

Concept Note

Training Program on the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting Central Framework for Asia Pacific

I. Background

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, ESCAP, GIZ, SIAP, and UNSD, are launching a training program on the SEEA Central Framework for Asian and Pacific countries.

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; (ii) to facilitate experience sharing among Asia and Pacific countries; and (iii) to support countries to set up a strategy and work plan for the SEEA implementation.

III. Organization

The training program is based on a blended learning format consisting of three phases: an online course, an on-site training and a follow up phase.

1. Online course (4th quarter 2015):

The participants will attend an obligatory online course to assure a common level of technical knowledge on the SEEA. The online course will be facilitated by an e-learning tutor accompanied by an SEEA-expert. The online course will be accessible via the GIZ Global Campus 21 e-academy website (<http://www.gc21-eacademy.org/>). The amount of time that participants will need to spend with the online course will be 6-8 hours per week up to a total of 64 hours in 8 weeks.

The online course consists of 5 modules; there will be 4 live online sessions with SEEA experts:

- Module 1: Overview of the SEEA Central Framework and its applications in integrated policies (1 week).
- Module 2: Physical flow accounts. The module will cover the recording of physical flows and the structure of a physical supply and use table (2weeks).
- Module 3: Asset accounts. The module will focus on the recording of stocks and flows associated with environmental assets. It will discuss the asset accounting in general terms with a particular focus on the measurement of the depletion of natural resources and valuation of environmental resources (2 weeks).
- Module 4: Environmental activity accounts. The module 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 (2 weeks).
- Module 5: Combined presentations. The module will focus on the explanation of combined presentations of physical and monetary data and a range of examples of such presentations (1 week).

2. On-site Training (February 2016 at SIAP in Japan)

During the 4 day long on-site training participants will further discuss the content of the online course and questions raised during in the online course. Beside technical issues, participants are expected to share their experiences on how to prepare national strategy and work plan for the implementation of the SEEA, and on how to conduct a national training workshop on SEEA. The on-site training may explore further technical issues related to the SEEA, including an overview of the *SEEA Applications and Extensions*, the *SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting*, and subsystems of the SEEA elaborating on specific resources or sectors, including energy, water and agriculture.

3. Follow-up in countries

Participating countries are expected to take follow up actions after the training program, such as (i) conducting a national training workshop on SEEA; (ii) formulating a national strategy and work plan for the implementation of SEEA; and (iii) if needed, requesting further technical assistance from the training organizers for the implementation of SEEA.