Fifth Meeting of the Steering Group for the Regional Programme on Economic Statistics (RPES)

Concept Note

5-6 May 2016

Bangkok, Thailand

The fifth meeting of SGRPES is planned as a one and a half day meeting on 5-6 May as part of the 2016 Asia-Pacific Economic Statistics Week and following its seminar component.\(^1\)

This meeting will be organized in two parts:

A. Work programme of SGRPES

1. Review implementation of RPES with reference to the current work plan and clearly outlining activities undertaken since the fourth meeting in March 2015, including:
   a. National implementation, based on reports from national focal points and selected country presentations on RPES implementation\(^2\) covering:
      i. Recent findings of reviews/assessments for monitoring of availability and quality of economic statistics at the national level;
      ii. National strategic or planning updates affecting economic statistics development;
      iii. Changes in national coordination for producing and disseminating economic statistics,
      iv. Technical priorities for economic statistics development in 2016-17
   b. Regional implementation, based on report from the Trade focal area (India, ESCAP Trade and Investment Division and ADB);
   c. Regional support for economic statistics based on reports and selected presentations by the secretariat and other development partners within RPES or through other programmes, e.g. 2008 SNA implementation, SDG-related work, agricultural statistics, etc.;
   d. Information sharing on economic statistics initiatives in other regions (details TBD).

2. Discuss possible improvements to the Capacity Screening tool and plan out the second round to take place in late 2017- early 2018 based on the report of a dedicated task force;\(^3\)

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\(^2\) Once the guiding questions for country reports are confirmed, they will be sent in survey format to all RPES focal points.

\(^3\) Please see Annex for suggestions on preparations for the second round of Capacity Screening.
3. Discuss the report of SGRPES to the Committee on Statistics at its fifth session on the basis of a paper by the secretariat analyzing the linkages between economic statistics development and SDG monitoring in Asia-Pacific;

4. Discuss the contribution of future Asia-Pacific Economic Statistics Week events to RPES implementation.

**B. Functioning of SGRPES**

1. Discuss the roles and responsibilities of SGRPES as a whole and of individual members in delivery of RPES outputs with a view to create opportunities for members to contribute their expertise to and benefit from the Steering Group as a professional network;

2. Review of membership due to changes in representation.
Annex. Preparations for Capacity Screening II:

It is proposed to form a task force of 3-4 SGRPES members, in view of the recommendations of SGRPES on RPES monitoring, to:

1. Review the existing Capacity Screening tool and how it was implemented;
2. Review the results of the first round of Capacity Screening in order to assess the best performing parts of the tool and those that would need to be adjusted;
3. Prepare a report/presentation on the findings and recommendations for any adjustments to the tool and/or the process for the second round.

The report should be shared with SGRPES members by 15 April 2016 and presented at the fifth meeting of SGRPES.

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4 SGRPES recommended at its fourth meeting which took place on 23-24 March 2015 the following for RPES monitoring:

i. Assess the quality of the available economic statistics beyond just reporting of frequency of production;
ii. Provide additional information on statistical infrastructure;
iii. Focus further on economic statistics dissemination, for example by integrating GDDS and SDDS;
iv. Incorporate users’ perspective, e.g. through regular users’ meetings or surveys among users.