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Training Report

System of National Accounts Workshop

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The ASEAN-US Technical Assistance and Training Facility

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In 2007, ASEAN Heads of Statistics Offices agreed to develop a work plan to improve the implementation of the System of National Accounts 93 (SNA93) within ASEAN. In response, the State Department and USAID sponsored ASEAN-US Technical Assistance and Training Facility (Facility) is working with the ASEAN Statistics Unit to identify the gaps in implementing SNA93 (now SNA 2008 as a new version has been initiated internationally) in ASEAN Member States and develop a plan for addressing those gaps.

Implementing SNA 2008 is a difficult process. It requires changes in the data collected to support the national accounts and improved procedures for data collection and analysis. Countries adopting this approach generally pass through several milestones in the process of implementing SNA 2008, with each higher milestone requiring a higher degree of technical sophistication. Achieving milestone one means that basic annual and quarterly Gross Domestic Product data are collected and analyzed properly. Milestone 2, collects information on external accounts that allows the proper calculation of Gross National Income. Milestones 3, 4, and 5 generate additional detailed information on government, household, and production units.

Dr. Viet Vu Quang, the former head of the UN Statistical Department office of national accounts, performed the gap analysis and prepared recommendations for addressing the gaps. His study found that Burma had the least developed implementation of SNA 2008, while Lao PDR, Brunei and Vietnam were at various stages of implementing milestone 1. On the other hand, Malaysia and Thailand have implemented milestone 3 and the Philippines has implemented milestone 4. This suggests that there is an opportunity for the ASEAN Member States that have achieved higher milestones to provide technical assistance to Member States that are in earlier stages of developing their national accounts.

The report was reviewed at a workshop in Manila from 16-17 October that was sponsored by the Facility, the ASEAN Statistical Unit, and the Philippines National Statistical Coordination Board. Representatives of statistical offices, Ministries of Finance, and Central Banks from all ASEAN Member States except Burma participated in the workshop. The International Monetary Fund, the Asian Development Bank, UN Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, and the Australian Bureau of Statistics also participated.

The workshop began with presentations by the Secretariat, Dr. Quang, and a number of the outside experts. These presentations were followed by country presentations during which the individual ASEAN Member States outlined their procedures for producing their national accounts and showed how those procedures related to SNA 2008. After that, the workshop was divided into two groups for discussion of nearly 20 questions on how ASEAN should proceed on the implementation of SNA 2008, including the role of an experts group and the implementation of an ASEAN-helps-ASEAN mechanism.

The group sessions generated a lively discussion among the participants on the merits of implementing various milestones under SNA 2008 and the manner in which support could be provided to countries struggling with implementation. Participants emphasized that individual AMS would have to determine the value of achieving specific milestones in SNA 2008 implementation against the cost as well as against other priorities. This was particularly true as it related to the preparation of the Supply and Use Table as called for under the SNA. Most countries do not prepare that table, but instead create an input/output table that is more useful to users outside of the offices that prepare the national accounts. Dr. Quang argued that the Supply and Use Table was a necessary starting point for the input/output table so it should be prepared even if one only published the input/output table. This issue was not resolved during the meeting.

The two groups specifically agreed on the: (a) adoption of two sets of standards/targets; (b) release of annual GDP estimates within six (6) months after the reference year; (c) development of gross capital formation; (d) provision of special assistance to Brunei, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar; and (e) elevating issues on SNA and economic statistics development to concerned higher ASEAN bodies. More specifically it was eventually agreed that Brunei, Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar would target reaching milestone 1c while the other Member States would target achieving milestone 4, though with some flexibility.

The participants also agreed that an experts working group, the ASEAN Advisory Group on SNA (AAG-SNA), be established and that an annual SNA Forum be held. The AAG-SNA would consist of key statistical resources, both within ASEAN and from other governments and organizations. The AAG-SNA would consider and finalize a strategy for implementing the ASEAN-helps-ASEAN mechanism for the SNA, including financing issues.

The SNA Forum would facilitate communication and discussion among compilers, statisticians and experts of issues, plans, and recommendations, training programs, studies and researches, and all relevant programs to improve SNA statistics.

Finally, the participants agreed to finalize, by the end of November, the Immediate-term Work Program for 2008-2010 and the Work Plan for 2009.

All of these recommendations will be collated by the Statistical Unit and presented to the Heads of Statistical Offices Meeting in December.

