

Report of the Training Course on “How to Transfer from 1993 to 2008 National Accounts System”

Amman – Jordan, 11-14 October 2010

1. Introduction

Within the 2010 work plan of the AITRS, the training course series on National Accounts (NA) to improve the capacity of the statistical offices and their staff members in the area of National Accounts, and considering the need of the Arab National Statistical Offices (ANSOs) for medium – level statisticians in NA and the created vacancy in the statistical offices following the swift circulation of the experts, the Fourth Training Course on National Accounts was organized during 11-14 October 2010 to complement the first, second and third training courses organized during 17-29 April 2010, 25-29 July 2010 and 6-10 October 2010, respectively. The participants in this course are the same ones who participated in the first, second and third courses. With the adoption of the United Nations of a new national accounts system (2008 System) which is an updated version of 1993 system with many changes, the AITRS found it suitable to arrange this training course to introduce the new system to the participants and explain how to transfer the national accounts from 1993 system to 2008 one. The course aimed as well to increase the knowledge of the workers in the area of national accounts by the introduction of the methods, classifications, international recommendations and recent changes made on the national account system and its usage. This will enable to attain more accurate and simple data through one defined system. It also aimed to increase the knowledge of those who work on economic surveys about the accounting and national concepts to enable them to develop more simple forms used by data providers.

2. Organizers

The Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS) and the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) coorganized the Training Course.

3. Preparation for the Training Course

The Arab National Statistical Offices (ANSOs) had been invited to nominate their representatives for participation in the training course according to Terms of Reference of the Course (Appendix No. 1). The invitation letter requested the ANSOs to nominate the same representative who had participated in the previous two training courses on National Accounts. 21 participants representing 13 Arab states attended the course – Jordan (7), UAE (1), Bahrain (1), Tunisia (1), Sudan (1), Syria (1), Iraq (3), Oman (1), Libya (1), Egypt (1), Morocco (1), Palestine (1) and Yemen (1); [See Appendix No. 2 with names of the participants].

4. Opening and Method of the Training Course

Mr. Fathi An-Nusoor, Director General of AITRS, opened the training course on October 11th, 2010, with the presence of Dr. Khalid Khawaja, Chief Expert. Mr. An-Nusoor welcomed the participants and hoped a good stay for them in Jordan and benefit from this important course as it would be delivered by experts of well known experience in the area of national accounts. From his side, Dr. Khalid Khawaja expressed his appreciation to the role of the Department of Statistics of Jordan and the continuous support it provides to the AITRS.

The method of the course included an in-depth program of theoretical and practical lectures. The participants were provided by detailed knowledge on the different subjects of how to transfer from 1993 to 2008 national accounts system. The presentation tackled the general framework for the modernization of national accounts systems and the stages of updating the 2008 national accounts system and the changes made in 2008 system in comparison with 1993 system. It also touched the expansion of assets' concepts and capital formation and consumption of the main capital, and implementation status in the Arab states. The above had been considered in addition to the importance of consistency and integration between economic statistics in the strategy of the system application.

Two experts delivered the lectures of the training course; Mr. Kotb Salim, International Consultant in National Accounts from the Arab Republic of Egypt; and Mr. Omar Hakouz, Regional Consultant to the ESCWA.

The course commenced according to the work programme (Appendix No. 3) as follows:

- Mr. Omar Hakouz presented a lecture on the modernization of national accounts systems as the international standard for the collection of national accounts statistics. He also presented the rationales of modernization, among which are the need to keep up with rapid developments in the economy, solution of ambiguous aspects that may arise during the implementation process and before the associate groups which is the joint force team between the institutions concerned with the national accounts. The force team composed of members from five international organizations-EUROSTAT, IMF, OECD, UNSTAT and the WB. He talked about the modernization procedures, timetable, provision of necessary funding and personnel, standards used for the selection of modernization issues. These issues include the reconsideration of the new economic environment, realization of positive progress with regard to the methodological research which justify the change and meet the user's needs, and the feasibility of the planned changes. In addition to that, he briefed on the issues that have been changed.

