

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

STATISTICAL INSTITUTE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (SIAP)

Regional Course on Integrated Economic Statistics to Support 2008 SNA Implementation

**18-21 April 2017
Bangkok, Thailand**

CONCEPT NOTE

I. Introduction

The Regional Programme for the improvement of Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific (RPES)¹ and its Core Set of Economic Statistics², endorsed in 2010 by the ESCAP Committee on Statistics, define the framework and scope of capacity building for economic statistics production and dissemination in the region. ESCAP and development partners have taken RPES as the reference for providing technical assistance to national statistical systems in Asia and the Pacific. As part of ESCAP's support to RPES implementation, the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) and the Statistics Division are organizing a regional course to assist countries that have recently conducted an economic census or are in the process of planning one, on the linkages between economic data sources and national accounts. This topic was identified as a priority for training based on the Second Project Support Meeting organized for project countries on 30 November 2017 in Bangkok³.

The focus of RPES is on the improvement of basic economic statistics across the Asia Pacific region. It is also closely linked to the global implementation of the 2008 SNA; the principal framework integrating economic statistics. Based on the United Nations Statistical Commission's decision in 2010, countries have endorsed the implementation of the 2008 SNA and the United Nations Regional Commissions are fully engaged in supporting this process in their member states.

The 4-day course will be jointly conducted by SIAP and Statistics Division at the UNCC in Bangkok, Thailand on 18-21 April 2017. The training course will focus on practical illustration of how economic census/enterprise survey data can be turned into measurable macroeconomic aggregates such as those in the 2008 SNA.

II. Course Objectives

The course is designed to enhance the capacity of participating countries to:

¹ Refer to E/ESCAP/CST(2)/5 at <http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/2.E-ESCAP-CST2-4E.pdf>

² Refer to E/ESCAP/CST(2)/4 at [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/ESCAP/CST\(2\)/4&Lang=E](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/ESCAP/CST(2)/4&Lang=E)

³ Refer to meeting report at http://communities.unescap.org/system/files/second_dfid_project_support_meeting_final_0.pdf

- a) Rationalize data sources for economic statistics and understand the interlinkages between the various data collections and compilations;
- b) Plan for effective economic census/enterprise survey questionnaires and tabulation plans;
- c) Plan for the use of economic census results for other economic data collections and in the compilation of national accounts.

III. Learning Objectives

At the end of the training, participants are expected to be able to:

- a) identify the data flows and additional data needs for implementing the recommendations of the 2008 SNA and core economic statistics as identified in the RPES;
- b) build effective economic census instruments and analytical plan.

IV. Target Participants

2 participants from each country will be invited to the training:

- (i) A mid-to-senior level national accountant
- (ii) A mid-to-senior level statistician in charge of designing, processing and disseminating economic data collections

More specifically, the national accountant is one with the following profile:

- a) Is a middle- to senior- level statistician working in national statistical agencies (or another national agency in charge of national accounts compilation);
- b) Has comprehensive knowledge of the theoretical framework of national accounting at least at the level of the SIAP Intermediate-Level e-Learning Course on SNA 2008 or is in charge of designing economic data collections;
- c) Has experience in and demonstrated ability to apply different methods for compiling GDP at current and constant prices;
- d) Current job involves estimation and compilation of the items covered in the course;

The economic statistician in charge of designing economic data collection is one with the following profile:

- e) Works in the economic statistics or sample surveys division of the national statistical agency on establishment-based data collection;
- f) Is familiar with economic data sources and their uses in the national statistical system;
- g) Has experience in designing, processing and disseminating establishment-based administrative and/or survey data collections;

Both participants should be able to read, write and express themselves well enough in English to participate fruitfully in discussions, presentations and be in a position to share their technical experiences with other participants.

V. Course Content and Design

Training sessions will consist of lectures, demonstrations, country presentations, group discussions, workshops on working with data identified by the training team, and consultation sessions with experts on specific country issues.

Main Topics

Topic	Contents
1. Statistical Infrastructure for Economic Statistics	(i) Administrative data sources (ii) Economic Census, Surveys and statistical registers (iii) Classification Frameworks
2. An overview of SNA – a brief recap	(i) Domestic economy and the Rest of the World (ii) Institutional units & sectors (iii) SNA Aggregates and their coverage (iv) SNA framework (v) Framework (vi) Identities
3. Integrating economic censuses and business surveys into SUT/SNA estimation	(i) Linkages of economic censuses to SNA measures (ii) SNA measures in economic census questionnaires (iii) Benchmarking SUT/GDP using economic census
4. Estimation Methods	(i) Estimation of output and value added -Selected Industries -Non-market and market output (ii) Derivation of volume measures -Constant price estimation -Price indices, chaining and linking (iii) Supply and Use Methods -Commodity flow techniques -Data reconciliation and confrontation -Transport margins and taxes (iv) Implications of 2008 SNA on GDP measures -Methodological changes and reclassifications -Reclassifications of industries -Implications for data collection/revision of questionnaires

Preparation by participants

Each country team needs to submit a comprehensive report which will be the basis for (a) sharing of experiences and practices and (b) consultation sessions with experts (maximum 10 pages).

The report should cover the following:

1. Data sources with respect to , economic censuses, business surveys and the status of the statistical business register , if applicable:
 - Describe the current practices/issues regarding the state of, economic censuses/business surveys and any necessary/possible changes in the collection design to improve quality of national accounts and reflect the 2008 SNA.
 - For countries that have already conducted an economic census, the report should give details of the questionnaire, tabulation and SNA links or gaps.
 - For those countries where an economic census is being planned, the report should give a status update on the preparations and methodological/technical issues faced, if any.
2. Adoption of international classifications and their possible localisations (ISIC, CPC, etc.)
 - Discuss any challenges in the implementing of international classifications and plans for localizing/nationalizing standards.
3. Estimation challenges (refer to Topic 4 in the agenda)
 - Describe three main methodological challenges that need to be addressed in order to be able to compile /implement national accounts in line with the 2008 SNA.

Participants are also required to bring with them economic census or enterprise survey data including its metadata and questionnaires for consultations with experts.