

**Report of the**  
**Workshop on National Accounts for South Asian Countries**  
**6-9 July 2009, New Delhi, India**

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## **Executive Summary**

This report summarizes the discussions and outcomes of the 4-day workshop on National Accounts, held in Delhi, India during July 6-9, 2009.

### *Objectives:*

The main objectives of the workshop were (i) to have an interactive discussion on the methodology for compiling Quarterly National Accounts (QNA) following production approach and related issues with a view to strengthen the statistical capacity of the participating countries for the development of a system of compiling QNA; (ii) to share country experience on the implementation of the 1993 SNA; and (iii) to discuss a strategy for the improvement of the quality of the national accounts in the region.

### *Participation:*

A total of 20 participants, including some heads of national accounts department and compilers of national accounts attended the workshop as follows: Afghanistan (2), Bangladesh (2), Bhutan (1), India (7), Nepal (2), Pakistan (2), Maldives (2), and Sri Lanka (2).

### *Workshop Evaluation:*

The results showed that participants were very satisfied with the organization of the workshop, with the content and delivery of the lectures. The score obtained (on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 as the highest and 1 the lowest) ranged from 3.7 to 4.9. The highest, 4.95 was obtained for the session on changes between the 1993 SNA and 2008 SNA and the lowest, 3.7, for the duration of the workshop.

### *2008 SNA:*

Participants could better understand the process that led to the revision of the 1993 SNA. Participants learnt of the main changes between the 1993 SNA and the 2008 SNA and, of the impact of these changes on the estimation of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

### *Development of QNA:*

Of the eight countries, only two, namely India and Sri Lanka, are regularly compiling QNA. Participants could better understand the methodology and the data requirement for the compilation of QNA. The main constraints in QNA compilation were identified as inadequate resources: lack of skill, lack of funds and lack of good quality source data. The countries (6) which are not currently compiling QNA, promised to start work on setting up of QNA compilation on a regular basis by 2010, after completion of the preparation of the SUT and the benchmarking of the annual accounts. However, there would be a need for

further training, especially more hands-on type of training, to steer them in the right direction, at the preparatory stage.

*Implementation of SNA:*

All the eight participating countries have adopted 1993 SNA with varying scope and details. None has fully implemented 1993 SNA. In order to expedite the implementation of 2008 SNA, there is a need to set up a mechanism, similar to that adopted for the ICP project to ensure coordination and harmonization, to identify barriers, propose solutions, set milestones and closely follow up progress with the implementation exercise.

*Coordination:*

ESCAP will coordinate with Member States and make available the regional SNA implementation plan to the UNSD. The regional governance structure, proposed by ESCAP, for monitoring the improvement of economic statistics, may be used for monitoring the SNA implementation in the region.

*Knowledge base:*

The workshop recommended establishing a regional knowledge base to support SNA implementation in the region. The UNSD initiative for creating a knowledge base for economic statistics was appreciated by the participants. Countries agreed to share documents on sources and methods and other related documents in the knowledge platform.

*Implementation of ISIC Rev 4:*

All countries are using ISIC Rev. 3 except Pakistan which is using ISIC Rev. 3.1. Participants were of the view that there is a need for creating more awareness of the new classifications among the users. There is a need for national accounts compilers to convince their management that NSOs should have a plan to implement ISIC Rev.4.

*Technical assistance:*

All participants reported a need for further training to fill the skill gap in national accounts compilation. Technical assistance will be required (i) to review the current national accounting compilation practices and to suggest areas for improving the quality and coverage of the national accounts statistics; (ii) to provide training on the newly introduced concepts in the 2008 SNA; (iii) to provide a hands-on type of training on QNA compilation and (iv) to provide training on the conduct of surveys and questionnaire design so as to collect robust source data.

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## **1. Introduction**

1. This report summarizes the discussions and outcomes of the 4-day workshop on National Accounts, held in Delhi, India during 6-9 July 2009. The workshop was targeted for the South Asian countries and was attended by the compilers of national accounts of the eight countries, namely: Afghanistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. After adoption of Volume 1 and Volume 2 of the 2008 System of National Accounts, (2008 SNA), the United Nations Statistical Commission has requested the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGA) to come up with an implementation Strategy. As part of its efforts to strengthen statistical capacity building and in order to gather inputs for the preparation of a regional strategy to harmonize data collection and compilation of national accounts in the region, the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with the Central Statistical Organization (CSO) of India, organized a regional workshop on Quarterly National Accounts for the South Asian countries. The workshop was held at the National Agriculture Science Centre (NASC) Complex in New Delhi during 6-9 July 2009. Funding for the workshop was secured under the Development Account Project – “Strengthening statistical capacity building in support of progress towards the Internationally Agreed Developments Goals in countries of South Asia”.

