

# CONCEPT NOTE

## **Regional Training Programme on the System of National Accounts 2008: Fifth Regional Workshop on Changes in 2008 SNA**

22 – 26 April 2013, Greater Noida, India

### **I. BACKGROUND & RATIONAL**

National accounts statistics is the most important set of economic statistics required for macroeconomic policy analysis for inclusive and sustainable development. The Regional Programme for Improvement of Economic Statistics in the Asia and the Pacific envisages that the national statistical systems (NSSs) of the member States of the region would be able to implement the main recommendations of the 2008 SNA by 2020 to ensure comparability of economic statistics in the region as well as improve the soundness of economic analysis for planning, policy formulation and evidence-based decision-making by both the government and non-government sectors of the region.

To strengthen the capacity of NSSs to compile and disseminate, in accordance with internationally agreed standards, the national accounts statistics according to the 2008 SNA, the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), a regional institution of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, in collaboration with statistical training institutes, statistical offices and development partners, has been conducting a series of workshops on the implementation of the changes recommended in the 2008 SNA. .

The current workshop is the fifth in the series of workshop co-organised by the SIAP and will be conducted at the National Academy of Statistics Administration (NASA), in Greater Noida (near Delhi), India, from 22 to 26 April 2013 (5 days).

### **II. WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES**

The main objectives of the workshop are to strengthen the capacity of national statistical offices in implementing the recommendations of 2008 SNA and to review the current compilation practices for purposes of improving the quality and coverage of national accounts statistics of the respective countries.

### **III. LEARNING OUTCOMES**

The workshop is designed to help the participants acquire knowledge and skills to:

- a) better understand the changes made in the 2008 SNA and implications;
- b) identify the additional data needs for implementing the recommendations of the 2008 SNA; and
- c) suggest appropriate methods for implementing the recommendations in their respective countries.

### **IV. TARGET PARTICIPANTS**

The workshop is designed for middle-level government statisticians who perform tasks relating to compilation of national accounts. These include officials directing or actually compiling national

accounts or regional (sub-national) accounts who would benefit from getting a better understanding of the concepts of the 2008 SNA.

Participants are expected to be:

- ✧ holders of a university degree or its equivalent
- ✧ at least 30 years old but not more than 45 years old
- ✧ engaged in compilation of national accounts or regional (sub-national) accounts
- ✧ fairly well-versed with the basic concepts, definitions and sequence of accounts of the 1993 SNA
- ✧ able to read, write and express themselves well enough in English to participate fruitfully in discussions and presentations

Those having at least 5 years experience in compiling national accounts (or regional accounts) or have taken the e-learning course on SNA of the SIAP would be given preference in the selection of participants.

## V. THE WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

### Workshop Design

The duration of the workshop will be five days with six hours of in-class sessions. Training sessions will consist of lectures, demonstrations, country presentations, group discussions, and workshops on working with data.

The workshop will be conducted in English.

### Topics to be covered

Topics to be covered in the workshop and their contents in some detail are as follows:

Topic	Contents
1. An overview of SNA – a brief recap	(i) Domestic economy and the Rest of the World – Institutional units & sectors (ii) SNA Aggregates and their coverage (iii) SNA framework – Framework – Identities – Sequence of accounts
2. Overview of the Changes in the 2008 SNA	(i) A logically cohesive description of the changes (ii) Newly introduced concepts and consequent revision of definitions and boundaries (iii) Re-sectoring / reclassification for analytical purposes (iv) Recommended treatments – on new economic aspects – clarifications
3. Sectors and Sub-sectors of Domestic Economy and RoW	(i) Concept of economic ownership (ii) Domestic Economy – Centre of predominant economic interest – Residency – Notional institutional unit – Branch and Multi-territory institutional units

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(iii) Institutional Units &amp; Institutional Sectors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Special purpose entities (SPEs) – artificial subsidiaries</li> <li>– Captive financial institutions – holding companies</li> <li>– Public corporations</li> <li>– Restructuring agencies</li> </ul> </li> <li>(iv) Transactions with RoW <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Merchanting</li> <li>– Goods for processing</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
4. Transactions in Products and Distributive Transactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Definition of output</li> <li>(ii) Principle of recording transactions and its implications</li> <li>(iii) Type of output</li> <li>(iv) Measuring output</li> <li>(v) Extensions of Production boundary</li> <li>(vi) Extensions of the asset boundary – their implications on capital formation</li> <li>(vii) Classification of Non-financial Assets - Modifications</li> <li>(viii) Other changes in 2008 SNA relating to Distribution of Income Accounts</li> </ul>
5. Transaction in Financial Assets and Liabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Main Changes in the 2008 SNA</li> <li>(ii) Financial Sector</li> <li>(iii) Financial Transactions</li> <li>(iv) Classification of Financial Assets &amp; Liabilities</li> <li>(v) Financial Services other than Insurance &amp; Pension <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Financial intermediation</li> <li>– Acquisition and disposal of financial assets &amp; liabilities</li> </ul> </li> <li>(vi) Insurance and Pension schemes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Life, Non-life Insurances and Re-insurances</li> <li>– Social Security: pension and non-pension schemes</li> <li>– Standardised Guarantee</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

*Presentations by the participants*

At the end of the workshop, each participant will be required to prepare a proposed strategy of implementation of the 2008 SNA for their respective countries. The proposed strategy developed by the participants need not cover all the recommendations of 2008 SNA and may focus on selected aspects of the accounts. In their presentations of proposed strategy, the participants are expected to:

- a) present a brief account of the status of implementation of the 2008 SNA in their statistical system; and
- b) state the implications of the recommendations in their proposed strategy on:
  - (i) additional data needs;
  - (ii) possible currently available data sources; and
  - (iii) proposal for additional data collection.