# Experiences from the Regional Programme on Economic Statistics (RPES)

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# History of the RPES

- In February 2009, the ESCAP Committee on Statistics recognized the importance of economic statistics and established a Technical Advisory Group on Economic Statistics (TAG-ES).
- The TAG-ES decided that a regional assessment was necessary to guide the development of and to monitor a regional programme on economic statistics.
- Between May and December 2009 a region-wide assessment was carried out.
- The assessment framework utilized existing frameworks, including the assessment framework developed in the context of global SNA implementation. The ESCAP Secretariat used existing information and websites to prefill questionnaires to reduce the burden of the questionnaire.

## Initial Assessment framework

#### Statistical capacity overview

- i. Legal/institutional infrastructure
- ii. Source data censuses and surveys
- iii. Source data administrative data
- iv. Source data business registers
- v. Classifications

#### National accounts

- i. National accounts
- ii. SNA
- iii. Compliance with SNA93
- iv. Compilation practices
- v. Accounting conventions
- vi. Dissemination
- vii. 1993 SNA plans and intentions
- viii. 2008 SNA and ISIC rev 4 plans and intentions

#### Other indicators

- i. Employment/unemployment
- ii. Wages/earnings
- iii. Consumer price index (CPI)
- iv. Producer price index (PPI)
- v. Retail trade turnover
- vi. Industrial production index (IPI)
- vii. Volume/turnover in services
- viii. Merchandise trade
- ix. Balance of payments (BOP)

## Seasonal adjustment Results of SIAP Training Needs Survey

# A few thoughts

- Much of the assessment was related to NSO 'capacity' in general, not just in economic statistics.
- The assessment attempted to cover the whole NSS which is involved in economic statistics, but in general the NSO was the primary respondent to the questionnaire and often information from the rest of the NSS was weak.
- There was little to no value of the questionnaire for the NSS's questioned – the link between how filling out the questionnaire could benefit the NSS was not evident.
- The assessment focused on the 'what' was or was not produced, not the 'why'.

## Next step in assessing

- The assessment results were useful in developing the core set of economic statistics and in forming the regional programme on economic statistics, but have not been widely used outside of that context.
- The TAG-ES expressed that more detailed information through in-depth national assessments was still necessary to really understand the barriers.
- A more in-depth assessment framework was developed and piloted in three countries.
  - Piloting was a very useful first step because the framework used in the first country was very repetitive was thus further revised for the later two.

### 1 assessments

set of economic statistics as a guide to define ies to visit and in assessing capacity.

views with the relevant line ministries which heir current practices, constraints, priorities, uture direction.

tional consultative meeting to bring members of her to discuss the preliminary results of the

