



**Opening Statement by Dr. Adel Azar  
Head, Statistical Centre of Iran**

**ECO, SCI and UNSD Training Workshop on the Compilation of Quarterly  
Accounts for Economic Cooperation Organization Member Countries**

**Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, 8 – 11 March 2015**

**IN THE NAME OF ALLAH  
THE COMPASSIONATE, THE MERCIFUL**

**Dear Mr. Hayri Marashli Oglu, Deputy Secretary General of ECO**

**Dear Mr. Benson Sim , Course Director and Statistician, National Accounts  
Section from UNSD**

**Dear Mr. Y. Gökhan ÖZBAKIŞ, resource person and participant from  
Turkey**

**Dear Mr. Fereydoon Rasteh, Senior Expert on National Accounts**

**Dear Representatives from ECO and Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

**Distinguished participants, Dear Guests,**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

On the behalf of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Statistical Centre of Iran, it is my great pleasure to extend a very warm welcome to you, more specially those who come from various countries of the ECO region to participate in the Workshop on “**Compilation of Quarterly Accounts**” jointly organized by Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), the United Nations Statistics Division, the Statistical Centre of Iran (SCI) and Statistical Research and Training Centre (SRTC)

Quarterly national accounts (QNA) constitute a system of integrated quarterly time series coordinated through an accounting framework and play a vital role in developing and monitoring sound economic and financial programs. As you are fully aware the financial crises gave us a hint that availability of timely key high-frequency data is critical for detecting sources of vulnerability and implementing corrective actions in time. The main purpose of QNA is to provide a picture of current economic developments that is timelier than that provided by the Annual National Accounts and more comprehensive than that provided by individual short-term indicators. You know better that to meet this purpose, QNA should be timely, coherent, accurate, comprehensive, and reasonably detailed. If QNA fulfill these criteria, they are able to serve as a framework for assessing, analyzing, and monitoring current economic developments. This workshop has been organized to help ECO countries establish or strengthen quarterly national accounts that meet users' needs.

QNA with a particular focus on production-based and expenditure-based gross domestic product (GDP) and the solutions to overcome the situations where the available data do not meet the requirements of the System of National Accounts (SNA) are among the issues which are going to be discussed in the workshop.

Let me seize the opportunity and mention that one of the priorities of the Statistical Centre of Iran is to develop its international relations and partnership in the capacity building programmes in order to empower statistical experts. In this strategy, neighboring countries and region especially ECO member states are of special importance. For this purpose, the Statistical Centre of Iran hosts a number of training workshops in collaboration with international statistical institutes such as UNFPA, UNSD, SIAP, UNESCAP and ECO every year and hosting of this workshop held in collaboration with ECO and UNSD is in line with the realization of this strategy.

I expect my participating colleagues to pay specific attention to the discussions and apply them in their upcoming activities.

I hope by the efforts of Mr. Benson Sim, Course Director and Statistician, National Accounts Section from UNSD, Mr. Y. Gökhan ÖZBAKIŞ, resource



person from Turkey and Mr. Fereydoon Rasteh, Senior Expert on National

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colleagues in the Statistical Centre of Iran, the Statistical Research and Training Centre and ECO, as well as the endeavors and care of the participants, this workshop may attain all its goals. I also hope that participants will actively participate in the lectures, discussions and practical sessions and share their experiences. I would like to take the opportunity to extend my appreciation to the authorities and staff of UNSD and ECO, who are sincerely involved in this programme, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, my colleagues in the SCI and Statistical Research and Training Centre for their invaluable assistance in holding this Workshop. It is with pleasure and great expectation that I declare this workshop open. I wish you fruitful and successful deliberations and hope that the participants and our guests from overseas may enjoy their stay in Tehran, and return home with

Pleasant memories

Thank you.

Adel Azar

Head, Statistical Centre of Iran