UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

STATISTICAL INSTITUTE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (SIAP)

CONCEPT NOTE
Regional Course on Statistical Business Registers:
Data sources, maintenance and quality assurance

Online Module: 9-16 May 2018
Face-to-Face Module: 21-25 May 2018, Perak, Malaysia

I. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

The statistical business register (SBR) plays an essential role in the construction and maintenance of an integrated economic information system, serving many purposes, including supporting the collection of quality data needed for the compilation of national accounts. The growing demand for better and more detailed business statistics has put focus on statistical business registers (SBRs) and their role in the production of business statistics. SBRs have proven to be central to efforts of statistical offices to reduce response burden and make better use of administrative data.

In developing the *Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific* (RPES), ESCAP undertook in depth country assessments on the ability of 49 members and associate members to produce a minimum core set of economic statistics. Establishing or strengthening SBRs emerged as a need in half of the surveyed countries.

As part of institutional capacity building for SBRs, the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) in collaboration with the Department of Statistics, Malaysia and the ESCAP Statistics Division will conduct a regional training course on statistical business registers in Perak, Malaysia from 21 to 25 May 2018.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

The course aims to help countries in the early stages of establishing statistical business registers and provide a platform for demonstrating good practices and exchanging experiences in the improvement, maintenance and use of statistical business registers.

III. LEARNING OUTCOMES

The training course is designed to assist participants in identifying practical approaches and solutions to key issues and problems in maintaining and fully utilizing SBRs that are relevant to the current state of SBR implementation in their statistical systems. Specifically, as a result of the course participants are expected to be able to:

(a) Understand the purpose of SBR in terms of their role in producing quality economic statistics

(b) Assess outputs, uses and users of their SBR and mechanisms for ensuring confidentiality, access and effective dissemination of SBR information

(c) Assess/improve coverage, units, content and data sources of their SBRs

(d) Take action to make better use of administrative data for their SBRs

(e) Assess/improve maintenance procedures of their SBRs

(f) Take action to better assure and measure quality of their SBRs

IV.   TARGET PARTICIPANTS

The Workshop is designed for mid-level statisticians from national statistical offices whose main responsibilities include the development and maintenance of SBRs; preparation and use of sampling frames for business surveys; or production of statistics from SBRs. Approximately 30 participants (including 15 local participants) are expected to attend the workshop from: Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam.

V.   COURSE DESIGN AND CONTENT

The course will be divided into two parts: a self-paced online module and a face-to-face module in Perak. Completion of both the online and face-to-face modules will be required to obtain a training certificate.

The online module will consist of three lessons on fundamental SBR concepts. The online module will be open **from 9 to 16 May**. During these dates, participants are expected to work through online materials at their own pace and complete a short final test. Instructions for accessing the online module will be communicated to participants separately.

The face-to-face module in Perak will consist of five sessions. Sessions will consist of presentations on the main topic and related issues/problems; illustrative good practices from resource persons presenting practical approaches and solutions to the issues/problems; sharing of relevant country experiences and concerns; exercises; and plenary discussions.

To facilitate exchange of experiences, **each participant will need to submit a country presentation of no more than 15 slides on or before 30 April 2018 to staff@unsiap.or.jp**. The presentation should be 15-20 minutes long. It should explain how economic censuses are used to support economic surveys in the country. It should then discuss advantages of establishing an SBR and the progress that has been made to establish an SBR in the country. What are the main issues encountered with establishing an SBR? What actions have been taken to address these issues? Resource persons will review presentations and may request participants to make changes before the face-to-face module begins.

Online Module Outline

Lesson	Coverage
Lesson 1: Understanding the roles of the SBR	• Outputs, uses and users of SBRs • Issues: confidentiality, access and dissemination
Lesson 2: Coverage and units	• Coverage of the SBR • Units in the SBR
Lesson 3: Characteristics of units	• Characteristics of units (content/variables): ID, start/end dates, economic variables, stratification/classification variables, etc.)

Face-to-Face Module Outline

Session	Coverage
Session 1: SBR fundamentals	• The Malaysian SBR • Ideal SBRs and the Australian SBR • Review of concepts covered in the online course
Session 2: Use of administrative data	• Selection of data sources • Issues with administrative data sources • Making better use of administrative data
Session 3: Issues in maintaining SBRs	• Principles of maintenance • Changes to characteristics • Demographic events • Profiling • Activity classification and value added calculation
Session 4: Use of SBRs for economic surveys	• Survey frame methodology • Case study of using SBRs for economic surveys
Session 5: Issues in assuring quality of SBRs	• Errors • Quality criteria and measurement