



UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (ESCAP), STATISTICAL INSTITUTE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (SIAP)

### **Course Information Note**

## **First E-learning Course on the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) Central Framework, 9 October-10 November 2017**

### **I. Introduction**

The System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) Central Framework was adopted as the international statistical standard on environmental-economic accounts by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its 43rd session in March 2012. It provides the related concepts, definitions, classifications, accounting system and methodology to guide the data collection, compilation, and analysis for the measurement and a better understanding of environmental-economic interactions. The SEEA has been identified as one of the useful frameworks for the purpose of monitoring and reporting for the UN 2030 sustainable development agenda in support of an inclusive and people-centred sustainable development.

Adoption and implementation of the SEEA in Asia and the Pacific will require significant capacity building efforts, including training of staff in National Statistical Offices. To meet these needs and demands the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) has developed an on-line training program on the SEEA Central Framework to support countries implement the SEEA.

### **II. Objective**

The purpose of the training program is (i) to help participants acquire knowledge and skills to deepen their understanding of the accounting principles and basic data needs for compiling environmental-economic accounts according to the SEEA Central Framework; and (ii) to facilitate experience sharing among countries.

### **III. Organization**

The on-line training will take place from 9<sup>th</sup> October 2017 to 10<sup>th</sup> November 2017 and will be moderated by SIAP experts. It will be accessible via the SIAP e-learning website <http://siap-elearning.org/> and log in details will be provided to all nominated participants. Participants will need to spend 10 hrs a week that translates to 40 hours for the whole four weeks.

The course consists of 10 lessons and the summary is as follows:

- Lesson 1: An introduction to the SEEA Central Framework and its applications in integrated policies;
- Lesson 2: Physical flow accounts. The lesson will cover the recording of physical flows;
- Lesson 3: Covers the physical flows of energy and introduces supply and use table
- Lesson 4: Discusses SEEA's principles of accounting for flows of water and materials physical flows of water;
- Lessons 5 Asset accounts. The lesson focuses on the recording of stocks and flows associated with environmental assets;
- Lesson 6: Asset accounts. Using lesson 5, this lesson goes a step further and discusses the asset accounting with a particular focus on the measurement of the depletion of natural resources and valuation of environmental resources;
- Lesson 7: Environmental activity accounts. The lesson focuses on the identification of economic transactions within the SNA that may be considered as environmental, with a particular focus on the Environmental Expenditure Accounts and Environmental Goods and Services Sectors;
- Lesson 8: Other Transactions: The lesson discusses applications of transactions related to taxes and subsidies by government and their accounting with respect to mineral, energy, land, soil, water and biological resources;
- Lesson 9: Lesson explains the application of various data and indicators from the SEEA into policy;
- Lesson 10: Introduces environmental-economic modelling of SEEA data using analytical techniques. It also explains the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting and the SEEA subsystems for water and energy.

#### **IV Assessments**

Trainee performance will be assessed through the following:

- Quizzes
- Participation in discussion forums
- Final test

A final test will be administered at the end of course and successful participants will be issued with a certificate that will be generated automatically by the system. . *To be able to download the certificate, the participants have to pass the course, fill and submit a course evaluation form.*