

ANNOUNCEMENT

SIAP/UNECE Sub-regional Course on
New Challenges in Economic Statistics
15 – 19 November 2008, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

BACKGROUND

The National Statistical Organisations (NSOs), particularly in the developing countries are required to make an overall improvement to their official statistics. Development of economic statistics including short term indicators is crucial for meeting the requirements of government, researchers, analysts, and policy and decision makers. The 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA) is the available international standard and framework for obtaining the required macro-economic aggregates. The implementation of 1993 SNA is still a challenge to many developing countries in the Asia and Pacific region, including transition countries.

It has thus been considered by the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) important to organize a one-week sub-regional course on 'New Challenges in Economic Statistics' for the benefit of the officials of Central Asian countries and Azerbaijan covering the topics such as Introduction to 1993 SNA, Short term economic statistics, Fixed base and chain linked indices and seasonal adjustments, Use of international classifications and recommendations on short term indices, international recommendations on price statistics and SDDS and dissemination of statistical information to broader range of users.

The course will be conducted jointly by SIAP and UNECE in collaboration with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran through its Statistical Centre of Iran (SCI) from 15 to 19 November 2008 in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran for the officials of NSOs of the Central Asian countries, Azerbaijan and the host country the Islamic Republic of Iran.

OBJECTIVES

This course provides training to help participants understand the role of System of National Accounts (SNA) and international comparable Short-term economic statistics in the development of economic statistics. The course will introduce participants 1993 SNA as a basic framework for the development of economic statistics, issues relating to the use of international economic classification, short term indicators and their compilation, fixed based and chain linked indices, seasonal adjustments, Price statistics, Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) and dissemination of statistical information to a broader range of users.

DETAILS ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

Course topics include: Overview of Economic Statistics and System of National Accounts (SNA); Importance including production and dissemination of short-term economic statistics in building up of the NSOs service ability; International classifications and recommendations on short term economic statistics, fixed based and chain linked indices, seasonal adjustments; Price statistics-CPIs, PPIs and beyond; and SDDS and dissemination of statistical information to a broader range of users.

The course will be of five working days duration featuring a combination of lectures and workshops. Working language will be Russian and English. Training materials will be available in both languages mentioned.

The tentative Course Outline is contained in the Annex attached.

NOMINATION FOR PARTICIPATION

Nominations for participation in the Sub-regional Course on New Challenges in Economic Statistics are invited from selected governments of the Central Asian and Caucasus countries in the ESCAP region.

Two participants from each invited country could be accommodated to participate in the course. However, invited governments may submit more than two nominations for selection.

Eligibility

Nominees should:

- ◇ be holders of a university degree or its equivalent
- ◇ hold a middle-level or senior position in a national statistical organization
- ◇ preferably be at least 30 years old but not more than 45 years old
- ◇ have experience and/or responsibilities related to compilation of national accounts statistics/ economic statistics
- ◇ be able to read, write and express themselves well enough in English or Russian language in order to participate fruitfully in discussions and presentations.

Nomination Procedures

Nominating authorities should submit 2 sets of completed nomination forms for each candidate to the UNDP Representative in (or responsible for) their countries by 13 October 2008 so that they can be transmitted to reach SIAP, Chiba, Japan, no later than **17 October 2008**.

Selection of Participants

Selection of the participants will be made by the selection committee of SIAP. The order in which the candidates are listed by nominating authorities will not affect the likelihood of their selection.

Acceptance for Participation

Each selected participant will receive an acceptance letter along with detailed information on the venue of the course, visa and related instructions, travel arrangements, and accommodation and payment of daily subsistence allowances.

Each overseas participant will receive a round-trip air ticket by the most direct and economical route to travel from an international airport in his/her country to Tehran and an appropriate daily subsistence allowance for the duration of the course, which will be paid at the course venue in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran. Partial board and full lodging will be provided.

The daily subsistence allowance is not a salary or honorarium and is sufficient only to cover meals and essential incidentals. Participants are urged not to bring their families with them. Participant's Government is expected to continue to pay his/her salary in his/her home country during the duration of the course.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Inquiries should be directed to:

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