

TFSITS (06)
TASK FORCE ON STATISTICS OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN SERVICES
New York, 21-22 February 2006
Item 4 of the draft agenda

IMF'S STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING ACTIVITY
IN THE AREA OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN SERVICES WITHIN THE BALANCE OF
PAYMENTS FRAMEWORK

Report by IMF STA

During the latter part of 2004 and in 2005, the IMF's Statistics Department (STA) participated in a number of training initiatives in international trade in services. A three-day seminar was pilot tested in November 2004 at the Center of Excellence in Finance (CEF) in Ljubljana. It was adapted for use at the four-day regional workshop on Statistics of International Trade in Services that was held in the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Beirut in December 2004. In 2005, this material was again used at the three-day Second Andean Governmental Expert Meeting on Statistics of International Trade in Services that was held at the Andean Community General Secretariat (ACGS).

STA proposes that this material be incorporated into a standard international trade in services seminar/training program to be used in future training activities, together with the training module on trade in services that was developed by the IATFSITS (coordinated by the WTO and the World Bank). These might jointly serve as a basis for a standard IATFSITS one-week course on international trade in services.

The three day seminar designed by IMF STA covers concepts, sources, and compilation methods associated with statistics on international trade in services within the balance of payments framework, and includes lectures, plenary discussions on country practices, and practical workshops. Lectures and plenary sessions focus on general concepts and practices, while workshop exercises apply the methodology to a typical set of circumstances. During the course, the participants are afforded opportunities to discuss problems that they have encountered in the course of their work on compiling statistics on international trade in services in their respective countries. The seminar was well regarded in the Center of Excellence in Finance (CEF), Slovenia, where it was conducted by STA for the participants from the seven countries in the region. The seminar outline is given in the attachment to this paper.

Following the outcome of the seminar, conducted under the aegis of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and UNSD in Beirut, the IMF's Middle East Technical Assistance Center (METAC) is continuing to take an active role in building capacity in producing statistics of international trade in services in the ESCWA countries.

During the calendar year 2005, IMF's Statistics Department (STA) participated in the three-day Second Andean Governmental Expert Meeting on Statistics of International Trade in Services that was held at the Andean Community General Secretariat (ACGS). Jointly with experts from UNCTAD, WTO-OMC, and the National Statistics Institute of Spain, STA staff made a series of presentations, participated in discussions and in development of the action plan for further work. The meeting was organized under the auspices of the EU-Andean Community Cooperation Project on Trade Related Technical Assistance. The meeting was attended by 14 governmental experts from the Community countries: Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela.

STA is committed to one training activity in the area of the international trade in services per year. In financial year 2007 (that is, year ended April 2007), there is a plan to participate, jointly with other IATFSITS members, in a one week seminar to be organized by the Joint Africa Institute (JAI). JAI has not yet finalized its program, so STA cannot confirm availability; however if the JAI is not available, STA will explore alternatives with other institutions to conduct a seminar after May 2007.

Course on the Data Sources and Recording Transactions in International Trade in Services in the Balance of Payments Statistics

Topic

Day 1

09:00 – 09:15	Welcome Address, Administrative Arrangements.
09:15 – 10:45	General Introduction to Trade in Services Statistics
11:00 – 12:30	Specific Services Compilation Issues for the Region
14:00 – 15:30	BOP Services Account: Transportation
15:45 – 17:00	Workshop 1: Exercises 1&2

Day 2

09:00 – 10:30	BOP Services Account: Travel
10:45 – 12:30	Plenary session: Compiling Transportation and Travel Components
14:00 – 15:30	BOP Services Account: Other Services
15:45 – 17:00	Workshop 2: Exercises 3&4

Day 3

09:00 – 10:30	BOP Services Account: Other Services (cont.)
10:45 – 12:30	Workshop 3: Exercises 5,6&7
14:00 – 15:30	Manual of Statistics on International Trade in Services, Compilation of FATS statistics
15:30 – 16:30	Plenary session: Compiling Other Services
16:30	Closing Session