- Mr. Kotb Salim delivered a general lecture on the steps of the modernization of the 2008 national accounts and changes made on 2008 system compared with 1993 system. In addition to that, he further explained the organizational coherence of the organizational sectors and the subdivision of the financial firms sector which has been changed to reflect the new developments, and the way to calculate indirectly the services of the financial brokerage, and the registration of the output of the non-life insurance services and reinsurance settlement.
- Mr. Kotb delivered a lecture on the expansion of assets, capital formation and consumption concepts which include amendments in assets and assets reclassification, changes in produced asset categories, changes inside non-produced assets, expansion of assets and assets formation for government, and introduction of financial tools and assets.
- Mr. Kotb also indicated the accounts affected by the changes made on the system, and matching between the concepts and classifications in national account system and the updated version six of the payment balance directory.
- Mr. Kotb furnished the participants with the statistical needs necessary for the installment of these accounts and data sources, and the non-statistical needs for the application of 2008 system.
- Mr. Kotb Salim clarified the steps of 2008 System application and the role of the standing secretariat of national accounts in the application process, and the application status in the Arab states and the difficulties facing the application strategy.
- Mr. Kotb Salim furnished the participants with the importance of the consistency of and integration between economic statistics in the implementation of the System Application Strategy by being informed with the concept of the integrated economic statistics and the importance and necessity of the integration within economic statistics and the way to realize the integration and consistency between the economic statistics and areas of the accomplishment of economic statistics integration.
- At the end of the training course the AITRS distributed CD's containing the contents of the course: the theoretical lectures, presentations by the lecturers and country experiences.

Dr. Khalid Khawaja, Chief Expert in the AITRS, ended up the course. He emphasized for the participants the importance of using and application of the new learnt information during the course. He also hoped to hear if every participant could organize a course for their colleagues in their countries on the subjects of this course. He also emphasized the desire of AITRS to improve the capacities and make the qualified lecturers available to cover the training courses organized by AITRS. He also commended the efforts of the lecturers during the course. He also indicated the important role of AITRS in enhancing the capacity of the cadres in the national statistical offices. He also wished success for the participants in their career. He also mentioned that the AITRS will continue in organizing such kind of courses and advanced ones in this field in case the Arab Statistical Offices request him to do so. Certificates have been awarded to the participants at the end of the training course.

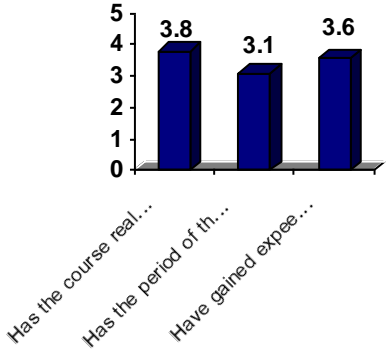
5. Assessment of the Training Course

At the end of the training course the AITRS distributed Assessment Forms to the participants to attain the technical and administrative assessment in the light of their answers and calculation of the arithmetic mean of each answer, which is made out of five scores explain the following:

A. Objective Realization

- The objective of the training course has been realized between good and very good grades, or 3.8 out of 5 scores.
- The participants' satisfaction with the course period ranged between good and very good, or 3.1 scores.
- The course added experiences / skills to the participants ranged between good and very good, or 3.6 scores out of 5 total scores (Fig. 1).

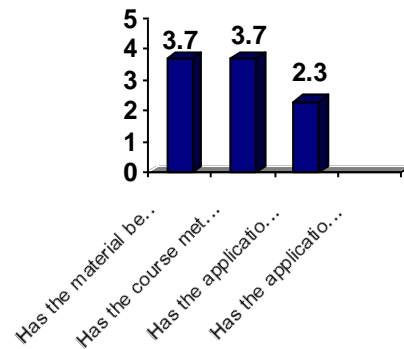
Fig.1 Objectives been Realized



B. The Contents

- The course has been characterized with its clarity and contents have met the needs of the participants with respect to their works. The needs have been met within the range of good and very good, or with a score of 3.7 of each of them.
- The practical side has been realized with the range of good and very good, or 2.3 scores (See fig. 2).