## **2. Objectives**

2. The main objectives of the workshop were the following:
- a. to have an interactive discussion on the methodology for compiling Quarterly National Accounts following production approach and related issues with a view to strengthen the statistical capacity of the participating countries for the development of a system of Quarterly National Accounts;
  - b. to share country experience on the implementation of the 1993 SNA; and
  - c. to discuss a strategy for the improvement of the quality of the national accounts in the region.

3. All the above mentioned objectives were met. Knowledge imparted during the 4-day workshop has helped to build participants self confidence. Participants promised to start work on the development of a system of quarterly national accounts, as soon as the on-going exercise on the benchmarking and rebasing of the annual national accounts is completed. The workshop also provided a platform for networking and laid the foundation

for the preparation of an appropriate strategy for the implementation of 2008 SNA in the region.

### **3. Participants**

4. A total of 20 participants, including some heads of national accounts department and compilers of national accounts attended the workshop, as follows: Afghanistan (2), Bangladesh (2), Bhutan (1), India (7), Nepal (2), Pakistan (2), Maldives (2), and Sri Lanka (2). The resource persons were: Mr. Gulab Singh from the UNSD, Mrs. Devi Manraj, Consultant in national accounts, UNSD, and Mr. Artur Andrysiak, from the ESCAP.

### **4. Workshop Agenda**

5. The proposed agenda for the 4-day workshop was approved by participants with some minor changes. A copy of the agenda is provided at the end of the report. The format of the workshop included formal lectures, discussion at the end of each session and country presentations by participants: Whereas the country presentations of India and Sri Lanka focused on compilation of quarterly national accounts, others dwelt on compilation of annual accounts. Country presentations also included status of implementation of the 1993 SNA, and areas/issues for which technical assistance is needed.

6. A copy of the workshop material including countries' presentations is available on the UNSD website: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/workshops/2009/india/ac186-2.asp>.

### **5. Topics discussed and Outcomes**

7. Topics presented and discussed during the workshop are described in the following paragraphs:

**(a) The following topics were presented and discussed on the first day:**

- (i) System of National Accounts – An update of recent developments, and main changes between 1993 SNA and 2008 SNA.
- (ii) Scope of national accounts and compliance with the 1993 SNA in South Asia.
- (iii) Orientation to Quarterly National Accounts (purpose, scope, concept, approach, and data sources), and
- (iv) Country presentations on compiling QNA

**Outcomes**

- (a) Participants could better understand the process that led to the revision of the 1993 SNA. Participants learnt of the main changes between the 1993 SNA and the 2008 SNA and, of the impact of these changes on the estimation of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). During discussions, more details were provided on the changes brought to the classification of

producer units/ancillary units, the new terminologies, the new asset boundary, and the new methodology for the computation of FISIM. Some participants informed that they were not aware of the decisions taken by the UNSC as their respective heads, were not communicating the decisions to staff members.

- (b) The information imparted during each session, the open discussions at the end of each session and the sharing of practical experience during the country presentations helped in confidence building of the participants.
- (c) The lectures kindled the interest in the participants to start the compilation of quarterly GDP. Currently, India and Sri Lanka are the only two countries in the region which are regularly producing and disseminating quarterly estimates of GDP; Bhutan, Bangladesh and Pakistan have acquired some experience on QNA in compiling exploratory trial estimates; Nepal is currently developing QNA; whilst Afghanistan and Maldives have never worked on QNA.
- (d) The countries (6) which are not currently compiling QNA, promised to start work on QNA in 2010, after completion of the preparation of the SUT and the benchmarking of the annual accounts. However, there would be a need for further training, especially more hands-on training, to steer them in the right direction, at the preparatory stage.
- (e) Participants reported the increasing demand for short term indicators by policy and decision makers, in the wake of the current economic and financial crisis. However, the major constraints to the development of QNA, as reported by participants are lack of resources (lack of skill in national accounting, lack of funding, lack of good quality basic data) and weak coordination.
- (f) It was also reported that during the recent years, the development of economic statistics have been somewhat neglected as the scarce resources were geared to the collection of the social statistics needed for the monitoring of the MDGs.

