

**UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND
THE PACIFIC**

STATISTICAL INSTITUTE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (SIAP)

**Regional workshop on short-term economic indicators and service statistics to support
2008 SNA implementation**

25-27 September 2017

Chiba, Japan

CONCEPT NOTE

I. Introduction

This training course on 2008 SNA is the ninth in an annual series offered by the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific that aims to assist countries in Asia and the Pacific in implementing the 2008 System of National Accounts. The course focuses on selected topics as a follow-up to the annual basic and intermediate-level e-learning SIAP courses that provide the overview of the SNA framework, introduces the new features of the 2008 SNA and builds knowledge and core skills in compilation of national accounts statistics in accordance with the framework. It is intended to expose participants to methods and approaches to compile short term indicators that are necessary to monitor micro and macro-economic developments in the context of business cycles.

The 2008 global financial crisis revealed weakness of the traditional approach of official statistics to detect business cycles and predict such crises. This course supports global, regional and national commitments to compile rapid economic indicators required for monitoring economic performance in a timely manner.

The training course focuses on contemporary issues in production of macroeconomic indicators that are crucial in monitoring short term economic developments using standard 2008 SNA methods and related approaches. Specifically, the course will focus on statistics relating to

business cycles, short-term macroeconomic indicators and service sector statistics including their associated measures.

The 3-day course will be conducted in by the United Nations Statistical Institute (SIAP) in collaboration with the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication (MIC) of the Government of Japan in Chiba, Japan from 25-27 September 2017.

II. Course Objectives

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

- a) Apply best international practices for the production of service statistics;
- b) Develop practical tools and adopt effective methods to generate short term macro-economic indicators to provide timely information for policy monitoring.

III. Learning Objectives

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

- a) Review their existing practices and methods to compile service statistics;
- b) Identify key data sources to compile short term economic indicators;
- c) Explain key methodological issues for consideration in the production of short term economic and service sector statistics.
- d) Share country experiences on compiling short term composite indicators.

IV. Target Participants

The course is designed for statisticians compiling national accounts and production of other economic statistics. More specifically, the participant is one with the following profile:

- a) Is a middle- to senior- level statistician/economists working in national statistical agencies and central banks;
- 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;
- 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;
- e) Holder of a university degree or its equivalent; and
- f) 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

The course is designed to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and experience across countries in implementing the 2008 SNA on specific topics. Training sessions will consist of lectures, demonstrations, country presentations, group discussions, workshops on working with data and consultation sessions with experts on specific country issues.

The course will start with an introduction to service sector statistics by applying concepts and terms in the international trade in services. Other components of the training will focus on methods for monitoring business cycles. These will include leading indicators/economic tendency surveys, business cycle composite indicators, productivity statistics, entrepreneurship and business service statistics. Participants will synthesize the knowledge and skills acquired from the course by developing an actionable plan for improving quality of national accounts estimates in the items discussed in the course.

Main Topics

- I. Conceptual framework for service statistics
- II. Service Price and Service Production Indices
- III. Rationale for short-term economic statistics
- IV. Business cycle composite indicators
- V. Economic tendency surveys
- VI. Data Template and Analytical Indicators
- VII. Rapid Estimates

VI. Pre-course Requirements: Country Report

All participants need to submit a comprehensive country report and prepare a presentation that will be the basis for (a) sharing of experiences and practices; and (b) discussion sessions with experts.

Identify three major areas of concern or where progress has been made in their short term economic indicators, from among the following:

- Short term indicator
- Business cycle composite indicators
- Service industry statistics
- Economic tendency surveys
- Productivity statistics
- Rapid estimates