Fig. 2: Course Contents



C. Performance of the Trainers

1. Expert Kotb Salim

Results have shown that he has gained the great satisfaction of the participants. He gained excellent degree in the all aspects of the assessment; 4.5 scores.

2. Mr. Omar Hakouz

He also has also shown excellent performance in all aspects of the course assessment, 4.5 scores.

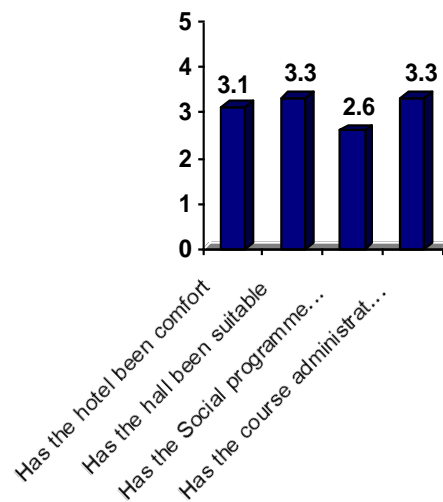
D. Training Tools

The trainees informed that the tools used during the course had been in a good level, or at a score of 3.1.

E. The Course Organization

- The participants expressed their consent toward the hotel. The result of this section assessment reached a good grade with 3.1 scores.
- With respect to the social programme they assessed this section within a range of good and very good, with 2.6 scores.
- The training hall has been suitable and assessed within a range moderate and good, 3.3 scores.

Fig. 3: Course Organization

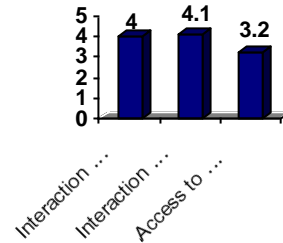


- The course organization by the centre has been assessed with a very good level, 3.3 scores.

F. General Issues

- Interaction with the trainers and exchange of views with them was very good; 4.1 scores.
- Access of trainees to the necessary tools and print handouts has been good; 3.2 scores (See Fig. 4).

Fig. 4: General Issues



G. Observations Made by Participants

The participants in the training course made the following observations:

- With regard to the preparation and organization, the course level has been ranged between good and very good levels. All visual and programmes of training have been provided.
- Lodging was comfortable and hotel services were good. The participants expressed their satisfaction with the stay during the course period.
- Lecturers were at high level of experience and presentation of information. They usefully exploited the allotted time. They presented the subjects with interactive manner, the factor which opened the horizons of the participants and their understanding of the subject materials. Discussions and question-raising were the pervasive features of the course.
- 95% of the participants requested the participation of Mr. Kotb Salim in the next coming courses on national accounts.
- The objectives of the training course have been realized as expressed in the received answers of the questionnaire.
- The participants expressed their laudation for the lecturers and the organizing institution, and they also commended the organizational efforts exerted during the preparation stage for this training course and provision of administrative and social services.

H. The Recommendations Made by the Participants were as follows:

- More time should be made available for application of all statistical programs used in studying the subject of the training course in order to achieve the utmost benefit through increasing application skills.
- Organization of special training courses on supply and use tables.
- Because of differences in processing approaches, increase of practical applications to urge the participants to carry more practical drills relevant to the various economic sectors has been recommended.
- Training on output, input and macroeconomic tables.
- It necessity of PC's loaded with applications and drills before the start of the course has been indicated as one necessary tool for realization of the utmost benefit.
- If possible, the reorganization of the course for the same participants and trainees should be considered.