**(b) The following topics were presented and discussed on the second day:**

- 8. Methodology for the compilation of QNA using the Production approach for:
  - (i) Agriculture and allied services;
  - (ii) Mining and Quarrying;
  - (iii) Manufacturing, Electricity, gas and water supply, Construction;
  - (iv) Services, and
  - (v) Country presentations on compiling national accounts

9. The lectures concentrated in on the appropriate QNA methodology, data sources and specific issues related to each economic activity group. It was underscored that QNA should be built on the foundation of timely and accurate monthly or quarterly source data (survey and cost effective administrative data). Discussions showed that countries needed an up to date business register and, should make better use of administrative sources, in particular, data reported for VAT purposes. Specific issues related to QNA, such as the estimation of quarterly value added for Agriculture were discussed in great detail. Because of the practical difficulties to obtain the information needed (forecast of agricultural crops and prices, data on cost structure in each quarter), to enable estimation of the value of the growing crops as work-in-progress, participants showed a preference for the use of the “at harvest” approach. India and Sri Lanka are using the harvest-based approach for estimating the agriculture value added.

### **Outcomes**

10. Participants better understood the concept, the methodology and the data required to enable compilation of QNA on a regular basis. As a first step, an inventory of all existing short-term indicators would be taken in each country. All countries reported the availability of monthly and quarterly indices, such as, the Index (quantum index) for Industrial Production, the Consumer Price Index and the Producer Price Index for Manufacturing. Some countries were also compiling a Construction (input) price index and a Wage rate index.

### **(c) Topics covered on third day**

11. Topics presented and discussed on the third day concerned special issues relating to the QNA and included the following:

- (i) Benchmarking of QNA
  - (a) Pro-rata distribution
  - (b) Bassie method
  - (c) Proportional Denton technique
  - (d) Statistical modeling approach
- (ii) Seasonal adjustment
  - (a) Need for seasonally adjusted QGDP
  - (b) Components of seasonal variation
  - (c) Software for seasonal adjustment
- (iii) Challenges faced by participating countries in compiling QNA
  - (a) Incorporating activities of the informal sector,
  - (b) New classification (ISIC Rev.4)
  - (c) Volume estimates,



- (d) Linking and back casting of QNA
- (iv) Revision policies and quality standards of the QNA
  - (a) Revision policies – best practices
  - (b) Quality standards of the QNA

## **Outcomes**

12. The outcomes of the presentations and discussion on the third day are summarized below:

- a. The session helped participants understand the process of benchmarking in the context of QNA and the importance of ensuring consistency of the quarterly data with their annual equivalents. Participants were acquainted with the calculation of the “Benchmark to Indicator (BI)” ratios and learnt of the importance of having a stable BI ratio. Participants became aware of the “step problem” that arise from the use of the “pro-rata” method, and learnt of the “Proportional Denton method”. The websites from which the software for benchmarking could be downloaded were also provided.
- b. Participants understood the importance of seasonal adjustments to enable quarter-to-quarter comparison of QNA data, and the identification of turning points. They learnt of the technique for making seasonal adjustments and were informed of the advantages and limitations of seasonally adjusted series. Participants were referred to the websites of some of the developers of the software and advised to fully understand the technique before making use of any of the software. As examples, the particularities of TRAMO/SEATS developed by the Bank of Spain, using the model-based method; and the X12-ARIMA, developed by the US Census Bureau, and DEMETRA developed by the EUROSTAT, were explained.
- c. Participants could better understand the definition of the informal sector and be able to adapt it to their respective countries. The measurement of the informal sector remains a challenge in all countries. Some types of household-based surveys (1-2 survey approach) and the concept of Household Unincorporated enterprises with at least some market production (HUEMs) were mentioned. Proxy indicators that could be used to measure the trend in informal activities were also discussed.
- d. The main changes in the ISIC Rev.4 and steps for its implementation were presented to the participants. As regards the its implementation, national accountants are normally not directly involved in the revision exercise. However, as a main user, national accountants would be strongly advocating the speedy adoption of a national classification based on ISIC Rev 4. The revision process and adaptation to the local context could take three to four years. No commitments/consensus could emerge with the participants about the likely time-plan for ISIC Rev 4 implementation.

