

Provisional Agenda

Seminar on developing the capacity to produce economic statistics, including national accounts in accordance with the 2008 SNA, in the Asian and Pacific region

**Jointly organized by:
United Nations Statistics Division
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

10 to 13 October 2011
Bangkok, Thailand

Agenda item 1 - Opening of the meeting: Objectives, organization, and administrative matters

Chair: Ms Rikke Munk Hansen, ESCAP

Welcome remarks

- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific [Ms Haishan Fu, ESCAP]
- United Nations Statistics Division [Mr Herman Smith, UNSD]

Introduction of participants

Adoption of the agenda

Agenda item 2 - Setting the framework

Chair: Ms Haishan Fu, ESCAP

Global 2008 SNA implementation strategy

- Presentation: United Nations Statistical Commission mandate, global initiative, scope widened to include basic statistics and institutional environment, principles (strategic planning, coordination and implementation), elements (modalities). ISWGNA to develop tools such as Knowledge Base (KB) on normative standards and country practices and KB on training and capacity building, website on 2008 SNA implementation programme, compilation guidance, outreach tools by milestone [Mr Herman Smith, UNSD]

Strategy for improving the capacity to produce economic statistics in the region

- Presentation: Background to the regional initiative [Mr Michael Smedes, Co-Chair of the Steering Group]

Objective: To provide participants with the necessary background information, including on:

- o Core set of economic statistics including ESCAP resolution 67/10 on the core set (including a discussion about synergies with the short term economic statistics data template)

- Regional programme for the improvement of economic statistics in Asia and the Pacific (henceforth referred to as “the Regional Programme”)

Part I – Implementation programme for of the System of National Accounts 2008 in the Asian and Pacific region

Agenda item 3 - Overview of main changes in the 2008 SNA including changes relevant to the region

Chair: ESCAP representative

- Presentation [Mr Benson Sim, UNSD]

- Discussion

Agenda item 4 – Short-term economic statistics for the development of the national accounts

Chair: Country representative

- Presentation: The use of short-term economic statistics for the development of the national accounts [Mr Herman Smith, UNSD]

- Presentation: Introduction of the short-term economic statistics data template [Mr Herman Smith, UNSD]

- Discussion

Agenda item 5 - 2008 SNA implementation tools

Chair: Country representative

- Presentation: Overview of the available tools for developing national implementation programmes for the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics [Mr Herman Smith, UNSD]

- Discussion

Agenda item 6 - Diagnostic tool to assess the adequacy of the statistical production process to support the compilation of the national accounts

Chair: Country representative

- Presentation: A system wide diagnostic and vision for the implementation programme with well developed coordination mechanism covering the domains of the classification of statistical activities namely, (1) economic statistics, (2) environment and multi functional statistics, (3) methodology of data collection, processing and dissemination, (4) and institutional strategy. [Mr Benson Sim, UNSD]

- Discussion

Agenda item 7 - Data sources for the compilation of national accounts

Chair: Country representative

Presentation:

- Use of household (income and expenditure and labour force surveys, case of 1 2 Survey) and enterprise surveys (case of industrial statistics collections: benchmark, annual and infra annual frequency, informal sector coverage, etc.) [Mr Benson Sim, UNSD]
- Data integration, linkages, editing, imputations (use of statistical techniques, data validation) [Mr Benson Sim, UNSD]
- Discussion

Agenda item 8 - Framework for setting goals and actions to reach goals

Chair: Country representative

- Presentation: An outline for setting goals and actions to reach these goals following a strategic approach for developing a national implementation programme for the implementation of the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics. [Mr Herman Smith, UNSD]
- Discussion

Agenda item 9 - Group discussion on the application of the presented tools/development of initial national plans

Chair: Country representative

- Discussion in groups

Part II – Developing the implementation plan for the Regional programme for the improvement of economic statistics in Asia and the Pacific

Agenda item 10 - Developing the implementation plan for the Regional Programme – overview

Chair: Ms Estela T. de Guzman, Co-Chair of the Steering Group

- Presentation: Outline of the draft implementation plan [Mr Michael Smedes, Co-Chair of the Steering Group]
- Presentation: Developments in Economic Statistics in the Pacific Region [Mr Alick Nyasulu, SPC]
- Presentation: Overview of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics [Mr Jairo Castano, FAO RAP]

Objective: To give participants an understanding of the objective of the implementation plan, present the draft outline and inform them of other closely related initiatives

Special Event: Launch of the Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific, 2011

All participants of the Seminar are cordially invited by the ESCAP Executive Secretary to the *Launch of the Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific, 2011*. The Statistical Yearbook is a leading statistical regional reference on Asia and the Pacific. During the event, issues related to availability of statistics in the region (including economic statistics) and statistical needs of the policy-makers will be discussed. Refreshments will be available.

Agenda item 11 - Shaping the implementation plan: constraints and capacity development needs in the region

Chair: Mr Michael Smedes, Co-Chair of the Steering Group

- Presentation: Findings of ESCAP needs assessments of the capacity of National Statistical Systems in Asia and the Pacific to produce basic economic statistics [Mr Artur Andrysiak, ESCAP]

- Discussion

Objective: To present the findings of the assessments and discuss the constraints limiting the capacity of countries to produce economic statistics and capacity development needs

Agenda item 12 - Group discussion: developing the implementation plan for the Regional Programme

- Discussion in groups

Objective: To discuss (in light of the preceding discussion) the implementation plan outline

Agenda item 13 - Reports on the discussion of the four groups

Chair: Mr Jeff Cope, New Zealand

- Presentation Group 1
- Presentation Group 2
- Presentation Group 3
- Presentation Group 4

Objective: To summarize the discussion and recommendations of each of the groups

Agenda item 14 – Implementation plan - institutional component

Chair: Mr Herman Smith, UNSD

- Presentation: Partnership for Statistics Development in Asia-Pacific [Mr Habibur Rahman Khan, ESCAP]

- Presentation: Coordination of statistical training activities in the ESCAP region [Ms Jillian Campbell, ESCAP]

- Discussion

Objective: To discuss the components (advocacy and political support) of the regional programme aimed at strengthening the institutional basis of the NSSs and reach a consensus on priorities and activities

Agenda item 15 – Implementation plan - technical component

Chair: Mr Artur Andrysiak, ESCAP

- Discussion

Objective: To discuss the technical component (human resources, infrastructure, knowledge sharing) of the regional programme and reach a consensus on priorities and activities

Agenda item 16 - Next Steps: Implementation plan

Chair: Mr Michael Smedes, Co-Chair of the Steering Group

- Discussion

Objective: To firm up an outline of the implementation plan incorporating the recommendations from the group discussions and preceding sessions

Agenda item 17 – Next Steps: Steering Group

Chair: Mr Michael Smedes, Co-Chair of the Steering Group

- Discussion

Objective: To reach a consensus on the way the Steering Group will guide the development of the implementation plan

Agenda item 18 - Discussion on the way forward

Chair: Ms Rikke Munk Hansen, ESCAP

- Presentation: Summary and recommendations [Mr Herman Smith, UNSD]

- Discussion

Objective: To discuss the outcomes of the Seminar and focus on any outstanding issues

Agenda item 19 - Closing session

- Evaluation of the Meeting
- Closing of the Meeting [Mr Herman Smith, UNSD and Ms Rikke Munk Hansen, ESCAP]