Appendices



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APPENDIX No. 1 Terms of Reference

Training Course “How to Transfer from 1993 to 2008 National Accounts System”

Amman, 11-14 October 2010

Item	Details
Course Title	How to Transfer from 1993 to 2008 National Accounts System
Code	2010/2.2 (4)
Course Area	Economic Statistics
Course Type	For all Arab Countries
Course Duration	4 working days, 6 hours per day
Date	11-14/10/2010
Organizers	Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics + Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC)
Course Place	Amman-Jordan
Language	Arabic
Objectives	The UN has adopted a new system of national accounts (2008 System), an updated version of 1993 system in which included are numerous changes that affect the accounts. Therefore, the AITRS administration has foreseen the benefit of organizing this training course.
Targeted Category	The National Accountants
Qualifications Needed	- Preferably the person participated in the course organized this year by AITRS in the area of national Accounts



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Outputs	Increase Knowledge about national accounts with respect to international methodologies, classifications, recommendations and recent updates made on national accounting system.
Main subjects of the Course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updating National Accounts Systems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rationale - How the updates started - Groups participated in the Updating Process - Updates Procedures - The Timetable - Provision with necessary finance and personnel - Updates working approach - Overview on the Updated/ revised Issues - Revisions of Non-financial Assets - Revisions of Financial Tools - Revisions of Issues relevant to insurance and finance - Revisions relevant to the foreign world and public sector and other various issues - Impacts of revisions made on non-financial assets on different accounts - Impact of other revisions on various accounts
Method	Lectures and Discussion
Lecturers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kotb Salim, Regional Consultant in National Accounts - Omar Hakouz, Regional Consultant in National Accounts
Expenditures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AITRS bears the expenditures of one participant from each country. These expenditures are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hotel defined by AITRS - Per Diem for 6 nights according to AITRS regulations - Economic Flight ticket via the shortest route <p>AITRS never bears the following expenses:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expenses of participants from or residents in the country where the course is held - Expenses of participants from countries with due arrears of their contributions in the AITRS budgets - Expenses of participants from Arab and International Organizations - A country may participate with more than one participant providing that it bears their expenditures. - Upon the consent of the NSO, nominees other than those from the NSO could be accepted on payment of US\$500/week to cover the actual expenditures.
Certificate	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- AITRS awards participation certificate 2- The participant won't be awarded with participation certificate if he/she misses more than 25% of the course period. Per diems will not be paid for the days of absence; besides his/her country will be informed with that.



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Appendix No. 2
List of Participants of the
Training Course on “Transfer from 1993 to 2008 National Accounting
System
Amman, 11-14/10/2010

No	Country	Name	Office	Address
1.	Jordan	Ferhan Fileh Alghanmin	Assistant Economist/NA	Tel: 0795948630 Email: farhan@dos.gov.jo
2.		Sami Nazar Khasawnah	Economic Analyst	Tel: 0788640109 Email: sami@dos.gov.jo
3.		Hamdan Almarzoug	Assistant Economist/NA	Tel: 0788584888 Email: khair@dos.gov.jo
4.		Luay A. Alrawashdah	Assistant Economist/NA	Tel: 0777154093 Email: loay@dos.gov.jo
5.		Wala M. Gharam	Assistant Economist/NA	Tel: 0788830058 Email: walag@dos.gov.jo
6.		Ghada M. Isa	Chief Researcher/Economic Info and Studies	Tel: 0795409217 Email: ghada.e@mop.gov.jo
7.		Mohammad Shalan	Chief Organizer/National Economy	Tel: Email: mahmoud.s@mop.gov.jo
8.	UAE	Fatma M. Shehi	Economic Stat/NSO	Tel: 0504170700 Email : fshehhi@nbs.gov.ae
9.	Bahrain	Ismail Abdulaziz	Statistics Researcher	Tel: : +97339780087 Email: iaziz@cio.gov.bh
10.	Tunisia	Mabrouk Nasri	Eng. Stat and data Analysis	Tel: +21671281123 Email: nasri.mabrouk@yahoo.fr
11.	Sudan	Noon Osman Ali	Statistical Inspector	Tel: 91299856 Email : noon3157@yahoo.com
12.	Syria	George Azar	Assis Director of Dept in NSO	Tel: +963113335830 Email: gazar58@gmail.com
13.	Iraq	Hiba Hasan Ghirawi	Assis. Statistician, GDP & NI Dept.	Tel: +9647901457875 Email: icosit-na@yahoo.com