Agenda

ASEAN-US Technical Assistance & Training Facility

System of National Accounts Workshop

October 16-17, 2008 in Manila, Philippines

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

The workshop aims to address the following issues:

- proposed standards and catch-up program in SNA implementation, including applications of the ASEAN-help-ASEAN concept and the formation of an ASEAN Advisory Expert Group on Economic Statistics

Guest Speakers

- (i) Mr. Viet Vu Quang, former Chief of National Accounts, United Nations Statistical Division
- (ii) Mr. Paul Romanis, Australian Bureau of Statistics
- (iii) Mr. A.P. Gamini S. De Silva, Lecturer/Statistician, UN Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
- (iv) Mr. Chad Bennett Steinberg, International Monetary Fund
- (v) Ms. Palanyandy Chellam, Asian Development Bank
- (vi) Ms. Fe Vida N. Dy-Liacco, Philippines' National Statistical Coordination Board

DAY 1

	8:30 – 9:00	Arrival/Registration
1	9:00 – 9:20	Welcome /Introduction/Objectives <i>Dr. Romulo A. Virola, Secretary-General, Philippines' National Statistical Coordination Board</i> <i>Agus Sutanto, ASEAN Secretariat</i> <i>Tim Buehrer, ASEAN-US Technical Assistance and Training Facility</i>
2	9:20 – 9:35	ASEAN Context, ASEAN Secretariat <ul style="list-style-type: none">• AHSOM Adoption of SNA Framework and Regional Cooperation• Plan to Implement SNA Catch-Up Program and Form an SNA Expert Advisory Group
3	9:35 – 10:15	Panel on relevant international initiatives on SNA and prospects of cooperation with ASEAN, (ADB, UNSLAP, and IMF) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Initiative on Promoting the Implementation of SNA and Prospect of Cooperation with ASEAN
	10:15 – 10:30	Coffee Break
3	10:30 – 11:15	Panel on relevant international initiatives on SNA and prospects of cooperation with ASEAN (continued)

4	11:15 – 12:15	SNA 93 Framework Milestones; Overall Assessments Towards Setting Standards in SNA Implementation, Viet Vu Quang
	12:15 – 1:15	Lunch
5	1:15 – 3:45	ASEAN Member States' SNA Implementation: Key Issues & Developments, Member States
	3:45 – 4:00	Coffee Break
6	4:00 – 5:30	Proposed ASEAN SNA Catch-Up Program – Part 1, Viet Vu Quang and ASEAN Secretariat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed ASEAN minimum standards • Proposed measures/activities and priorities towards meeting the minimum standards

DAY 2

7	8:30 – 10:00	Proposed ASEAN SNA Catch-Up Program – Part 2, Viet Vu Quang and ASEAN Secretariat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Break-out session
	10:00 – 10:15	Coffee Break
8	10:15 – 12:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plenary discussion
	12:15 – 1:15	Lunch
9	2:30 – 3:15	Development of a master plan/legal framework on statistics, including statistical coordination, Philippines' NSCB and Mr. Paul Romanis, Australian Bureau of Statistics
10	1:15 – 2:30	Proposed ASEAN SNA Catch-Up Program – Part 2, Viet Vu Quang and ASEAN Secretariat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed catch-up program: immediate goals and timelines, 2009-2011 • Medium-term goals and timelines, 2011-2015 • Work program for 2009
	3:15 – 3:30	Coffee Break
11	3:30 – 4:30	Working Session: Recommendations for AHSOM
12	4:30 – 5:00	Wrap-Up & Evaluations

7	Proposed ASEAN-Help-ASEAN Mechanisms, Viet <i>Vu Quang and ASEAN Secretariat</i>	○	○	○	4,00	○	○
8	Instruments for an SNA Forum, Philippines' NSCB and <i>ASEAN Secretariat</i>	○	○	○	4,30	○	○
9	Current Practices in SNA and relevant economic statistics development, Philippines' NSCB and Mr. Paul <i>Romanis, Australian Bureau of Statistics</i> Development of a master plan/legal framework on statistics, including statistical coordination	○	○	○	4,40	○	○
10	Working Session: Recommendations for AHSOM	○	○	○	4,30	○	○

Subject Matter

Would you like to see more, the same, or less time devoted to the following topics:

