Asia-Pacific countries in the area of environmental-economic accounting.

II. Objective

3. The purpose of the training workshop is (i) to help participants acquire knowledge and skills to deepen their understanding of the accounting principles and basic data needs for compiling environmental-economic accounts according to the SEEA; (ii) to facilitate experience sharing among Asia Pacific countries; and (iii) to support countries to set up a strategy and national plan for the SEEA implementation.

III. Organizers

4. The workshop will be jointly organized by United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) of China in close collaboration with countries, regional commissions and other international organizations. The workshop will be held at Shanghai, China from 16-18 November 2015

IV. Participants

5. Two participants will be invited from each country: one statistician from the National Statistical Office and one statistician or non-statistical professionals from the line ministry involved in compiling environment accounts and supporting statistics and policy-making on environmental issues (such as the ministry of environment, Ministry of agriculture, ministry of planning and other relevant government agencies).

6. Nominated participants should ideally have experience in SEEA and its implementation or advisory experience in fields related to environmental-economic accounts such as national accounts or environment statistics. The training is targeted at officials who are likely to be engaged in advising and supporting the implementation of the SEEA in their country.

V. Organization

7. The workshop will devote three days with international and Chinese experts to discuss the conceptual framework of the SEEA. The programme of the workshop will be organized around four themes:
 - a. Overview of the SEEA and its implementation strategy. The module will cover the concept and accounting structure of the SEEA and its subsystem, the implementation strategy and its application to the integrated policy.
 - b. Asset accounts. The module will focus on the recording of stocks and flows associated with environmental assets, with a particular focus on focus on asset accounts for land, timber and water resources. It will discuss the asset accounting in general terms and the measurement of the depletion of natural resources and valuation of environmental resources.
 - c. Physical flow accounts. The module will cover the recording of physical flows and the structure of a physical supply and use table, with a particular focus on the physical flow accounts for water.
 - d. Environmental activity accounts. The module will focus on the identification of economic transactions within the SNA that may be considered as environmental, with a particular focus on the Environmental Protection Expenditure Accounts and Environmental Goods and Services Sector
8. During the 3-day training participants will also discuss and share their experiences on the implementation of the SEEA. The training may explore further technical issues related to the SEEA, including an overview of the SEEA Applications and Extensions, the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting, and subsystems of the SEEA elaborating on specific resources or sectors, including land, water, timber and agriculture.

VI. Contact Persons

Mr. Julian CHOW
Statistician
Economic Statistics Branch
United Nations Statistics Division
New York, NY
E-mail: chowj@un.org
Tel: + 1-212-963-0499

Mr. Faqi SHI
Director
Division of Resources and Environment
Accounting
Department of National Accounts
National Bureau of Statistics of China
Beijing, China
E-mail: shifaqi@stats.gov.cn

Ms. Ming MA
Programme Officer
Office of the Director
United Nations Statistics Division
New York, NY
E-mail: mam@un.org
Tel: + 1-212-963-1182