				Email: hiba.abdullah@yahoo.com
14.		Mohamad Kh. Yasin	Dept. Financial Analysis, NA Directorate	Tel: +9647703985675 Email: mohamadkyassin@yahoo.com
15.		Afaf Abbas Hasan	Chief Statistician/Head of NI Dept.	Tel: +9647901208774 Email: afaf_ha52@yahoo.com
16.	Oman	Suad Abdullah Maawali	Statistician/Director General of Economic Statistics Dept	Tel: +96899073988 Email: smaawali@mone.gov.om
17.	Palestine	Rania Abu ghabbush	Statistician/Director, basic National Accounts	Tel: 00972598485393 Email: mrania@pcbs.gov.ps
18.	Libya	Ashref Ashomani	Statistical Researcher	Tel: 0923715231 Email : ahsraf94@yahoo.com
19.	Egypt	Suzan Ali Moh. Nusa	Director General/NA	Tel: +112796135 Email: uzan.moussa@hotmail.com
20.	Morocco	Asif Zouhra	State Engineer	Tel: +667755651 Email: zaasif@hotmail.com
21.	Yemen	Faris Moh. Annahari	Director of Dept. of Service Accounts	Tel: +96773842651 Email : farismas@yahoo.com



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Appendix No. 3
Programme of the
Training Course on “Transfer from 1993 to 2008 National Accounting
System
Amman, 11-14/10/2010

First Day (Monday), 11/10/2010		
9:00–9:30	Opening of the Course	Lecturer
9:30–10:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updating National Accounts Systems - Rationale - How the updates started - Groups participated in the Updating Process - Updates Procedures - The Timetable - Provision with necessary finance and personnel - Updates working approach - Overview on the Updated/revised Issues 	Omar Hakouz
10:30–11:00	Break	
11:00–12:30	Changes Relevant to Non-Financial Assets	Kotb Salim
12:30–13:30	Lunch	
13:30–15:00	Completion of Changes Relevant to Non-Financial Assets	Kotb Salim
15:00–15:15	Break	
15:15–16:45	Discussion Session	Kotb Salim
Second day (Tuesday), 12/10/2010		
9:00–10:30	Updates Relevant to Financial Tools	Kotb Salim
10:30–11:00	Break	



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11:00–12:30	Updates Relevant to Insurance and Finance Issues	Kotb Salim
13:30–12:30	Lunch	
13:30–15:00	Updates/Revision relevant to Foreign World and Public Sector and other various Issues	Kotb Salim
15:00–15:15	Break	
15:15–16:45	Completion of Updates/Revision relevant to Foreign World and Public Sector and other various Issues	Kotb Salim
Third Day (Wednesday) 13/10/2010		
9:00–10:30	Impacts of Revisions relevant to Issues of Non-Financial Issues on different Accounts	Kotb Salim
10:30–11:00	Break	
11:00–12:30	Impacts of Revisions relevant to Issues of Non-Financial Issues on different Accounts	Kotb Salim
12:30–13:30	Lunch	
13:30–15:00	Impacts of Revisions relevant to Issues of Non-Financial Issues on different Accounts	Kotb Salim
15:00–15:15	Break	
15:15–16:45	Impacts of Revisions relevant to Issues of Non-Financial Issues on different Accounts	Kotb Salim
Fourth Day (Thursday) 14/10/2010		
9:00–10:30	Impacts of other Revisions on different Accounts	Kotb Salim
10:30–11:00	Break	
11:00–12:30	Impacts of other Revisions on different Accounts	Kotb Salim
12:30–14:00	Impacts of other Revisions on different Accounts	Kotb Salim
14:00–14:30	End of the Course and Distribution of the Certificates	
14:30–16:30	Lunch	