	Topic	More	Same	Less
1	ASEAN Context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AHSOM Adoption of SNA Framework and Regional Cooperation • Plan to Implement SNA Catch-Up Program and Form an SNA Expert Advisory Group 	16	10	0
2	Relevant international initiatives on SNA and prospects of cooperation with ASEAN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiative on Promoting the Implementation of SNA and Prospect of Cooperation with ASEAN 	15	11	0
3	SNA 93 Framework Milestones; Overall Assessments Towards Setting Standards in SNA Implementation	17	9	0
4	ASEAN Member States' SNA Implementation: Key Issues & Developments	14	12	0
5	Proposed ASEAN SNA Catch-Up Program – Part 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed ASEAN minimum standards • Proposed measures/activities and priorities towards meeting the minimum standards • Proposed catch-up program: immediate goals and timelines, 2009-2011 	19	8	0
6	Proposed ASEAN SNA Catch-Up Program – Part 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium-term goals and timelines, 2011-2013 • Feedback/Monitoring of implementation of the SNA • Financing Support 	13	13	0
7	Proposed ASEAN-Help-ASEAN Mechanisms	19	8	0
8	Instruments for an SNA Forum	17	10	0
9	Current Practices in SNA and relevant economic statistics development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a master plan/legal framework on statistics, including statistical coordination 	17	9	1
10	Working Session: Recommendations for AHSOM	15	10	1

General

1. What part of this course did you like the most?
 - o Break-out sessions for discussing the common targets
 - o ASEAN Member States SNA Implementation: Key Issues & Development
 - o Group discussion + SNA 93 Framework Milestones
 - o Sharing information of Member States (presentation)
 - o Presentation of all ASEAN Member States
 - o Discussion within country regarding the implementation of SNA
 - o Current practices in SNA and relevant economics statistics indicator
 - o Working group
 - o Key issues + Developments of Member States
 - o Topic 2 and 4.
 - o Discussion.
 - o Overall assessments towards settling standards in SNA implementation.
 - o 1) 2008 SNA & its changes; 2) AHA Mechanisms
 - o Country presentation workshop.
 - o Discussion on the milestone setting, presentation of country experiences.
 - o The workshop.
The working sessions are important in undertaking the needs + concerns of AMS. This part of the
 - o course is more informative.
 - o All parts.
 - o Participation by the audience could have been greater.
 - o Both presentation and group discussion.
 - o Discussion on recommendations.

2. What part of this course did you like the least?
 - o Group discussion very useful
 - o Recommendation
 - o Non- any topics are the least mean
 - o Topic 3
 - o PSDP

3. What other topics would you like to see included?
 - o Improvement of administrative data sources
 - o GFS - Government Financial Statistics (2 comments)
 - o ASEAN help ASEAN Mechanism
 - o Longer discussion on the 2008 SNA
 - o More country experiences menat important in SNA preparation.
 - o Best [practices of more statistically advanced countries.
 - o The progress of the program in the period of time.
 - o Programs.

4. Did this course use a good mix of lecture and interactive discussion?
 - o Yes (15 comments)
 - o OK (2 comments)
 - o Yes, because we can catch-up new ideas and learning from each others
 - o Yes, very good.

- o Very good mixture.
- o More time for discussion.

5. What sorts of follow-up activities for this course would you find useful?

- o Regular Meeting and Training Programs
- o Should be concentrate on time management
- o Each country to prepare shrt and long term targets on improving the statistics compilation in line with the 1993 SNA
- o SNA 2008 and Implementation Standard
- o Implement the working programs
- o Training.
- o Time management should be better.
- o I learned a lot of experience of compilation and the situation of each Member Countries, in addition
- o ABS, NSBC given us a good practice of compilation SNA and Master Plan.
- o Group discussion.
- o E-mail all the presentation material.
- o This workshop for me is more of a meeting/sharing than a training course, as such the questions are not so applicable in terms of physical arrangement. A "u" on roundtable type maybe more appropriate to encourage more interaction.
- o More training on the 1993 SNA - operationalization of concepts, etc.
- o Updated information.
- o Monitoring implementation of catch-up programs.
- o Consultation/workshop/training
- o More time should have been alloted to the TOR's + Work program of the expert group +
- o SNA Forum.
- o Workshop for discussion and sharing experiences between Member States.
- o All. **(2 comments)**
- o It is about right.