- e. Discussions on the estimation of volume measures showed major weaknesses in the methodology followed by some countries in use for the estimation of volume measures for (i) Distributive trade, (ii) FISIM and (iii) Taxes and subsidies on products. Knowledge imparted will help participants to review the current practice of “deflation”, and to adopt the method of extrapolation using some volume indicators.
- f. Participants understood that QNA data should be presented as consistent time series and preferably. Chain-linking using the one-quarter overlap technique and the annual overlap technique were explained. None of the participating countries is using the chain-linking.
- g. Participants understood the importance of having a transparent revision policy and an advance release calendar for QNA data release, to allow the timely release of data to all users and the incorporation of new data.

**(d) Topics covered on the fourth day**

13. Topics presented and discussed on the fourth day related to the 2008 implementation strategy and included the following:

- (i) ESCAP initiative for improvement of economic statistics in the region
- (ii) South-Asian sub-regional implementation strategy for the 2008 SNA.
- (iii) Country presentations on SNA implementation plan

14. The representative from ESCAP informed participants of the activities being undertaken to strengthen the economic statistics in the region, namely the development of a regional action plan for the improvement of economic statistics, the conduct of a region-wide assessment of the current status of economic statistics, and the setting up of a knowledge-sharing website to disseminate information on country assessments and other technical materials. Information gathered will also help with the preparation of a regional strategy for the implementation of the 2008 SNA.

15. The outline of the regional plan for 2008 SNA implementation was presented to the participants. Participants agreed to supply requisite information to ESCAP to help formulate a regional implementation plan for implementing 2008 SNA.

**6. Evaluation of the Workshop**

16. All twenty participants completed the questionnaire on “Workshop Evaluation”. The results showed that participants were very satisfied with the organization of the workshop and with the content and delivery of the lectures/presentations. The score obtained (on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 as the highest and 1 the lowest) ranged from 3.7 to 4.9. The highest, 4.95 was obtained for the

session on changes between the 1993 SNA and 2008 SNA and the lowest, 3.7, for the duration of the workshop. In the comments, participants reported that the duration of the workshop should have been longer to allow time for some practical exercises.

## 7. Conclusions and Recommendations

### Status of compilation of QNA by countries

17. Status and plans of the QNA compilation of the SAARC countries were reviewed which is as summarised below:

Afghanistan	There is a plan to start development for compilation of QNA in 2010. Technical assistance is urgently required to review work on the compilation of annual accounts completed for the years 2002 onwards.
Bangladesh	QGDP on an experimental basis were compiled for 7 years (28 quarters) starting from 1995 to 2002. This series were kept for internal use only and this exercise has not been pursued. In the absence of regular data and adequate resources, there is currently no plan to work on the compilation of QNA, on a regular basis.
Bhutan	QGDP estimates for 2000 to 2007 were compiled on an experimental basis for internal use only. There is no plan to compile QNA on a regular basis, in the absence of regular data. Technical assistance from the ADB is proposed to be sought.
India	Compiles QGDP both from production and expenditure sides on a regular basis since 1999.
Maldives	There is a plan to start developmental work in 2010 for compiling quarterly GDP using the production approach and complete by 2014.
Nepal	There is a plan to complete compilation of QGDP by production approach in 2010 with the assistance provided by the ADB.
Pakistan	QGDP for 1999/2000 to 2003/04 were compiled on an experimental basis. There is a plan to start compilation of QGDP on a regular basis after revision of the base year to 2005-06 is completed, in 2010.
Sri Lanka	QGDP is being compiled since 2002 on a regular basis.

18. Currently the ADB is undertaking a technical assistance programme helping countries in the region for compilation of the Supply and Use Tables. The workshop recommended that ADB considers initiating a similar technical assistance programme in the region assisting countries in compilation of QNA on a regular basis.

### **SNA Implementation**

- (a) All the eight participating countries have adopted 1993 SNA with varying scope and details.
- (b) To help prepare a regional SNA implementation plan, countries will be requested by the ESCAP to provide the following information:
  - i. Information about existing statistical framework (NSDS). If a framework does not exist, to provide information on initiatives for its development.
  - ii. Uses and users of NA and related basic statistics
    - Specify main uses of NA data and related basic statistics (for policy making, analysis, etc.).
    - Specify main users of data;
    - Provide information on results from evaluations of data use and user satisfaction
  - iii. Assessment – NA aggregates
    - Provide a broad evaluation related to the “minimum data requirement” and “milestones” assessment criteria to characterize the attained level.
    - Report on progress made since the adoption of the 1993 SNA (scope, conceptual compliance).

