

Concept note
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 - 13 October 2011
Bangkok, Thailand

Background

1. The Implementation Programme for the System of National Accounts 2008 (2008 SNA) and supporting statistics represents a global statistical initiative, which was mandated by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its fortieth session following the adoption of the 2008 SNA as the international standard for the compilation and dissemination of national accounts statistics.
2. The 2008 SNA Implementation Programme in the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) region is a part of a regional initiative aimed at improving the capacity of ESCAP member States to produce basic economic statistics in accordance with international standards and good practices. Following the decision of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics in 2009, ESCAP in close cooperation with key global, regional and sub-regional development partners and through direct consultation with member States developed a Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific (hereunder referred to as the “Regional Programme”). The Regional Programme was endorsed by the Committee on Statistics at its second session in 2010, paving the way for its implementation in the region. A detailed implementation plan for the Regional Programme is being developed under the guidance of the Bureau of the Committee, with advice from the Steering Group for the Regional Programme on Economic Statistics established by the Committee, and in close cooperation with key global, regional, sub-regional and national partners.
3. The primary aim of the programme is to develop the capacity of ESCAP members and associate members to produce a core set of economic statistics by 2020 of appropriate quality and coverage required for short and long-term economic analyses and decision making by both government and non-government agencies/organizations. The Committee, at its second session, endorsed the core set as a guideline for developing the capacity of national statistical systems. The core set has also subsequently been endorsed in the form of Resolution 67/10 by the Commission (ESCAP). It is expected that developing the national capacity to produce the core set will also provide countries in the region with the sufficient capacity to produce a comprehensive set of national accounts statistics in accordance with the 2008 SNA.
4. ESCAP, in collaboration with the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), is organising a seminar on developing the capacity to produce economic statistics, including national accounts in accordance with the 2008 SNA, in the Asian and Pacific region. The seminar will be held in Bangkok from 10 to 13 October 2011.

Purpose

5. The purpose of the seminar is to develop an implementation plan for the strategy for improvement of the capacity of countries in the Asian and Pacific region to produce economic statistics, including national accounts in accordance with 2008 SNA, of good quality and coverage.

Organizers of the seminar

6. This seminar will be jointly organized by ESCAP and UNSD.

Participants

7. Senior managers of economic statistics and national accounts programmes from National Statistical Offices and/or Central Banks, able to express a view on the regional and national implementation programmes and representatives from relevant international organizations. Participants will also include the members of the Steering Group for the Regional Programme on Economic Statistics.

Organization of the programme

8. The seminar consists of two parts:

- Part 1 aims at providing an overview of the global initiatives for the implementation of the 2008 SNA and tools for developing a national implementation plan for the 2008 SNA within the framework of improving economic statistics.
- Part 2 aims at developing the implementation plan for the Regional programme for the improvement of the capacity of countries in the Asian and Pacific region to produce economic statistics including the capacity to produce national accounts in accordance with 2008 SNA.

9. The seminar will conclude with a session aimed at bringing the results of the two parts together to ensure that plans for implementing the 2008 SNA and the Regional Programme are consistent and mutually reinforcing, effectively incorporating national implementation plans for the 2008 SNA into the regional implementation plan.

Expected outcome

10. Consensus among participants on the implementation plan for the improvement of the statistical capacity of countries in the Asian Pacific region to produce economic statistics including the capacity to produce National Accounts in accordance with 2008 SNA.

Timing and Venue

11. The seminar will take place on 10-13 October 202011 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand.

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