

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:  
Making better use of administrative data**

**10-13 December 2017  
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran**

**I. BACKGROUND & RATIONALE**

The statistical business register (SBR) plays an essential role in the construction and maintenance of an integrated economic information system, serving multiple purposes. One of these objectives is to provide quality data needed for the compilation of national accounts indicators. 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. While traditionally the primary role of SBRs has been to provide sampling frames for business statistics, SBRs of today often include more information so that they can be used in their own right as a source from which to derive harmonised business and industrial statistics that conform to global classification systems. SBRs have also proved to be central to efforts of statistical offices to reduce response burden, better utilise administrative data sources and for combining survey data and 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 member countries and territories to produce a minimum core set of economic statistics. SBRs emerged as one key statistical infrastructure that needs to be established or strengthened in half of the surveyed countries. Consequently, one of the goals of the RPES is to increase the availability of appropriate and properly maintained SBRs.

As part of institutional capacity building for SBRs, the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) in collaboration with the Statistical Centre for Iran (SCI) will organize a regional training course on statistical business registers in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran from 10 to 13 December 2017.

**II. OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE**

The course aims to provide a platform for demonstrating good practices and exchanging experiences in dealing with challenges and issues 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 system. Specifically, as a result of the course participants are expected to be able to:

- (a) Assess outputs, uses and users of their SBR and mechanisms for ensuring confidentiality, access and effective dissemination of SBR information
- (b) Assess/improve coverage, units, content and data sources of their SBRs
- (c) Take action to make better use of administrative data for their SBRs
- (d) Assess/improve maintenance procedures of their SBR
- (e) 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: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

### V. COURSE DESIGN and CONTENT

The course is comprised of six modules. Modules 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; and plenary discussions.

To facilitate exchange of experiences, **each participant will need to submit a country presentation of no more than 10 slides on or before 15 November 2017 to [staff@unsiap.or.jp](mailto:staff@unsiap.or.jp)**. The presentation should be 10-15 minutes long. It should briefly introduce the national SBR and then present main challenges encountered and actions taken related to Module 2: Design considerations.

## Course Outline

Module	Coverage
Module 1: Understanding the role of SBRs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Outputs, uses and users of SBRs</li><li>• Issues: confidentiality, access and dissemination</li></ul>
Module 2: Design considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conceptual issues: coverage, units, characteristics of units (content/variables): ID, start/end dates, economic variables, stratification/classification variables, etc)</li><li>• Selection of data sources</li></ul>
Module 3: Use of administrative data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Issues with administrative data sources</li><li>• Making better use of administrative data</li></ul>
Module 4: Issues in maintaining SBRs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Principles of maintenance</li><li>• Handling of changes in variables (births, deaths, activities, classification, etc), population, demographics and continuity</li></ul>
Module 5: Use of SBRs for economic surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Survey frame methodology</li><li>• Case study of using SBRs for economic surveys</li></ul>
Module 6: Issues in assuring quality of SBRs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Errors</li><li>• Quality criteria and measurement</li></ul>