### **Coordination**

- (a) In order to expedite the implementation of 2008 SNA, there is a need to set up a mechanism, similar to that adopted for the ICP project to ensure coordination, harmonization, to identify barriers, propose solutions, set milestones and closely follow-up progress relating to the implementation exercise.
- (b) The ESCAP will coordinate with Member States and make available the regional SNA implementation plan to the UNSD.
- (c) [participating countries were requested to appoint focal points in the line ministries to coordinate flow of required statistics to NSO.
- (d) The regional governance structure, proposed by the ESCAP, for monitoring the improvement of economic statistics, may be used for monitoring the SNA

implementation in the region. Participants appreciated ESCAP effort for developing a regional action plan for the improvement of economic statistics in Asia and the Pacific which would also help with SNA implementation.

### **Issues**

- (a) Participants expressed the need for detailed training on the main differences between 1993 SNA and 2008 SNA. Once they understand the differences, they will be able to adapt the concepts to the local context.
- (b) Participants reported that they have not yet fully implemented the 1993 SNA. It would be desirable to work out milestones for the implementation of 2008 SNA.
- (c) There is a need to decide the extent of the 2008 SNA to be implemented by countries depending upon the national requirements and the resources available for the purpose. Consequently, it was also important to work out a time frame for the implementation of 2008 SNA.
- (d) The implementation plan should be closely monitored. There is therefore, the need to set up a mechanism to coordinate and monitor the implementation program.

### **Knowledge platform**

- (a) The workshop recommended establishing a regional knowledge base in supporting SNA implementation in the region.
- (b) The UNSD initiative for creating a knowledge base for economic statistics was appreciated by the participants. Countries agreed to share documents on sources and methods and other related documents in the knowledge platform

### **Implementation of ISIC Rev. 4**

- (a) All countries are using ISIC Rev. 3 except Pakistan which is using ISIC Rev. 3.1.
- (b) Participants were of the view that there is a need for creating more awareness of new classifications among the users.
- (c) There is a need for national accounts compilers to convince their management that NSOs should have a plan to implement ISIC rev.4.

## **Strengthening of the statistical production process**

- (a) There is a need to:
  - Strengthen business register and frames and its maintenance mechanism
  - Improve the quality of source data from annual and infra-annual surveys, and
  - Strengthen institutional statistical capacity.
- (b) There is need to promote more uses of data from administrative sources, in particular, data reported to the tax authorities for VAT purposes.
- (c) There is a need to enter into MOU's between NSO's and other agencies/line ministries for exchange of data;

## **Technical Assistance (TA) required**

- (a) TA to review the current national accounting compilation practices.
- (b) TA to suggest areas for improving the coverage and quality of the national accounts statistics (Afghanistan shifted to SNA from MPS in 2002 with assistance from the IMF and is seeking technical assistance for the conduct of a review on work completed).
- (c) Training on the newly introduced concepts in the 2008 SNA
- (d) Regional training workshop on QNA compilation, with practical exercises.
- (e) TA for the conduct of surveys and questionnaire design, to collect good quality and robust source data for national accounting purposes.

## **8. Annexes**

- 19. The workshop agenda and the list of participants area annexed.
  - Annex 1 - Workshop Agenda
  - Annex 2 - List of participants



**UNITED NATIONS STATISTICS DIVISION  
CENTRAL STATISTICAL ORGANISATION, INDIA**

**Workshop on National Accounts for South Asian Countries  
6-9 July 2009, New Delhi, India**

(Organised under the Development Account Project - Strengthening statistical capacity-building in support of progress towards the Internationally Agreed Developments Goals in countries of South Asia)

### **Agenda**

Morning sessions will be from 9.30 to 13.00 hrs, afternoon sessions from 14.00 to 17.30 hrs. Lunch breaks will be from 13.00 to 14.00 hrs every day. There will also be a coffee break during the morning and afternoon sessions.

