

Third Regional Course on Integrated Economic Accounts

SIAP conducted the third regional course on Integrated Economic Accounts (IEA) from 22 June to 3 July 2009 in Manila, Philippines, with collaborative assistance from International Monetary Fund (IMF) Head Quarter and its regional office in Tokyo and Asian Development Bank (ADB). The Regional Course on IEA is intended to improve national capacities on establishing an Integrated Economic Accounting system including the implementation of 2008 SNA by country officials and developing capabilities in addressing relevant compilation and data issues. 26 officials from 18 selected countries in the Asia and Pacific region participated in the course including 6 officials from the host government of the Philippines. Participating countries are Bangladesh (3 participants), Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, PNG, Philippines (6), Samoa, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

The course was conducted at the SRTC premises in Metro Manila where sufficient facilities were available and Personal Computer facilities for all participants were provided.

The course was designed principally for statisticians involved in the compilation of economic statistics including the compilation of SNA for monitoring development in the countries. Course topics included:

- Basics of Macro economics and Overview of System of National Accounts (2008 SNA)
- SUT and Input-Output Tables, GDP Estimates-Three Approaches
- Current Accounts, Accumulation Accounts and Balance Sheets
- GDP Estimates at Constant Prices
- Balance of Payments (BOP), Government Finance Statistics(GFS)
- Monetary and Financial Statistics (MFS)

SIAP faculty member Gamini de Silva served as the course director cum lecturer assisted by two resource persons, Ms.Estrella Domingo, a consultant from Philippines and Mr.Zia Abbazi, multi-sector specialist from IMF,Fiji.

The successful conduct of the course led the participants to the accomplishment of the following:

- Have a better understanding of the nature, sources and techniques of compilation of economic data for policy needs
- Have a better understanding of SNA 2008 framework and compilation of main economic aggregates including GDP, Balance of Payments (BOP), Gross Finance Statistics (GFS) and Monetary and Financial Statistics (MFS).
- Share experiences and good practices in compilation of economic data to formulate an Integrated Economic Accounts system using SNA-2008 framework.

During the training, participants showed keen interest in acquiring knowledge on the subject and improving their statistical literacy. The Chairman NSCB Dr Romeo Virola inaugurated the course and emphasized the relevance and importance of an Integrated Economic Accounts based on SNA to the country's development. The course was concluded on 3rd July and the closing ceremony was attended by the Deputy Director General of the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) under which SRTC, NSCB and NSO are functioning. Hon. Minister of Economic Affairs too visited the training course on 30 June to greet and encourage the course participants.

The participants' evaluation and speeches in the closing ceremony indicated that all the participants had gained very good knowledge from the course. SRTC showed a keen interest in collaborating with SIAP for capacity building programmes undertaken by them.