

INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

I. INTRODUCTION

The International Seminar on Timeliness, Methodology and Comparability of Rapid Estimates of Economic Trends is jointly organized by the United Nations Statistics Division/Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) and Statistics Canada. It will be held on May 27-29, 2009 in Ottawa, Canada, hosted by Statistics Canada.

I. PURPOSE OF THE SEMINAR

The present economic and financial crisis impacts developed, emerging and developing economies alike and is characterized by unprecedented magnitude, speed, the interconnected nature across all domestic sectors of the economy and its global cross-border spill-over. Analyst and policy makers urgently need high frequency statistics which are timely, reliable and comparable over time and between countries and regions to monitor the development of the crisis for their synchronized policy actions. Presentations at the Seminar will address the current use of the various categories of rapid estimates in monetary, fiscal and financial policy making. There is now an urgent need to establish a global and regional inventory of the types of rapid estimates on economic and financial performance released or in preparation by countries. A joint assessment of such inventory during the Seminar would take place to determine the work priorities for limited sets of regional and global rapid estimates.

II. PROGRAMME OF THE SEMINAR

The agenda, papers and presentations of the Seminar will be posted as these documents become available on a public web page accessible at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/sna1993/regional.asp?FromPage=1>

III. WORKING LANGUAGE OF THE SEMINAR

The working language of the Seminar is English. Translation and interpretation facilities will not be available.

IV. REGISTRATION

Please send your completed registration form to Ms. Magdolna Csizmadia, UNSD (E-mail: csizmadia@un.org, and sna@un.org; Telephone: + 1 212 963 4819), with copy to Mr. Louis Rouillard, Statistics Canada (E-mail: louis.rouillard@a.statcan.gc.ca , Telephone: + 1 613 951 5895).

V. TIME AND VENUE OF THE SEMINAR

The Seminar will be held May 27-29, 2009 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 101 Lyon Street in Ottawa, Canada. Registration will take place in the Hotel Lower Lobby on Wednesday, May 27 from 08:30 to 09:30, with the opening session starting at 09:30. On subsequent days, the meeting will start at 09:00.

VI. ACCOMMODATION AND TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Participants are requested to make their own hotel and travel arrangements. The organizing committee has secured a block of rooms for seminar participants at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, at a cost of CAN\$189.00 per night. This price includes the buffet luncheon for the 3 days of the Seminar. The group reservation code for the Seminar is: ISR. When you make your hotel reservation, mention that you are attending the Seminar. Participants are advised to book hotel accommodation before May 1 in order to obtain the group rate.

The hotel coordinates are:

Crowne Plaza Hotel
101 Lyon Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1R 5T9
Tel: +1 613 237 3600
Website: www.crowneottawa.ca

VIII. PASSPORTS AND VISAS

All foreign participants attending the Seminar are requested to have a valid passport and, if required, a visa for Canada. Application for a visa should be made to the embassy or consulate of Canada in the country in which the participants reside. To find out if you need a visitor visa to enter Canada, to access the application form or to obtain further information, visit the following Web site at <http://www.cic.gc.ca> The official invitation letter to the Seminar is generally sufficient to be used as supporting documentation for a visa request. Should there be any issue with

obtaining your visa or should you require an official letter of invitation from the host country, please contact Mr. Louis Rouillard, Local Coordinator for the Seminar (tel: +1 613 951 5895, Fax: +1 613 951 1231, e-mail: louis.rouillard@statcan.gc.ca).

VII. LOCAL INFORMATION

A: Getting from the airport to the city

The Ottawa International Airport (YOW) is just 13 km from the city centre where the hotel is located. Taxis are readily available at the Airport. A shuttle bus service to hotels is also available.

B: Weather

Ottawa has a continental climate. In late May, temperature is usually very pleasant, however keep in mind that temperature and weather conditions may vary greatly during any given day. Average temperatures in Ottawa in late May are:

- High 21 C, 70 F
- Low 9 C, 48 F

C: Time

In May, Ottawa is on Eastern Daylight Time (EDT, same as New York).

D: Tourism information

The following site provides information on current events and activities in Ottawa:
www.ottawatourism.ca