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#### **Monday, 6 July 2009**

*Morning session: 9:30 hrs. – 13:00 hrs.*

#### ***Opening of the workshop***

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 9:00 – 9:30  | Registration  |
| 9:30 – 10:00 | Opening of the workshop                                 |
|              | Objectives and organization of the workshop             |
|              | Administrative matters and introduction of participants |
|              | Adoption of the agenda                                  |

#### ***System of National Accounts***

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 10:00 – 11:00 | System of National Accounts             |
|               | - <i>Update on recent developments</i>  |
|               | - <i>Main changes from the 1993 SNA</i> |
| 11.00 – 11.20 | <i>Break</i>                            |
| 11.20 – 13.00 | System of National Accounts (contd.)    |

*Scope of national accounts data and compliance with the 1993 SNA*

- Discussion

13:00 – 14:00 *Lunch*

*Afternoon session: 14:00 hrs. – 17:30 hrs.*

***Orientation to Quarterly National Accounts***

14:00 – 15:30 Why Quarterly National Accounts (QNA)?

- *A vital indicator for planning and policy purposes*
- *Short term indicators and the QNA*
- *Scope and role of QNA,*
- *Advantages and limitations,*
- *Approaches, sources of data*
  
- Discussion

15:30 – 15:50 *Break*

15.50 – 17.30 Country practices on compiling Quarterly National Accounts

- *Presentations by participating countries on methodology for QNA compilation by production approach:*
    - o *Coverage*
    - o *Data sources*
    - o *Price indicators etc.*
  
  - Discussion
- 

**Tuesday, 7 July 2009**

*Morning session: 9:00 hrs. – 12:30 hrs.*

***Quarterly National Accounts - Production Approach***

09:30 – 11:00 Quarterly GDP using production approach – methodology, data sources etc

- *Agriculture and allied activities*
  - *Mining and quarrying*
-



- Discussion

11:00 – 11:20 *Break*

11:20 – 13:00 Quarterly GDP using production approach – methodology, data sources etc.

- *Manufacturing*
- *Electricity, gas and water supply*
- *Construction*
  
- Discussion

13:00 – 14:00 *Lunch*

*Afternoon session: 14:00 hrs. – 17:30 hrs.*

14:00 – 15:30 Quarterly GDP using production approach – methodology, data sources etc.

- *Services*
  
- Discussion

15:30 – 15:50 *Break*

15:50 – 17:30 Country practices on compiling Quarterly National Accounts

- *Presentations by participating countries on methodology for QNA compilation by production approach:*
  - o *Coverage*
  - o *Data sources*
  - o *Price indicators etc.*
  
- Discussion

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### **Wednesday, 8 July 2009**

*Morning session: 9:30 hrs. – 13:00 hrs.*

#### ***Quarterly National Accounts – special issues***

09:30 – 11:00 Benchmarking of QNA

- *pro-rata distribution*
  - *Bassie method*
  - *proportional Denton technique*
  - *Statistical modelling approach:*
  - Discussion
- 11:00 – 11:20 *Break*
- 11:20 – 13:00 Seasonal adjustment.
- *Need for seasonally adjusted QGDP*
  - *Components of seasonal variation*
  - *Softwares for seasonal adjustment*
  - Discussion
- 13:00 – 14:00 *Lunch*

*Afternoon session: 14:00 hrs. – 17:30 hrs.*

- 14:00 – 15:30 Challenges faced by participating countries in compiling QNA
- *Incorporating activities of the informal sector,*
  - *New classifications*
  - *Volume estimates,*
  - *Linking and back casting of QNA*
  - Discussion
- 15:30 – 15:50 *Break*
- 15:50 – 17:30 Revision policies and quality standards of the QNA
- *Revision policies – best practices*
  - *Quality standards of the QNA*
  - Discussion

## **Thursday, 9 July 2009**

*Morning session: 9:30 hrs. – 13:00 hrs.*

### ***2008 SNA implementation strategy***

- 09:30 – 11:00 System of National Accounts 2008
- *ESCAP initiative for improvement of economic statistics in the region*

- *South-Asian sub-regional implementation strategy for the 2008 SNA*
- Discussion

11:00 – 11:20 *Break*

11.20 – 13.00 System of National Accounts 2008 (contd.)

- *Country presentations on SNA implementation plan*
- Discussion

13:00 – 14:00 *Lunch*

*Afternoon session: 14:00 hrs. – 15:30 hrs.*

***Conclusions and evaluation of the workshop***

14:00 – 15:30 Conclusion of the workshop

- *Conclusion of the workshop*
- *Evaluation of the workshop*
- *Closing*

**Workshop on National Accounts for South Asian Countries**  
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